



## **Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms**

### **EVALUATION OF THE REGIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL ON SOCIAL SECURITY COORDINATION**

**24 MAY – 5 JUNE 2009, KUSADASI (TURKEY)**

In the framework of the “Social Security Coordination and Social Security Reforms” (SSCSSR) Programme, a European Commission and Council of Europe Joint Programme to further develop social security institutions in the Balkan Region and Turkey, the Secretariat of the Programme organised, following the Action Plan, a Regional Summer School on Social Security Coordination in Kusadasi, Turkey.

At the end of the Summer School, and in order to allow the Secretariat to evaluate the quality and relevance of the speakers’ interventions, the availability and assistance of the Secretariat, and the overall organisation of the event, an evaluation report was distributed to all participants.

This report has been prepared on the basis of the 32 evaluation forms received at the Secretariat from a total of 34 participants. Concerning the optional course, 21 evaluation forms were received in respect of Prof. SEGAERT and 9 in respect of Prof. VONK (replaced by Prof. PIETERS at the very last minute due to the death of Prof. VONK’S father). It has to be noted that some form received were incomplete and, consequently, the evaluation of some of the professors has been done taking into account the effective number of responses received in respect of each speaker.

It has to be noted also that the forms were anonymous and, consequently, the results obtained could be accepted as not being influence by external factors.

The 2009 form has been changed compared to the 2008 and 2007 forms. Hence, it will be difficult to compare the 2009 results with the 2008 and 2007 results. That being said, the results of the 2008 and 2007 Summer Schools [in points

(average), based in a scale of 0 to 10, being 10 the highest mark<sup>1</sup>] have been included in this report for reference purposes.

The first question (new) concerned whether the content of the Summer School fitted the participant's expectations and need. **64,74% of the participants considered that in a very large scale the content fitted their expectations while 32,26% considered that on a large scale it fitted their expectations.**

The results as to the quality of the lecture given by the Professors and the relevance to the work of the participants are the following:

#### 2009 results

Professor	Quality of the lecture	Relevance to the work of the participant
Jos BERGHMAN	81,25% very good, 18,75% good	65,62% very relevant, 28,12% relevant, 6,26% simply interesting
Paul SCHOUKENS	90,62% very good, 9,38% good	90,62% very relevant, 9,38% relevant
Grega STRBAN	65,65% very good, 28,12% good, 6,26% average	65,62% very relevant, 31,24% relevant, 3,14% simply interesting
Tine STANOVNIK	46,87% very good, 53,13% good	46,87% very relevant, 34,37% relevant, 15,62% simply interesting, 3,14% irrelevant
Steven SEGAERT	76,19% very good, 14,28% good, 9,53% average	47,61% very relevant, 38,11% relevant, 14,28% simply interesting
Gijs VONK/DANNY PIETERS	66,66% very good, 22,23% good, 11,11% average	44,44% very relevant, 22,23% relevant, 33,33% simply interesting

#### 2008 and 2007 results

Professor	Quality of the lecture	Relevance to the work of the participant
Jos BERGHMAN (UNIT 1)	[8,34] (9,5)	[7,74] (9,15)
Paul SCHOUKENS (UNIT 2)	[9,63] (9,53)	[9,34] (9,40)
Grega STRBAN (UNIT 3)	[8,71]	[8,77]
Tine STANOVNIK (UNIT 4)	[8,80] (9,03)	[8,00] (8,68)
Steven SEGAERT (UNIT 5)	[7,38] (7,92)	[7,43] (7,85)
Gijs VONK (UNIT 6)	[7,40] (8,77)	[7,70] (7,61)

<sup>1</sup> In brackets figures obtained at the 2008 Summer School in Jahorina (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and in parenthesis figures obtained at the 2007 Summer School organised in Trogir, Croatia.

In respect of the *quality* of seminar 1 the 2009 results, compared to the 2008 and 2007 results, were the following:

Professor	Quality of the lecture
Grega STRBAN (SEMINAR 1)	[8,94] (8,40)
Danny PIETERS (SEMINAR 1)	85,21% very good, 18,75% good / 90,62% very relevant, 9,38% relevant

As far as the interventions of the external speakers to the summer school, the evaluation is the following:

2009 results

Professor	Quality of the lecture	Relevance to the work of the participant
Anti HUHATAMAKI	51,61% very good, 16,13% good, 32,26% average	28,12% very relevant, 21,87% relevant, 43,75% simply interesting, 6,26% irrelevant
Bjorn ARP	36,66% very good, 50% good, 10% average, 3,34% poor	23,33% very relevant, 36,67% relevant, 40% simply interesting
Kenichi HIROSE	75% very good, 21,87% good, 3,13% average	50% very relevant, 37,5% relevant, 12,5% simply interesting
Sixto MOLINA	93,74 very good, 6,26% good	81,25% very relevant, 15,62% relevant, 3,13% simply interesting

