

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – SEARCH FOR EXPERTS

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Action title : Developing a National Health Insurance (NHI) Scheme

Action code and partner country : 2017-18 SAINT LUCIA

Partner Institution: Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW)

Activity 1 – Assessment of the health financing context and formulation of policy options

- Place of operation: Saint-Lucia (Caribbean)

- Implementation date: **January/February 2018**

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Application deadline : 15/12/2017

Partnership led by:

ABOUT SOCIEUX+

The European Union (EU) promotes and maintains dialogue on social protection and inclusive employment policies with an increasing number of partner countries. This effort has been confirmed in the European Commission (EC) Communication COM (2016) 740 final - "Proposal for a new European Consensus on Development Our World, our Dignity, our Future". A significant number of cooperation activities in different countries related to these fields are funded by geographic or thematic instruments. However, a gap had been observed in the EU cooperation with third countries with regard to providing support to short-term measures and peer-to-peer cooperation to promote the development of social protection.

SOCIEUX+ - EU Expert Facility on Employment, Labour and Social Protection – (hereafter: "the Facility" or "SOCIEUX+") is a technical assistance facility set-up and co-funded by the EU (through the EC's Directorate for Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid), France, Spain and Belgium and implemented by a partnership composed of four partners: Expertise France, leader of the implementation Partnership (hereafter: "the Partnership"), the Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas (FIIAPP), Belgian International Cooperation on Social Protection (BELINCOSOC) and Belgium Technical Cooperation (BTC).

The general objective of the facility is to expand and improve access to better employment opportunities and inclusive social protection systems in partner countries.

The specific objective is to enhance the capacities of partner countries to better design, manage and monitor inclusive, effective, and sustainable employment strategies and social protection systems through peer-to-peer short-term technical assistance and knowledge development.

SOCIEUX+ supports the efforts of Partner Countries (PCs) of the EU in the reform, development and extension of their social protection systems and the strengthening of labour & employment policies. The Facility aims at enhancing the capacities of partner countries to better design, manage and monitor inclusive, effective, and sustainable employment strategies and social protection systems through peer-to-peer short-term technical assistance and knowledge development. SOCIEUX+:

- Recognises the impact of social protection and employment in reducing poverty and vulnerability;
- Supports the efforts of partner governments in promoting inclusive and sustainable social protection and employment systems;
- Complements the efforts made through other European Union initiatives.

SOCIEUX+ makes European expertise quickly available with minimal transaction costs for partner institutions. It draws on the expertise of public or mandated bodies, non-governmental organisations, and relevant civil-society organisations of EU Member States and international specialised organisations. It can also support South-South and triangular cooperation through the mobilisation of practitioners from partner countries. SOCIEUX+ is operational since September 2016.

The Facility is an expansion of SOCIEUX - Social Protection European Union Expertise in Development Cooperation -, which was established in 2013 and progressively incorporated.

1. ACTION DESCRIPTION

The MoHW is the principal regulator, provider and financier of the health system, with a primary responsibility for the delivery of public health services, primary level preventive and curative care, and secondary care. The MoHW also leads on health policy development either enshrined as legislation or as policies for the implementation of specific health services. Through legislative acts, the MoHW functions as the primary regulator of the health sector, a function carried out through specific bodies (the Public Health Board, the General Nursing Council, the Medical Council, the Medical Board, and the Pharmacy Council).

As the reform agenda advances, the role of the Ministry's Corporate Planning Unit will expand as it takes on new responsibilities to include: health sector monitoring and evaluation; quality assurance; and human resources planning.

The initial activity shall help to outline the current scenario relevant to the formulation of a NHI, and putting forward adequate policy options. Public health components and major challenges shall be assessed against available information, documentation and interviews with key stakeholders. Financial elements shall be duly taken into account in view to design a sustainable, adequate health financing policy. Based on the above, the experts, in tight relation with MoHW as well as relevant national and international stakeholders (private insurances, National Authorizing Officer; World Bank, PAHO, other DPs), shall outline a few policy options for health financing in Santa Lucia, which can be the base for a strategic decision by the Island's authorities, and successive policy-making.

