



Information Sessions in Regional Policy Regional Policy Dialogue with China

A pilot project of the European Commission in the framework of their European Parliament pilot project to enhance regional and local co-operation by promoting EU regional policy on a global scale

Information Session N°2 Innovation and Clusters in the European Union

2 – 15 October 2011

**A biweekly event prepared for delegates from the
National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)
People's Republic of China**

Technical Report

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Implemented by:

Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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1. Overview

This information session for 20 Chinese government officials was carried out on behalf of the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional Policy (DG REGIO). It took place from 2 to 15 October 2011 within the framework of the European Parliament's pilot project to enhance regional and local cooperation by promoting EU regional policy on a global scale. It was the third in a series of four sessions that are implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Entwicklung (GIZ) GmbH. The services delivered by GIZ draw on a wealth of regional and technical expertise and tried and tested management know-how. As a federal enterprise, GIZ supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development.

This information and training course was part of the EU-China Regional Policy Dialogue focused on innovation and cluster policies. The course aimed at providing insights to European best practices, offering Chinese experts a source of reference for developing own future regional policies. The seminar aimed specifically at delivering European experiences for Chinese experts' during the implementation of 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015).

2. Background information on the issues

According to the European Commission, innovation is the key for Europe's economic future. Since 2000, the EU has made clear progress towards a more innovative economic development, especially by launching the European Research Area. 2006 the European Commission presented the 'Broad-based innovation strategy', aiming at ensuring that the mindset everywhere in the EU becomes more open to innovation, and considers it as priority number one. By launching the Lead Market Initiative for a more innovation-friendly environment and by creating the European Institute of Technology, the Commission has further undertaken concrete steps to further promote innovation in the EU. Although progress has been achieved, the innovation gap among European regions has still not been closed. Since the Europe 2020 development strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, innovation has become an even stronger value, including the implementation of the "Innovation Union".

Cohesion policy plays a key role in the innovation field when *"helping regions to implement regional innovation strategies and action plans which potentially can have a significant impact on competitiveness, both at regional level and in the Union as a whole"*¹. Especially through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), regions are empowered to strengthen regional innovation governance.

A recent study commissioned by the DG REGIO² notes that the role of the regions as stimulator and co-ordinator of regional innovation systems is crucial, while a good co-ordination between national and regional policies is necessary. However, experience has shown that there is not a one-size-fits-all strategy for setting the best level of decentralisation to support regional innovation in each Member State. Whereas defining a wider regional consensus on priorities through a thorough consultation of partners on issues at stake is crucial, there is evidence that in many cases the private and research sectors are not fully involved in the partnerships. Intermediary bodies can play a key role when involving all stakeholders of the innovative system in the design and implementation of the regional innovation strategies.

EU action in the innovation policy field is justified on Art. 173 TFEU, which states that the Union and the Member States shall ensure the conditions necessary for the competitiveness of the Union,

¹ Regio Paper Nr. 02/2010, DG Regio

² Study undertaken by the Danish Technology Institute

including by “*fostering better exploitation of the industrial potential of policies of innovation, research and technological development*”.

Clustering related industries is a key prerequisite for ensuring a long lasting competitiveness and innovation policy. Because of the shared proximity – both in terms of geography and of activities – cluster members enjoy the economic benefits of several types of positive location-specific externalities, including access to specialised human resources and suppliers, knowledge spillovers, pressure for higher performance in head-to-head competition and learning from the close interaction with specialised customers and suppliers³. Furthermore, clusters enable companies, research organisations and regions to join forces in the innovation stakes, but this requires an enabling environment⁴.

Clusters agglomerate about 40 percent of all European labour work in companies, including innovative sectors like biotechnology, nanotechnology and IT. All European member states have cluster programmes aiming at creating, strengthening or mobilising particular clusters.

Innovative clusters have been on the attention of the EU policy particularly since the “Aho report”, a milestone report including investment in clusters as part of its recommendations for greater ‘structural mobility’ in Europe’s innovation landscape. Today, there is a proliferation of cluster policies, cluster programs and cluster initiatives⁵ all around Europe. Internationalisation strategies of networks and clusters play a key role in reaching overseas markets for related companies⁶.

