

# Memorandum of Understanding

Between

**Social Policy Research Institute (SPRI), Belgium**

and

**Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat University, Thailand**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets for the terms and understanding between the Social Policy and Development programme, Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat University and the Social Policy Research Institute (SPRI) to collaborate together in order to establish an academic and policy training programmes in the areas of social protection, poverty studies and social policy in general in Thailand and Asia.

## **Background**

Poverty studies, social policy and social protection programmes are important basic components for improving the wellbeing of children, women and men in contemporary societies. Strong expertise in these areas is necessary to support the design, operationalization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social policy initiatives. This expertise is also important in the light of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The technical capacity to design and implement social policy is lacking in many countries around the globe. Every country needs a number of experts who understand all the technicalities that come with designing social policy, including making realistic simulations, with implementing social policy and monitoring and evaluating the chosen instruments.

Few specialised programmes and courses exist especially in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Thammasat University and the Social Policy Research Institute (SPRI) have the intention to collaborate in setting up a series of short courses and an academic programme in these areas. By organising the educational and training programmes, the partners have the intention to serve the larger geographical area.

Thailand has long believed in a strong national social protection system that depends in large part on the ability to build active partnerships to provide capacities and knowledge for national and international stakeholders. Thammasat University and SPRI recognize the value of the relationship between the two institutions to provide quality training and support for academic and policy stakeholders in the broader area of Social Protection in the context of Thailand and beyond.

## **Scope**

The partners agree that they will try to develop joint activities in the following areas:

- (1) short training modules and short courses (1 to several weeks) on specific social policy or social protection related topics; these courses can be open to professionals working in the field (via, government agencies, civil society organisations and others), to young graduates of other social science programmes or to students of other degree programmes;

- (2) training-of-teachers (ToT) courses intended to train faculty members, lecturers and specialists in social policy/social protection who are supposed to teach themselves;
- (3) research projects, internships and thesis supervision as well as the installation and the development of a "Social Impact Lab" built around cases and applied research projects;
- (4) the organisation of conferences, seminars series and student project work;
- (5) A Master of Arts/Science (MA/MSc) programme in Social Policy/Social Protection.

## **Partners**

This MoU is between Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat University and SPRI. In the future, and upon the agreement of both parties, the consortium can be extended to include additional partners.

Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat University and SPRI will work together in establishing the programme but recognising each other credits for designing and implementing the courses or a selection of the courses.

Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat University will be the degree awarding institution (upon the accreditation of the programme) and SPRI partnership will be mentioned in the degree certificate or documents.

SPRI can issues certificates for non-degree activities such as separate courses, modules or capacity building activities.

## **Teachers & collaboration**

Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat University and SPRI will share the lecturers/teachers/experts in order to reduce the preparation costs for the courses.

Collaboration could be sought with existing Social Policy/Social Protection programmes in Asia and Europe. Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat University has contacts with key academic programmes in social policy/social protection in others countries in ASEAN and Asia more generally. SPRI has a number of European partners that are active in teaching and research on social policy; these partners include institutes at Antwerp University, Maastricht University, Bonn University, Manchester University, Bristol University and the Luxembourg Institute for Social and Economic Research (LISER). The ILO training centre in Turin has expressed interest to work together as well.

SPRI has the institutional capacity to play the following roles:

- coordinator of the activities, including the coordination of the lecturers/teachers/experts;
- programme management (as far as not linked to academic matters);
- providing teachers for modules and courses;
- SPRI could be the leading organizing institution for participants following non-degree courses and programmes (such as separate modules or capacity building activities).

Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat University has the institutional capacity to:

- provide the academic credentials to organise academic courses/degrees.– provide key experts/professors/lecturers on various topics in social policy/social protection from Thammasat and other universities in Thailand and the region
- Provide coordination, administration and other technical support for the courses/degrees to be carried out under this agreement
- the premises and the facilities to be used during the activities

### **Funding**

Both partners will agree on tuitions, costs and revenue sharing for each of the activities undertaken by the partnership.

Both partners will seek funding for activities or for scholarships for students and participants in the joint activities.

### **Way forward**

Since the organisation of a fully fledged MA/MSc. programme will take time to develop and to receive agreement (eventually accreditation) of the academic authorities in Thailand, it is proposed to start with a number of short training courses (1 – 2 weeks) in the next year: for example:

1. Understanding and Measuring Monetary Poverty, Multidimensional Poverty, Vulnerability, Risk and Resilience
2. Localisation and Monitoring of SDG's in the Asia Pacific region
3. The Role of Social Protection in Development.
4. Social Policy and Social Development in ASEAN/Asia Pacific

SPRI and SPD-Thammasat University could take the initiative and organise the courses. Either partner could host the course. The teaching could be done by a mixture of SPRI staff, staff of the Thammasat University and staff of other academic partners/universities in Asia and Europe.

### **Duration**

The present Memorandum comes into effect from the date of its signature by THE PARTIES and will remain valid for the period of 2 (two) years. Either institution wishing to terminate this agreement shall notify the other institution in writing at least 6 (six) months prior to termination. Any decision to renew or renegotiate the terms of this agreement shall be made on the basis of consultations between the two institutions.

## Contact Information

Partner name: Social Policy Research Institute (SPRI)

Partner representative: Prof. Chris de Neubourg

Position: Director

Address SPRI : Emblemseweg 1A  
2520 Broechem  
Belgium

Telephone : +31 6 295 17721 (cell)

E-mail : spridirectors@gmail.com  
chrisneubourg@gmail.com

Partner name: Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat University, Thailand.

Partner representative: Social Policy and Development (SPD International Programme),  
Faculty of Social Administration

Position: Dean

Address: 2 Prachan Road, Pranakorn, Bangkok 10200,

Telephone: 02-613-2532

Fax: 02-224-9417

E-mail: spd.thammasat@gmail.com



(Prof. Chris de Neubourg, SPRI, Director)

2 April 2019 Date:



(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Supasawad Chardchawarn)

Vice Rector for Tha Prachan and Pattaya Campus Administration

Acting Dean of Faculty of Social Administration

2 Apr. 2019 Date: