

How can ChildPact benefit from the SOCIEUX Programme?

SOCIEUX (Social Protection European Union Expertise in Development Cooperation) is a technical assistance facility which has been set up by the European Commission's DG Development and Cooperation (EuropeAid) in order to support the efforts of partner countries to better design and manage social protection systems. SOCIEUX mainly targets **public authorities** and **mandated bodies** (= semi-public bodies dealing with social protection mandated to participate in the project on the same conditions as if they were an integral part of the administration) **in charge of social protection** at a national and regional level. The facility permits the mobilisation of social protection **experts from the EU** to easily share knowledge and experience. **Practitioners from partner countries' administrations and non-governmental groups** can also be mobilised as experts to bring added value in a South-South and triangular cooperation.

Who are the partner countries eligible for SOCIEUX?

The eligible partner countries must be geographically located in the following areas: (1) **European Neighbourhood**; (2) Latin America, Asia (including Central Asia) and Middle East; (3) Africa, Caribbean and Pacific.

Where do the SOCIEUX activities take place?

The programme is geared towards activities that take place **within the partner country**, although other approaches, such as remote support or **study visits** to third countries both within and outside the European Union, can be considered.

Does SOCIEUX cover ChildPact's thematic area?

SOCIEUX offers support in all social protection areas, including (1) **social assistance** - child and the disabled support grants; (2) **access to basic social services**: education, health and employment; (3) **monitoring and evaluations** systems, statistics and registration systems.

What kind of relevant activities for ChildPact could SOCIEUX implement?

SOCIEUX implements two types of activities:

- (1) **analytical activities** aimed at addressing structural weaknesses in partner institutions, such as assist in designing legislation or policy frameworks.
- (2) **specific activities** aimed at ad hoc transfer of know-how and expertise to strengthen existing capacities or respond to punctual needs such as support for training, awareness raising.

SOCIEUX delivers technical assistance Actions composed of several **Activities lasting 1 to 2 weeks**. The number of Activities per Action will vary depending on the need for assistance. In practice, **SOCIEUX Activities may take such different forms as**: (1) assessment or fact-finding missions; (2) train-the-trainer seminars; (3) technical training measures; (4) round table discussions; (5) remote support.

How to apply for SOCIEUX?

SOCIEUX is a demand-driven facility. **Partner countries submit** requests for assistance in designing and delivering social protection systems in a simple format. **The SOCIEUX team then tunes the requests in collaboration with the requesting government authorities and the local EU Delegation.**

There are **4 steps** in the process:

- (1) **REQUEST**: Public administrations of partner countries submit request to the SOCIEUX team or local EU Delegation.

- (2) **APPROVAL:** **A.** Request tuned in close collaboration with requesting authority and the local EU Delegation; **B.** Preparation of Action Approval Form; **C.** Submission of Action Approval Form for approval by EuropeAid.
- (3) **IMPLEMENTATION:** **A.** Rapid mobilisation of social protection experts; **B.** Preparation and organisation of activities.
- (4) **EVALUATION:** **A.** Evaluation of the action by all stakeholders; **B.** Dissemination of results; **C.** Sharing best practices.

Interested partners are invited to send their requests by email, letter or fax. Requests should specify the name, position and contact details of the applicant and the government body or institution they represent, together with a brief outline of the area of assistance, needs and estimated timing.

Interested social protection experts from EU Member States public administrations or mandated bodies are invited to send their application by email, letter or fax. The application should specify the name, position, contact details and CV of the applicant as well as the represented **EU Member State** public administration or mandated body.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION OF SOCIEUX EXPERTS

What makes an eligible expert?

SOCIEUX requires qualified and committed experts who can deliver relevant expertise and share prior experience. **Required skills and expertise are:** (1) expertise in the respective social protection area(s); (2) requested language skills. Other advantages would be: (3) previous experience in providing technical assistance in an international context, particularly in developing countries; (4) previous experience in the requesting partner country or its geographical region.

There are two ways of applying as a potential SOCIEUX expert:

- a) **Expression of interest to a specific ToREx.** SOCIEUX will draft specific Terms of Reference for Experts (ToREx) for each Action to be implemented, specifying the objectives and expected results of the Action and the profile of the expert(s) required. The ToREx will be published on SOCIEUX's website specifying in detail the requirements for the application.
- b) **General expression of interest SOCIEUX aims at building up a database of experts from EU Member States, Partner Countries and other countries' public administrations and mandated bodies** working in social protection. From this pool of experts, SOCIEUX will select the most suitable experts to be deployed for each Action. Applications to SOCIEUX can be sent by e-mail, letter or fax, and require two documents: (1) A brief SOCIEUX Expert Application Form where the expert can specify the name, position, contact details and the EU Member State public administration or mandated body represented; (2) a CV (Europass format) in English.

The selection of experts: The best experts will be selected by the SOCIEUX Team and then approved by EuropeAid. The approved experts will be recruited to carry out SOCIEUX Activities on the basis of a standard contract. The contract will be concluded either with the experts or with their employer.

An FAA (**Fixed Additional Allowance**) of **EUR 250** is granted per working day and effective travel day to **the following categories of experts contracted to undertake SOCIEUX Activities:** experts from public administrations and mandated bodies of EU Member States and Partner countries (including retired staff), international organisations, academia and **civil society**.¹

¹ Find further information at: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/guide-socieux-experts-2013_en.pdf