Moreover, the Competitiveness Council of the EU identified clusters as one of nine priorities in its conclusion of December 2006 to be adopted in support of innovation. In October 2008, the European Commission set up a European Cluster Policy Group with the aim to explore how to better assist Member States in supporting the emergence of more world-class clusters in the EU. The group started its work in April 2009 with an 18-month term.

On the practical front, the EU-backed Europe INNOVA and PRO INNO Europe initiatives help share and disseminate information on clusters. PRO INNO’s European Cluster Alliance is an open platform fostering transnational co-operation in the area of cluster policy which builds upon four ongoing cluster policy ‘INNO-Nets’.

3. Programme Logistics

Just as the other sessions of the series, the programme contained a relevant mix of lectures and field visits. The ultimate goal of the sessions was to discuss about innovation and clusters policies in Europe at the supranational, national, regional and local levels. The cooperation on innovation between the public and private sector was the central theme of the seminar. The field visits were carefully selected according to the diversity of European innovation and clusters systems. They included different industries like biotechnology and IT which can be considered as key for the future economic development of Europe. Chinese experts were able to see financial incentives and workforce qualifications programmes.

³ For a deeper analysis of these externalities, see Cluster policy in Europe: A brief summary of cluster policies in 31 European countries. Europe Innova Cluster Mapping Project. Oxford Research AS. January 2008.

⁴ Quotation from E&I Online Magazine, 06.05.2008. European Commission, DG Enterprise & Industry.

⁵ According to Lindqvist et al (2008), cluster initiatives are *organised efforts to increase the growth and competitiveness of clusters within a region, involving cluster firms, government and/or the research community*. In: Clusters and Clusters Initiatives, Göran Lindqvist et al, Center for Strategy and Competitiveness, Stockholm School of Economics, June 2008.

⁶ See Presentation of European Cluster Policy Group Member Dr. Gerd Meier zu Köcker during the 4th EU-China High Level Seminar on Regional Policy held in Brussels on 8. October 2009.

The course started with a briefing session in Beijing on Sunday, 02 October 2011. This delivered an introduction to the topic by GIZ and Prof. Mick Dunford (see summary of sessions). Participants were then transferred to the airport.

Once in Europe (Germany), the seminar started with an introductory session in the GIZ office in Berlin. The day included a brief introduction to the European innovation and clusters policies as well as one field visit to the Technology & Industry Park Adlershof.

Participants continued the information session which took them to Stockholm (Sweden), Riga (Latvia), Lille (France), Maastricht (Netherlands), Aachen (Germany), Brussels (Belgium) and Bonn (Germany). The summary session consisted of a half day workshop at GIZ's headquarters in Bonn in which participants were requested to develop their own reflection on EU regional policy and its usefulness for Chinese challenges. Participants were also able to assess the seminar and to receive participation certificates. On the next day (Saturday 15 October 2011) the delegation returned from Frankfurt to Beijing.

Participants were requested to disseminate their insights on European regional policy with a wider community of experts in China in order to achieve a multiplier effect.

4. Objective of the information session

The information session was designed to achieve the following immediate objectives:

1. To raise awareness of the participants on the key principles of European regional policy;
2. To enable participants to understand the new concepts provided by the specific policy instruments aimed at achieving innovation in Europe, including the concept of clustering;
3. To discuss with participants the problems that may arise in the implementation of specific provisions in the light of European and Chinese realities.

In addition to that, the overall project is designed to contribute to disseminating the experience gained during the information sessions (multiplier-effect).

5. Methodology

The information session was based on a sound mix of lectures and study visits. The approach included three phases:

1. During the preparatory phase, interests and preferences of DG REGIO were actively requested by GIZ. Once the schedule had been approved by DG REGIO, participants received preparatory information 4 weeks before training, including an overview of the programme.
2. The implementation phase started already in Beijing with a half-day briefing session. This included preparatory information on EU integration and cohesion policy. A particular feature of the implementation was to promote dialogue and reflection among participants through a workshop on the last day. During this session participants were asked to compare acquired knowledge on the European situation with their own realities.

3. The reporting and dissemination phase ends with this technical report aimed at communicating the results of the session to a wider community.

With regard to the methods applied during the information sessions, these included:

1. Class-room sessions of max. 90 min each of which max. 60 min were devoted to presentations and (consecutive) interpretation. The remaining time was used by the project coordinator to promote a vivid discussion between participants and speakers.
2. Field visits allowed participants to see on the spot the diversity and complexity of regional policy in Europe, as well as to understand the implementation and management of EU-funded projects.
3. Interactive participation through the half-day closing workshop allowing participants to apply the contents of the course to their own regional development challenges.

Through the practice-oriented wider capacity building approach combining lectures, discussion and field visits, the information session promoted active commitment of participants during its entire duration. This was achieved by a sound coordination with speakers to deliver concise presentations and lectures, leaving enough room for discussion and facilitating the mutual exchange of experience between European and Chinese regional policy experts.

6. Rationale for selection of regions that were visited

The countries and cities visited during the information session were chosen in coordination with DG REGIO giving participants the opportunity to see a representative cross-section of European innovative regions. In order to include very innovative regions and those starting to concentrate efforts in this area, the programme included visits to case studies in Western European, Scandinavian and Eastern European countries.

The first region to be visited was Berlin. Through a site visit to the Technology Park Adlershof, the delegation could see on the spot how EU regional development fund (ERDF) supports European and German innovation policies. Berlin Adlershof is one of the most successful high-tech locations in Germany. Embedded in an overall urban development concept, this integrated Science, Business and Media location has been growing on an area of 4.2 km² since 1991. At the core of the concept is a Science and Technology Park with 425 companies, eleven non-university research institutes and six scientific institutes of the Humboldt University in Berlin. The companies and the non-university scientific institutes focus on: Photonics and Optics; Microsystems and Materials; IT- and Media; Bio Technology and Environment as well as Photovoltaics.

The study tour continued with two field visits in Stockholm, one of Europe's most innovative regions. The Stockholm School of Economics is coordinator of the European Cluster Observatory, an online platform that provides a single access point to information and analysis of clusters and cluster policy in Europe. It provides data and analysis on clusters and competitiveness, a cluster library, a classroom for cluster education and analysis regional competitiveness conditions. The delegation was also able to visit Kista, a Science City that serves as a creative melting pot where companies, researchers and students collaborate in order to develop and grow. The foremost sector in Kista is ICT (Information

and Communication Technology) with leading multinational companies and SMEs cooperating in a large number of projects and solutions. KISTA is a project co-financed by the European Funds for Regional Development (ERDF).

GIZ proposed the visit to Latvia due to its convergence path since accession to the EU 2004. Although a rather small Member State (2.2 Million inhabitants), Latvia has achieved an impressive catch-up process with Europe-leading GDP growth figures for the period 2004 - 2008. However, Latvia was strongly hit by the global financial crisis of 2008, with a GDP decline of 26.54% in that period. EU support through the ERDF (€4.6 billion for the period 2007-2013) is a key factor to stabilise the economy and to strengthen research and innovation. The Operational Programme Entrepreneurship and Innovation (€ 1 billion) contributes to the country's performance in terms of growth, jobs and creation of new enterprises.

The programme also offered the opportunity to visit the city of Lille. The capital of Nord-Pas-de-Calais – which counts a population of around 226,000 inhabitants and is France's 4th-largest urban conglomeration with a population of over one million – is a former industrial centre and has undergone a deep economic adjustment in the last decades. The region Nord-Pas de Calais has large, internationally recognised laboratories and research institutes, which attract researchers from throughout the world and help establishing efficient partnerships. The region has six clusters of competitiveness geared towards research and development at national and/or world level and 11 clusters of excellence, complementing the former, which are mainly geared towards providing support and assistance to companies.

The programme also provided a visit to the Provincial Government of Limburg (NL) and to University of Aachen (DE) in order to show cross-border cooperation on innovation. Cooperation with the Provincial Government also allowed a visit to Chemelot Campus, one of EU leading chemical clusters. This visit showed the triple-helix cooperation between business, research and politics towards regional innovation.

The overall rationale of the programme was to ensure a truly European programme, illustrating the striking differences of regional development and innovation approaches in Western, Scandinavian and Eastern European countries.

