



Launch of ILO-EU-China project - Improving China's institutional capacity towards universal social protection

The project was officially launched on 18 December 2019 in presence of Vice Minister of MoHRSS, Mr You Jun, Ambassador of the European Union to China, Mr Nicolas Chapuis, Director of the ILO office in Beijing, Mrs Claire Courteille Mulder, Director General of the International Department at the MoHRSS, Mr Hao Bin, Director-General Level Counsel from Social Insurance Administration at the MoHRSS, Mr Xu Yanjun. Around 50 representatives from the MoHRSS and local Social Insurance Administration from 11 participating provinces participated in the meeting. [Read more](#)



Study on compatibility of social security regulations and practice in China with ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102)

Work is underway to assist the Government of China to make informed decisions on a possible ratification of ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102). The study focuses on the five branches of social security (pensions, unemployment, employment injury, medical benefits and maternity benefits). One important issue under study is the compatibility of current co-payment of maternal health care services with the requirements by the C. 102 that these be provided free of charge at the point of service delivery. The study is conducted by the Chinese Academy of Labour and Social Security (CALSS) in liaison with MOHRSS and the National Healthcare Security Administration. The study should be completed by the end of December 2020.



Research assessing China's social security coverage of workers in non-standard employment, with a focus on platform workers, migrants and women and measures to close gaps and improve portability of social security benefits

On 2 March 2020, the project launched a call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) inviting national and international consultants, individuals and institutions, to carry out a research on “Assessing China’s social security coverage of non-standard workers, with focus on platform workers, migrants and women and measures to close gaps and improve portability of social security benefits”. The Chinese Academy of Labour and Social Security is leading the research team under the direction of Dr. Jin Weigang, President of CALSS, PhD in Sociology, Peking University. The Graduate School of Governance of Maastricht University, based in the Netherlands, was commissioned to provide assistance with the international review of literature and the review of statistical monitoring instruments under the direction of Prof. Dr. Franziska Gassmann, Professor of Social Protection and Development. Dr. Mel Cousins, PhD, from Ireland, focuses on international good practices regarding regulations and administration of social security for platform workers.



EU-ILO-CHINA Exchanges of good practices in measuring platform workers and their social security coverage

As part of the assessment of the social security coverage of workers in non- standard forms of employment, experts from the Chinese Academy of Labour and Social security are collaborating with ILO Statistical department, through exchanges with Mr Michael Frosch, ILO Senior Labour Statistician. At the global level, ILO, OECD and EU are developing a handbook on the measurement of platform work. ILO is also part of Eurostat (European Union) task force that aims at developing questions that can be integrated in the European Labour Force Survey. CALSS is developing a questionnaire to survey the social security coverage and needs of workers in non-standard forms of employment and will supervise the application of the questionnaire to a representative sample of such workers in four provinces in China.



Policy Briefs

In the first half of 2020, the Project launched a call for proposals to develop policy briefs, podcasts and communications on “Strengthening capacity for Universal Social protection in China”. The call intended to increase access to and dissemination of information and knowledge about good practices on regulations and operations regarding social security of workers in NSFE. Submissions are to be made by 20th March, 20th June, 20th September and 20th December of 2020 and 2021.

[Read more](#)



First Podcast: 'Social protection for gig workers under COVID-19: the Asian and international experience of sickness benefits under social insurance'

This is the first of a series of the project's Pod and Video casts. These will disseminate findings from topical research to help practitioners deepen their capacity to regulate and administer social security for workers in NSFE in China. In this first issue, we cover the use of sickness cash benefits in the context of COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of sickness benefits funded collectively by social insurance, together with social health insurance, to protect the health and income of the most vulnerable workers, particularly for those continuing to work and the most exposed to the pandemic, notably workers in digital platforms (also called “gig workers”). We have a conversation with Marielle Goursat, ILO Program Manager and Coordinator Regional Social Health Protection based in Vietnam. She dwells specifically on the experience in Asia and internationally and the importance for workers and businesses of solidarity based funding versus employer based funding of sickness benefits.

[Read more](#)



Actuarial training

In partnership with the Actuarial Services at the Social Insurance Administration, ILO and MOHRSS organized a training on actuarial services. The training took place online from 15 to 24 June 2020. It included a pre-course self-paced learning and assignment, 15-17 June 2020; and live interactive training sessions, 18-19 & 22-24 June 2020. 40 participants from national Social Insurance Administration (SIA) and 17 provinces and 7 cities (a total of 25 institutions including headquarters) were trained. The course was taught by the head of ILO Regional Actuarial Services Mr. Simon Brimblecombe. The actuarial training will be followed by a series of e-coaching sessions with participants throughout 2020 and 2021.

[Read more](#)



Technical assistance

ILO provides technical support to the China Social Insurance Administration (SIA) to strengthen its institutional capacity to align pension reform with international labour standards and to increase the financial sustainability of social security. In this context, a Pager on Pension reform and International Social Security standards (translated in Chinese) was produced and shared with participants of the training on actuarial services, and a technical note on financial governance and sustainability of national pension funds, drawing on the experience of EU and Asian countries was written for the SIA.

[Read more](#)



Social Security Policy Monitor China

The project issues every two months a monitor of the social security policy updates in China and relevant international measures.

April 2020, [Issue 1](#)

June 2020, [Issue 2](#)



The newsletter was produced by the project [“Improving China’s institutional capacity towards universal social protection”](#).



Funded by the European Union

The views expressed in the newsletter do not represent the views of the European Union.

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