



Information note

SOCIEUX supports Tunisia's efforts to improve its decision support system (DSS)

Tunis, 25 May 2015. The SOCIEUX (Social Protection European Union Expertise in Development Cooperation) programme is currently providing the Centre for Research and Social Studies (CRES) with support in reinforcing its decision support system (DSS) in the field of social protection. This cooperation has started with a diagnosis of the CRES's DSS and an assessment of its technical team's capacities. The mission was rolled out from 11th to 22nd May, giving rise to initial recommendations regarding actions to be implemented.

The CRES is taking action to rework its decision support system (DSS) in order to help the establishment of its action plans (projection, planning and monitoring) and to stimulate learning and innovation for the benefit of the Tunisian social protection system. To this end, the CRES wishes to develop an analysis and simulation tool to facilitate the implementation of an automatic management procedure for up-to-date data and creating reports. In the context of improving its DSS, the CRES also wishes to strengthen the skills of its technical team.

In response to the CRES's request, the SOCIEUX programme put forward an action plan which commenced with a diagnostic study of the decision support system (DSS) already in place and an assessment of the technical team's capacities in terms of a) improving and maintaining the DSS, and b) data management, analysis and dissemination (particularly concerning personal data).



Mr. Michel Vigneul, Actuarial Advisor and Project Manager for COOPAMI-INAMI

According to expert Mr. Michel Vigneul, Actuarial Advisor and Project Manager for COOPAMI-INAMI (Belgium), the CRES counts on several assets which will help in developing its activities; first and foremost, a team which is on the whole young and motivated, indisputable expertise in terms of the DSS and the "pensions" branch, and an excellent documentary database. Potential improvements were also identified, such as strengthening expertise on data analysis and management in the sickness insurance branch and better structuring data utilisation and research. Training staff adequately should enable these difficulties to be overcome.



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The initial recommendations addressed to the institution will have to be applied gradually. Said recommendations involve increasing the number of "research + documentation + DSS" staff, systematising the research procedure, from development of the methodology up to publication stage, and establishing a (short, medium and long-term) research programme. Moreover, so that the CRES can grow, a structured operating dynamic via coordinated teams should be established, in the framework of a strategic vision of research. Synergies will have to be implemented, both within the CRES and between the DSS team and the research teams, and between the CRES and industry partners, i.e. the DSS's data providers (the National Sickness Insurance Fund, the National Pension and Social Welfare Fund and the National Social Security Fund).

Following this initial diagnostic study, future actions in the framework of the SOCIEUX programme could include a professional study visit on the use and management of a decision support system in an EU member country, in addition to a specialised training workshop on modelling and statistical analyses applied to social sciences.

About SOCIEUX

The EuropeAid funded project "SOCIEUX - Social Protection EU Expertise in Development Cooperation", is a technical assistance facility to support the efforts of partner countries to better design and manage social protection systems by means of short-term peer-to-peer inputs to be delivered by experts drawn primarily from the European Union Member States' public administrations and mandated bodies. SOCIEUX contributes to implementing the Communication on Social Protection in EU Development Cooperation (August 2012) and its subsequent Council Conclusions.

For more information

Beatriz Juanes

Communications Officer

SOCIEUX - Social Protection EU Expertise in Development Cooperation

Avenue Paul Deschanel 62, 1030 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: +32 2 5884883 / email: bjuanes@socieux.eu