7. Overview of the programme

Day	General Issues	Location
Sunday, 02.10.11	Briefing Session	Beijing (CN)
Monday, 03.10.11	Flight to Frankfurt (Air China 01h20) Transfer flight to Berlin (Lufthansa 09h00) Cultural Programme (National Holiday in Germany)	Beijing (CN) – Berlin (DE)
Tuesday, 04.10.11	Opening, Lectures and Field Visits	Berlin (DE)
Wednesday, 05.10.11	Field Visits and Travel to Stockholm	Berlin (DE) – Stockholm (SE)
Thursday, 06.10.11	Field Visits	Stockholm (SE) – Riga (LT)
Friday, 07.10.11	Field Visits	Riga (LT)
Saturday, 08.10.11	Brief Workshop (summing up the 1 st week) Free Day and Cultural Programme	Riga (LT)
Sunday, 09.10.11	Flight to Charleroi and Transfer to Lille	Riga (LT) – Lille (FR)
Monday, 10.10.11	Field Visits	Lille (FR)
Tuesday, 11.10.11	Transfer to Maastricht	Lille (FR) - Maastricht (NL)
Wednesday, 12.10.11	Field Visits and Transfer to Brussels	Maastricht (NL) – Brussels (BL)
Thursday, 13.10.11	Participation at EU-China High Level Seminar	Brussels (BE)
Friday, 14.10.11	Transfer to Bonn Final Workshop and Evaluation	Brussels (BE) - Bonn (DE)
Saturday, 15.10.11	Transfer to Frankfurt (09h00) Flight to Beijing (Air China 14h50)	Bonn (DE) – Frankfurt (DE) - Beijing (CN)
Sunday, 16.10.11	Arrival in Beijing (06h25)	Beijing (CN)

8. Detailed programme

Sunday, 2 October 2011

Briefing Meeting in Beijing

Location: Hotel Guoyi (北京市西城区文兴东街1号)

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Session 1 - Overview of the Programme and Basic Organisational Issues

Description: The information session started with a briefing meeting in Beijing. The first session gave an overview of the biweekly training programme as well of the thematic focuses. It also provided participants with basic information on practical issues of the visit. Chinese delegates were able to express their areas of specialisation and their expectations with regard to the study tour.

Moderator: Mr. Pablo Gándara, Project Coordinator

15:30 Session 2 – European Integration: An Overview

Description: This session explained the purpose of the EU and how the various institutions work. It also covered EU finances, the Union's legal foundations and its policies and activities. It focused on European Regional Policy, the second largest EU policy. Its goal is to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion by reducing disparities between the regions and countries of the Union. In this way the EU policy contributes positively to the overall economic performance. By managing three major funding lines, the EU helps regions that are less prosperous or are suffering from structural problems to improve competitiveness and to achieve a faster rate of economic development in a sustainable way.

Lecturer: Mr. Pablo Gándara, Project Coordinator

16:30 Session 3 – GIZ Cooperation with NDRC

Description: Particularly through the *Economic and Structural Reform Programme*, GIZ cooperates with NDRC on regional development since many years. The programme consists of five components: Macroeconomic policies and structural reform; Economic and social policy decision-making guidelines for the State Council leadership; Research in economic, administrative and social reform; Development of distribution systems in rural areas; and sustainable regional development.

Lecturer: Mr. Andreas Gschwandtl, GIZ Office in Beijing

17:15 Session 4: EU Regional Policy: Reflections on the future

Description: This lecture gave an overview of EU regional policy and a brief look to the current debate of the future of EU regional policy after 2014.

Lecturer: Prof Mick Dunford, University of Sussex

19:00 Dinner

21:00 Transfer to the airport

Monday, 3 October 2011

01:20 Flight Beijing – Frankfurt (CA 965)

05:50 Arrival in Frankfurt

09:00 Connecting Flight to Berlin

10:05 Arrival in Berlin

Cultural Programme (National Holiday in Germany)

Dinner and Accommodation in Berlin

Tuesday, 4 October 2011

Location: GIZ Office in Berlin, Stressemanstraße 92, 10963 Berlin

09:00 Welcoming words by GIZ

09:30 Session 4: Introduction to Clusters Policies in the European Union

Description: Clusters agglomerate about 40 percent of all European labour work in companies, including innovative sectors like biotechnology, nanotechnology and IT. All European member states have cluster programmes aiming at creating, strengthening or mobilising particular clusters. Today, there is a proliferation of cluster policies, cluster programs and cluster initiatives all around Europe. This lecture gave an overview of clusters policies in Europe, focusing on the experiences of Spain.

