

CO-REACH

Coordination of Research between
Europe and China

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WHY: CO-REACH Objectives

In the context of ERA-NET, an initiative to support the bottom-up co-ordination of national research programmes within Europe and build the European Research Area

Two primary objectives:

- **European coordination vis a vis China**
- **International co-operation with China**

WHAT: The Main Goal of CO-REACH

To launch one or two new European programmes of research co-operation with China on topics that are of mutual interest and priority to both Europe and China

In other words:

- As many members of the CO-REACH network as possible;
- Preferably in equal partnership with our Chinese counterparts;
- To jointly fund research activities between European and Chinese researchers

WHO: The CO-REACH Consortium

- Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (Coordinator)
- Academy of Finland
- CNRS, France
- French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- French Ministry of Research
- German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- German Research Foundation (DFG)
- Royal Irish Academy, Ireland
- Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
- Research Council of Norway
- Polish Academy of Sciences
- The British Academy, UK
- The Royal Society, UK

The consortium (continued)

Plus 6 observers from 6 member states

Plus Chinese counterpart organisations and contact points for each CO-REACH Work Package

- MOST
- MOE
- CAS
- CASS
- NSFC

Plus EU Science and Technology counselors network in Beijing

Plus National CO-REACH Steering Committees

Objectives (continued)

1. Contribute to building the European Research Area (ERA) by **coordinating** bilateral programmes of research co-operation with China
 - Within individual European countries
 - Between European countries
 - Between European countries and supra-national European organisations (e.g. the European Commission)

Co-ordination: Promoting regular information-sharing and increasing levels of practical co-operation/collaboration

Objectives (continued)

2. Strengthen the **international** dimension of the ERA by:
 - Organising the exchange of trans-national programme information, expertise and best practice
 - Using this information to provide a single information gateway to European S&T for Chinese organisations and researchers
 - Developing a generic protocol for setting up new trans-national programmes of research co-operation with countries outside of Europe

Objectives (continued)

3. Strengthen S&T relations **between Europe and China** by:
 - Enlarging the CO-REACH consortium's European membership
 - Building a strong partnership between CO-REACH and all its Chinese counterparts
 - Bringing together critical financial/scientific mass for the support of new European programmes of research co-operation with China
 - Securing increased levels of support for bilateral programmes of research co-operation with China

Objectives (continued)

4. Contribute to strategic and coherent policy-making on **European research co-operation with China** by:
 - Bringing together national and international expertise in this field
 - Initiating and/or participating in relevant policy discussions about critical research needs and priorities, challenges and opportunities, in both Europe and China

Objectives (continued)

5. Lay the foundations for long lasting **co-operation between CO-REACH partners** and thus securing the future development of CO-REACH beyond April 2010

HOW: CO-REACH Implementation

- Building and maintaining the foundation of the CO-REACH network
- Mapping & benchmarking bilateral European programmes with China
- Preparing for trans-national cooperation and collaboration between CO-REACH partners
- Realising trans-national co-operation and collaboration
- Launching new European Research Programmes with China
- Anchoring the CO-REACH Network

Outputs 1: Mapping Key Features

- 41 bilateral programmes
- Many initiated as part of cultural exchange from the early 1960s, later widened to consist mainly of mobility support and then support for R&D
- Fragmented situation: Most programmes with yearly budgets of less than 540 000€ on the European side
- Funding mostly through simultaneous national funding, matching in kind from the Chinese side: common pots rare
- Low degree of thematic prioritization and focus
- Increasing interest towards funding infrastructures (Germany/Finland)

Outputs 1: Continued

The information gathered serves as a tool for:

- Policy learning by programme managers
- Gaining insights into national funding policies towards China
- Developing a dynamic directory of European funding opportunities for research co-operation with China
- Benchmarking and identifying best practices for building 'ideal' future collaboration schemes

Outputs 2: The CO-REACH Directory

Purpose:

- An updated source of information on support for EU-China S&T collaboration for European and Chinese scientists
- A 'one stop shop'; a 'gateway to Europe'

Main features:

- Searchable (grants, call deadlines, organizations, contact persons, potential partners)
- Regularly updated
- Web-based
- Continuously increasing in scope and reach

Outputs 2: Continued

Information made available in the Directory:

- Type of scheme (exchange, research programme, training, etc)
- Type of support that can be applied for (seminars, salaries, fieldwork, equipment, etc)
- Eligibility and assessment criteria
- Organizations in Europe and China managing the scheme
- Contact details and web links
- Deadlines for calls
- Upcoming conferences and other scientific events
- www.co-reach.org

Conclusions

- An (expanding) European network
- Driven by a common interest: S&T co-operation with China
- Facing three main challenges:
 - Realising successful co-ordination at the European level
 - Securing strong partnerships with our Chinese counterparts
 - Finding the right focus – thematically and structurally – for new European programmes