2008 and 2007 results

Professor	Quality of the lecture	Relevance to the work of the participant
Erich KOCH	7,17	7,14
Kenichi HIROSE	8,20	8,26
Sixto MOLINA	9,47	9,47

As far as the organisation of the event, four questions were raised. The results are the following:

- Meeting facilities: 82, 75% very good, 17, 25% good.
- Hotel accommodation and food: 82, 14% very good, 17, 86% good.
- Availability/assistance of the Secretariat: 93, 10% very good, 6, 90% good.
- Overall organisation of the event: 96, 42% very good, 3, 58% good.

The 2008 and 2007 results are as follows:

- Facilities: lectures, working groups: [7,00] (9,25)
- Hotel accommodation and food: [9,11] (9,68)
- Overall organisation: [8,60] (9,62)

In respect of suggestions for future organisation of similar events a good number of participants were of the opinion that the seminar is too dense (too many lectures in two weeks time). They also indicated that not enough time could, consequently, be devoted to the preparation of the exam. In this line, a good number of participants also indicated that they received too much material and that it was difficult to assimilate the information in such a short period of time, notably taking into account that the subjects covered were of a different nature.

Some participants also suggested that national presentations should be scheduled at the beginning of the summer school. In this respect, the Secretariat would like to indicate that this year, due to impossibility of some experts, there was no other option than to have the national presentation later during the programme but that in previous years, national presentations were always scheduled at the beginning of the seminar.

As far as the results of the exams are concerned, 34 participants from the different Beneficiary Parties have taken the exams and the grading was as follows:

- 8 participants (2 from Albania, 2 from Montenegro and 4 from Kosovo<sup>2</sup>) failed the exam. These participants received a certificate of attendance.
- 10 participants (2 from Albania, 3 from Bosnia & Herzegovina, 1 from Croatia, 1 from Serbia, 2 from Montenegro and 1 from Macedonia/FYROM) passed the exam and received a Diploma with a grade of SATISFACTORY.
- 9 participants (1 from Bosnia & Herzegovina, 2 from Croatia, 2 from Serbia, 1 from Macedonia/FYROM and 3 from Turkey) passed the exam and received a Diploma with a grade of CUM LAUDE.
- 7 participants (1 from Croatia, 1 from Serbia, 2 from Macedonia/FYROM and 3 from Turkey) passed the exam and received a Diploma with a grade of MAGNA CUM LAUDE.

It has to be noted that since the event was organised in Turkey, the Secretariat has invited more participants from the hosting country, which is normally the policy followed in all training events.

---

<sup>2</sup> All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nation Security Council 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo

Those participants that have received a Magna Cum Laude will be invited to participate in the Study Tour to be organised before the end of 2009.

## **CONCLUSION**

The overall organisation of the summer school can be considered as successful. The choice of the hotel was, in particular, very much appreciated by Professors and participants. That being said, it has to be noted that although the meeting rooms were located in an isolated place with a calm atmosphere, the fact that the hotel was a big resort (hence with a good number of tourists) was considered by some participants and professors as a bit disturbing. Some problems were found with the internet connections.

It is to be noted that one of the purpose of the Summer School is to allow participants to have ample time to meet and exchange experiences, thus facilitating the creation of a regional network. At the end of the Summer School, most participants agreed that the fact that the hotel was outside a city centre, contributed to facilitate contacts between them.

When comparing the overall organisation of the 2007 and 2008 Summer Schools with the 2009 Summer School, it can be noted that this year's Summer School evaluation was significantly higher than the 2008 event and more or less similar to the 2007 event.

Professors were in general highly appreciated. Only a few of them received lower marks than in 2007 and 2008. Furthermore, it has to be noted that two new experts were invited to the 2009, Mr Arp and Mr Huhatamaki, and that the presentation of Mr Vonk was finally taken by Mr Pieters at the very last minute due to the impossibility for Mr Vonk to travel to Kusadasi for important family reasons.

As far as the evaluation of all the other organisation factors is concerned, it is to be noted that a good number of participants considered necessary to have some additional resting days in order to allow them to better prepare the exams. Certainly, the Summer School is an intensive course and since participants are not specialists in all social security fields, they are required to work hard in order to obtain the diploma. Having said so, and for financial reasons, it is impossible to further extend the duration of the seminar to allow additional resting days.

Finally, it is important to note that 26 participants managed to pass the exam and received a Diploma and that 8 participants failed and received a certificate of attendance.