Lecturer: Prof. Mari José Aranguren, Orkestra & Partner of the European Clusters Observatory (ECO), Spain

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Session 5: Regional Innovation Policy in Europe and Germany

Description: For the 2007–13 period, Germany has been allocated €26.4 billion cohesion policy funds in total. Some €8 billion are being invested in activities directly linked to Research & Development (R&D) and innovation. This lecture gave an overview of national and regional innovation and clusters policies in Germany. Starting from the initial conditions of a region, Dr. Kroll explained which policy measures can be developed in order to promote innovation and clusters. Mr. Kroll also gave an overview of the Regional Innovation Monitor, a project prepared by a consortium including Fraunhofer ISI for the European Commission (DG Enterprise and Industry).

Lecturer: Dr. Henning Kroll, Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI, Karlsruhe

13:00 Lunch

15:00 Session 6: Introduction to Cluster Programs and Support Instruments

Description: The lecture dealt with the different levels of a cluster and how can they be addressed through policy intervention. It reflected on the current state of the discussion in Europe with regard to cluster support policies. Best practices and policy recommendations from the project “*NGPExcellence – Cluster Excellence in the Nordic Countries, Germany and Poland*” (largest cluster benchmarking and cluster program benchmarking project so far worldwide, 9

countries, 143 cluster) were shown. Moreover, the lecture gave a look to the cluster program “*Competence Networks Germany*” and ended with reflections on how to develop world-class clusters?, including benchmarking as instruments for policy makers and programme owners. The *Initiative Competence Networks Germany* is supported by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi) and supports the best 110 regional networks / clusters in Germany.

Lecturer: Mr. Thomas Lämmer-Gamp, VDI/VDE IT &, Manager of the Competence Networks Initiative and Member of EU Clusters Board

Dinner and Accommodation in Berlin

Wednesday, 5 October 2011

09:00 Session 7: Field Visit – The Technology Cluster Adlershof

Description: Berlin Adlershof is one of the most successful high-tech locations in Germany. Embedded in an overall urban development concept, this integrated Science, Business and Media location has been growing on an area of 4.2 km² since 1991. At the core of the concept is a Science and Technology Park with 425 companies, eleven non-university research institutes and six scientific institutes of the Humboldt University in Berlin. The companies and the non-university scientific institutes focus on: Photonics and Optics; Microsystems and Materials; IT- and Media; Bio Technology and Environment as well as Photovoltaics (*preliminary quotation of the website*). Adlershof has been co-financed by the European Funds for Regional Development (ERDF).

Lecturer: Mr Frank Luterbach, Technology Center, WISTA Adlershof

11:00 Transfer to the Airport Berlin Schönefeld

12:00 Lunch at the Airport Berlin Schönefeld

14:30 Flight to Cologne and Stockholm (German Wings)

20:15 Arrival in Stockholm

21:30 Check-in

22:00 Dinner

Accommodation in Stockholm

Thursday, 6 October 2011

10:00 Session 8: The European Clusters Observatory

Description: The European Cluster Observatory is an online platform that provides a single access point to information and analysis of clusters and cluster policy in Europe. It provides data and analysis on clusters and competitiveness, a cluster library, a classroom for cluster education and analysis regional competitiveness conditions. The lecture gave also an overview of innovation policies in Sweden and the role of EU cohesion policy.

Lecturer: Dr Göran Lindqvist, Project Manager, The European Clusters Observatory, Stockholm School of Economics

Lunch

13:30 Session 9: Field Visit: The Kista Science City

Description: Kista is a Science City – a creative melting pot where companies, researchers and students collaborate in order to develop and grow. The foremost sector in Kista is ICT (Information and Communication Technology). KISTA is a project co-financed by the European Funds for Regional Development (ERDF).

Lecturer: Mr. Åke Lindström, Market Director

15:00 Lunch and free afternoon

18:00 Transfer to the Airport

20:40 Flight to Riga

22:45 Arrival in Riga

Accommodation in Riga

Friday, 7 October 2011

09:00 Session 10: EU Support to Cohesion and Innovation Policies in Latvia

Description: For the 2007–13 period, Latvia has been allocated around €4.6 billion in total. Latvia plans to invest around €1 billion in strengthening its scientific and research potential, innovative companies, enhancing international competitiveness, and promoting the transfer of knowledge and its commercialisation. The Operational Programme Entrepreneurship and Innovation aims to reach a considerable progress in science, innovation and entrepreneurship that will further contribute to country's performance in terms of growth and jobs. The programme promotes the creation of new enterprises and will foster the development of existing companies, in particular in areas outside the capital city of Rīga.