1.1 General Objective

To enable access to care that is equitable, appropriate and geared towards healthy living, recovery and/or rehabilitation to ensure increased productive activity and quality of life.

1.2 Specific Objectives

To facilitate knowledge dissemination among national stakeholders, with respect to the development of a health policy that would constitute the base for the deployment of a National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme.

1.3 Expected Results

- The draft of a NHI Policy is initiated.
- Relevant MoHW officers have acquired policy development skills in view of developing a NHI scheme.
- Best practices and relevant models on the development of a NHI scheme are made available to the Partner.

2. EXPERT MISSION

Number of mobilized experts and workload

2 experts will be mobilized

Each expert will be expected to work 19 days

Tasks

The minimum tasks expected from the experts shall include:

- Review of relevant documentation (policy papers, legislation, reports of national bodies and DPs, ...) on the health sector in Saint Lucia.
- Preliminary contacts with the PI in view of the definition of the TA methodology and agenda (to be validated with SOCIEUX+).
- Taking part to the pre-departure briefing organized by SOCIEUX+.
- Extensive and documented review of European and international cases and best practices with regards to the introduction of NHI based on specific health financing models.
- With the support of PI, engage in technical dialogue with relevant stakeholders (national and international/DPs).

Deliverables

Intermediary deliverables (to be transmitted to SOCIEUX+ FMT at least three working days ahead of the activity)

- A methodological note (max. 3 pages), detailing the working approach, tools and methods to employed, a risks analysis
- A detailed agenda (max. 2 pages), detailing the meetings and working sessions to be held, persons to meet

Final deliverables (to be transmitted to SOCIEUX+ FMT no later than ten days after the activity's completion):

- A policy document guiding the development of a health financing policy. The document shall particularly review the currently defined essential package of health services and its costing. A few different options for the introduction of a NHI scheme shall be presented, in order to determine pros and cons, thus outlining a possible coherent policy option for Saint Lucia.
- Expert mission report (ExMR) (a joint one or an individual report for each expert).

NB: Expert 1 is responsible for the overall preparation and transmission of the activity's deliverable, in cooperation with the 2nd expert.

3. EXPERT PROFILE

Expert n°1: Public Expert in Public Health

Essential Requirements

- Education: university level (Masters or PhD relating to the subject matter are considered as a plus)
- At least 15 years of expertise in public health within an EU public administration (particularly Ministries of Health);
- Relevant experience in contributing to reforms of the national health system in his/her home Country;
- A previous experience in advising decision-makers on health-related issues;
- Fluent in English, written and oral;
- Acute sense of diplomacy and institutional relations.

Additional Assets

- A previous experience in delivering short-term technical assistance in international cooperation;
- A previous professional experience in Caribbean countries.

4. APPLICATION

4.1 Document to submit

Curriculum Vitae in Europass format – available at:

<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae/templates-instructions>

4.2 Submission of applications

Interested experts may submit their application by email **only** to experts@socioux.eu with subject line/reference: **17-18/SLU/01.02/E1**

SOCIEUX+ also encourages highly skilled public experts to register in SOCIEUX+ expert database/roster at: <https://pmt.socioux.eu>. Registered experts are only required to submit a simple *Expert Availability Declaration* (available on demand from at raphael.dony@socioux.eu) when applying for collaboration opportunities. Registered experts may also be directly invited to submit their application for future activities corresponding to their profiles.

5. SELECTION PROCESS

Public civil servants or employees (active or retired) and private individual experts are eligible and preferred for this position. Private consultants may also apply.

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Only short-listed applicants may be contacted. The selection process may include interviews by phone or other communication means.

Contracted public civil servants or employees (active or retired) are entitled to standard fixed allowances of 250 Euro per working day. Fees for private consultants will be negotiated based on the number of years of relevant expertise of the selected applicant.

6. DISCLAIMER

The proposed activity and mission is subject to the final review and approval of SOCIEUX+ Quality Assurance Committee. A confirmation of dates of missions and contracting of experts may only confirmed upon the formal approval.

Short-listed candidates will be contacted and may be required to provide contact of employer or proof of their ability to be directly contracted under their status as civil servant or public employee.