



EUROPEAN  
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BILAT

# CHINA

## Bilateral Support for the International Linkage with China (**BILAT SILK**)



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COORDINATOR

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(UCLAN/CPE, United Kingdom)

China Science and Technology  
Exchange Centre/China- European Union  
Science and Technology Cooperation  
Promotion Office (CSTEC/CECO, China)

### Background and objectives

Economic growth in China has resulted in a wide range of social and economic reforms. The key objective of the European Union's (EU) policy towards China is to support this continued reform and transition process. BILAT SILK will follow this policy.

### Overall strategy

The BILAT SILK project will organise broad dissemination activities and campaigns such as info days, publications and electronic newsletters in order to raise awareness of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and related programmes in Europe and China.

The goal is to clearly highlight the value of research collaboration with European teams and to demonstrate the financial incentives. Special focus will be put on research areas that are high on the EU-China strategic agenda, such as biodiversity and climate change. Focus will also be put on connecting strong research regions in China and Europe. Optimal use of the project results will be ensured through promotion and dissemination and supporting of the process of other objectives.



The project will help ensure that European and Chinese scientists have easy access to the latest information, thus contributing to the realisation of a higher degree of collaboration. The project will identify six mutual research areas of interest between Europe and China, with the ultimate aim of better strengthening – and benefiting from – Science and Technology (S&T) cooperation. Foreseen activities aim to elaborate a detailed mapping of joint research themes between Europe and China and to enhance S&T cooperation in specific areas of research. In order to strengthen S&T cooperation in the six selected research themes, workshops and international fora will be organised in Europe and China. These events will be aimed at main actors in Europe and China in the field of research, in particular Chinese and European researchers/research organisations and politicians, including delegates of the European Commission (EC). The ultimate aim of this effort is the identification of joint research topics to be submitted to the EC for future Work Programmes.

Partner search activities will be further enhanced in order to streamline the scientific cooperation in the selected themes and topics of interests.



## Implementation and dissemination activities

BILAT SILK will deliver a well-developed Chinese NCP and RCP system, identify at least six mutual research areas and strengthen the S&T cooperation between Europe and China. The project will show a detailed mapping of joint research themes between Europe and China. The collaboration in the project will evaluate the state of the art in methodologies and practices used in current European and Chinese Technology Assessment (TA). To identify common themes and practices, a comprehensive list of TA organisations in regions with similar activities and potential for collaboration will be set up.



## Expected impact

The relationship between China and the European Union has been growing progressively for more than a decade now, and has matured into a veritable partnership. Both sides have identified scientific research and development as a key driver of economic success and sustainability. The BILAT SILK project was developed in the context of this deepening partnership as a way to foster closer research collaboration.

The principle objectives of the proposed actions are to display and demonstrate the importance of China-Europe science and technology cooperation, as well as to raise Chinese and European scientific profiles on both sides. In addition, the project will encourage China and Europe to open their research programmes to greater collaboration.

The main focus will be on Europe's new Research Framework Programme (FP7) for funding scientific research and China's 11th 'Five-year Plan' stressing a scientific approach to development. Along with focusing on policy in relation to R&D, initiatives on both sides will be highlighted to showcase infrastructures, research institutions, universities and enterprises involved in research and development.