Lecturer: Mr. Aleksandrs Antonovs, Ministry of Finance, Managing Authority for Latvia

11:00 Session 11: Field Visit – IT Clusters in Latvia

Description: IT Cluster Latvia is a platform for further development of IT innovative solutions and products. The main objectives are: Strengthening the image of Latvia as a provider of high quality and reliable products and services for export; facilitating the sharing of knowledge and experience among IT Cluster companies and; facilitating the creation of new industrial activities and attracting new cluster participants. Latvian IT Cluster companies specialize in software development, IT consultations, hardware architecture, networking & data transmission solutions, financial and business management solutions for enterprises and organizations, business analysis solutions, Enterprise Resource Planning solutions, finance management and accountancy solutions.

Lecturer: Ms. Lilita Sparane, Executive Director, IT Cluster in Riga

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Session 12: Field visit: Innovation policies - the IT Competence Centre

Description IT Competence Centre has been established with an aim to foster cooperation among ICT businesses and science institutions

Lecturer Mrs. Signe Balina, Chairwomen of the Board of Directors

Free Afternoon

Dinner and Accommodation in Riga

Saturday, 8 October 2011

09:30 Brief Workshop – summing up the first week

Guided Tour and Free afternoon

Sunday, 9 October 2011

10:40 Flight to Charleroi

12:15 Arrival in Charleroi and Transfer to Lille (120km)

16:00 Cultural Programme in Lille

Monday, 10 October 2011

09:00 Session 13: The OP Nord-Pas de Calais and its role in promoting innovation

Description: The French region of Nord-Pas de Calais is home to 4 million inhabitants. The region has 350 km of border with Belgium and 100 million inhabitants within a 300 km radius. Trade between Great Britain and continental Europe has given rise to large ports (Calais, Boulogne and Dunkerque). The regional economy is dynamic and diversified. The traditional sectors of coal-mining, metal-work and textiles have undergone a major economic and social re-structuring in the last 25 years.

Lecturer: Ms. Isabelle Liban, Préfecture de la région Nord Pas-de-Calais, Secrétariat général pour les affaires régionales, Managing Authority of the OP

Location: 2, rue Jacquemars Gielée

11:00 Session 14: Regional innovation and clusters in Lille

Description: The region Nord-Pas de Calais has large, internationally recognised laboratories and research institutes, which attract researchers from throughout the world and help establishing efficient partnerships. The region has six clusters of competitiveness geared towards research and development at national and/or world level and 11 clusters of excellence, complementing the former, which are mainly geared towards providing support and assistance to companies.

Lecturer: Mr. Mathieu Defresne and Mr. Bertrand Fontaine, OSEO Nord Pas de Calais

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Session 15: Innovation Policy and Clusters: The Role of NFID

Description: NFID supports innovation and promotes research throughout the region. With its 70 structures (universities, colleges of university level specialising in professional training (grandes écoles), competitiveness clusters, CCI, professional poles), the group provides those companies working on innovative projects with experts, who can support and help their projects to progress until they are finally achieved. NFID is recognised and appreciated at its fair value as in November 2008 the group was awarded the European Regional Champions award in the "Innovation" category

Lecturer: Mr. Carlos Pereira, European Relations

16:30 Guided Tour in Lille

Dinner and Accommodation in Lille

Tuesday, 11 October 2011

08:00 Transfer to Maastricht

12:00 Arrival in Maastricht

13:00 Joint Lunch with Authorities of the Regional Government

14:30 Session 16: Part 1: Innovation in Limburg, part of the Technological Top Region; Eindhoven-Leuven-Aachen, in the heart of the European purchasing power

Description: Limburg and its neighbouring regions in Germany and Belgium has a well known tradition in the cooperation between triple helix partners (business, government and science), core stakeholders to improve competitiveness in a technology-driven economy. The presentation concentrates on the core issues and projects in Limburg and its cross border challenges.

