**INFORMATION NOTE**

# SOCIEUX participates in the first International Forum on Pensions in the CIPRES zone

# Yaoundé (Cameroon), 27 to 29 July 2016.*- The first International Forum on Pensions in Central African and West African countries was held in Cameroon. SOCIEUX supported this event by sending two European experts to speak at the Forum. The SOCIEUX team also attended in order to present the facility to more than 200 participants from 15 countries.*

The first International Forum on Pensions in the Inter-African Conference on Social Welfare (CIPRES) zone was held over three days in Yaoundé. The objective of this forum was to carry out more in-depth analysis of factors of financial viability of pension systems, and to propose relevant reform strategies and approaches.

Ministers in charge of employment issues, as well as managing directors of social security funds from more than 15 countries attended the conference. The forum allowed approaches to reform to be standardised, with a view to extending retirement coverage to the informal sectors, and to reflect strategically on the viability of old-age pension plans.

Participants were given the opportunity to contribute to a diagnostic review of pension systems in the CIPRES zone, design approaches based on a multi-pillar perspective incorporating complementary pensions, and to exchange ideas on approaches to extend schemes to include the informal sector.

The European experts sent by SOCIEUX spoke about reforms in the European Union, focussing on different financing models in both the public and private sectors, in order to identify the best practices from a legal, organisational and functional point of view, for the management of pension funds for civil servants and public officials.

As a result of these discussions, the member States of the CIPRES now have a map of the pension schemes in their zone, which should enable them to work on a comprehensive and coherent reform strategy to strengthen financing and improving the pension benefits offered.

**Experts deployed**

* Mr. Antero Kiviniemi, Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU
* Mr. Hagen Hügelschäffer, Director of the Association of Municipal and Ecclesiastical Pension Institutions and former Managing Director of the European Association of Public Sector Pension Institutions

**The CIPRES**

The CIPRES is a regional organisation of 15 West African and Central African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Niger, DR Congo, Senegal, Chad, Togo, Union of the Comoros.

For further information:[www.lacipres.org](http://www.lacipres.org/)

**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**

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