Lecturer: Mr. Jean Severijns, Project Manager Internationalisation, Province of Limburg

Part 2: China platform in Limburg

Description: The Province of Limburg and its most important stakeholders have created a task-force to join forces regarding policies and activity related issues regarding China. The presentation concentrates on the way this China Platform operates.

Lecturer: Mr Paul Baeten, Head Strategy and Innovation Department, Province of Limburg

16:00 Session 17: Field Visit: Chemelot Campus: Innovation in CHEMaterials

Description: The Chemelot Campus is a magnet for innovative companies. Since 2005, the campus has welcomed 34 new companies, bringing hundreds of new jobs. These new companies make use of the knowledge and skills available at the campus. Their presence at the campus enables young entrepreneurs to rapidly realize their ideas and make a success of their companies. The collaboration between government (Province of Limburg), education (Maastricht University/Maastricht UMC+) and industry (DSM) ensures that the already highly successful Chemelot Campus will be developed into a widely recognized cluster of companies and knowledge and research institutions in the field of CHEMaterials. This will also

reinforce the position of the south of the Netherlands as Technological Top Region (TTR).

Lecturer: Mr. Klaas Bos, Spokesperson Chemelot

Wednesday, 12 October 2011

09:30 Session 18: Field Visit: FIR – The Research Institute for Industrial Management

Description: The FIR at the RWTH Aachen University is a non-profit, intersectoral research institution concerned with business organisation and corporate development. The institute provides research, qualification programmes and lectures in the fields of service management, information management and production management. As a member of the German Federation of Industrial Research Associations, the FIR promotes research and development for the benefit of SMEs.

Lecturer: Mr Peter Laing, Head of Department Information Management, FIR at RWTH Aachen

12:00 Transfer to Brussels (120km)

14:00 Lunch on the road

15:00 Arrival in Brussels

15:30 Cultural Programme

Dinner and Accommodation in Brussels

Thursday, 13 October 2011

Participation at the Open Days 2011

Agenda

09:00 – 09:30	Opening Ceremony	
	Chair	Ronald Hall, Director, DG Regional Policy, European Commission
09:00 – 09:15	Keynote address	Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Regional Policy
09:15 – 09:30	Keynote address	Du Ying, Vice Chairman of the NDRC
09:30 – 10:20	Session I: Joint study on regional policies in China and in the EU The session will present the main conclusions of the joint study carried out in 2008-2010 on regional policies in EU and China (a brochure will be presented on the same occasion)	
	Chair	Ronald Hall, Director, DG Regional Policy, European Commission
09:30 – 09:45	Speaker	Graham Meadows, Special Advisor to Commissioner Andor and former Director General for Regional Policy
09:45 – 10:00	Speaker	Wang Yiming, Deputy Director General, Academy of Macroeconomic Research, NDRC
10:00 – 10:20	Discussion	
10:20—10:30	Coffee Break	

10:30 -12:30	<p>Session 2: Multi-level governance and legal framework in regional policy The session will exam the multi-level governance of regional policy, a system by which the responsibility for policy design and implementation is distributed between different levels of government and special-purpose local institutions (private associations, joint local authority bodies, cooperation across national borders, public-private partnerships). The following aspects will be addressed: the allocation of tasks among levels of government and the role of jurisdictional Regions; contracts between levels of governments; decision processes at local level and public debate being focused on objectives, learning and counterfactual impact evaluation.</p>	
	Chair	Fan Hengshan, Director-General of NDRC
10:30 – 10:50	Speaker	Carlos Mendez, European Policy Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK
10:50 – 11:10	Speaker	Yu Yunzhou, Deputy Director General, Guangdong Province Development and Reform Commission
11:10 – 11:30	Speaker	Thomas Wobben, Director of the Representation of the Federal State of Saxony-Anhalt to the EU
11:30 – 11:50	Speaker	Li Chengzhong, Deputy Director General, Yunnan Province Development and Reform Commission
11:50 – 12:30	Discussion	
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 -16:30	<p>Session 3: Regional policy support to priority areas The session will present an overview of the results of the programmes carried out in priority areas both in EU and China (EU convergence regions and Chinese bloc areas) as well as of the regional strategies</p>	
	Chair	Offier, DG Regional Policy, European Commission
14:30 – 14:50	Speaker	Sun Hujun, Deputy Director General, The Cooperation Office of Tianjin Government
14:50 – 15:10	Speaker	David Sventek, Director, Regional Council of the Moravia-Silesia Region, Czech Republic
15:10 – 15:30	Speaker	Wang Xiaohang, Deputy Director General, State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of Jiangsu Provincial Government
15:30 – 15:50	Speaker	Lukasz Foltyn, Head of Regional Operational Programme Management Division, Malopolskie, Poland
15:50 – 16:10	Speaker	Huang Chengwei, Director General, National Training Center for Officials in Poor Areas, China
15:10 – 16:30	Discussion	
16:30 – 17:00	Closing Ceremony	
	Chair	Liu Sushe, Deputy Director-General of NDRC
16:30 – 16:45	Concluding Remarks	Fan Hengshan , Director-General of NDRC
16:45 – 17:00	Concluding Remarks	Ronald Hall , Director, DG Regional Policy, European Commission

Dinner and Accommodation in Brussels

Friday, 14 October 2011

08:30 Transfer to Bonn

11:00 Session 19: Workshop

Description: The seminar ended with a one day workshop at the GIZ representation in Berlin. Participants were requested to develop their own reflection on EU regional and innovation policy and its usefulness for Chinese challenges. Moreover, participants elaborated a summary report including their recommendations for future cooperation.

Moderator: Mr. Michael Funcke-Bartz, Head of Division Sustainable Technologies, Industrial and Urban Development, GIZ. Mr. Pablo Gándara, Project Coordinator for GIZ

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Session 20: Workshop continuation and closing session

Description: Participants were able to assess the seminar and to receive participation certificates.

Moderator: Mr. Michael Funcke-Bartz, Head of Division Sustainable Technologies, Industrial and Urban Development, GIZ. Mr. Pablo Gándara, Project Coordinator for GIZ

Dinner and Accommodation in Bonn

Saturday, 15 October 2011

09:00 Transfer to Frankfurt International Airport (160km)

12:00 Arrival in Frankfurt International Airport

14:50 Return to Beijing (CA 966)

9. Summary of the information session's programme

Sessions in Beijing

The programme started with one briefing session in Beijing which included an introduction to the European Union and its cohesion policy by the project coordinator. Mr. Pablo Gándara introduced the key figures of European integration and briefly explained the regional diversities across the continent. He also described the institutional policy making of European legislation as well as the key instruments of European regional policy (ERDF, ESF, etc). Moreover, Mr Gándara also reflected on the legislative proposal for the next financial framework (2014-2020). His presentation also included the wider scope of regional policy since the Lisbon Treaty ("territorial cohesion") and the economic development strategy Europe 2020.

Chinese government officials were able to introduce themselves and to explain their expectations for the information session.

Mr Andreas Gschwandtl, Project Manager at the GIZ Economic Reconstruction Project, presented some projects jointly implemented by NDRC and GIZ. Cooperation encompassed the Economic & Structural Reform Programme which aims at supporting China's reform towards a balanced social, environmental and market-oriented system. The Economic Reconstruction Project concentrates on sustainable economic and regional development of poor, disaster-prone areas. The Environmental Policy Programme focused on the formulation of environmental policy regulations and on implementation strategies. The Economics of Climate Change Programme fosters the Sino-German dialogue on the economic implications of climate change. Mr Gschwandtl focused on Block-Area Development, which represents a synthesis of regional policy and poverty alleviation. These areas present similar characteristics including high residual poverty, ecological sensitivity (e.g. mountain areas), large minority population and cross provincial boundaries. Cooperation in Block-Area development offers a unique chance for the EU-China Regional Policy Dialogue to concentrate efforts in the coming work plan.

Prof Mick Dunford - University of Sussex and currently visiting professor at the Chinese Academy of Sciences - delivered an introduction to some European regional policy issues, including European growth and regional disparities as well as the evolution of regional policies since the 1950s. He explained the case for regional policy as a mean to offset asymmetric shocks including the monetary integration (MacDougall Report, 1977). He also made clear the allocation of funds according to 'Berlin formula' and the importance of aligning Cohesion policy with Europe 2020 priorities. Programmes should concentrate on a limited number of priorities based on the critical mass and the added value.

Sessions in Berlin

The first working day in Europe began with three lectures aiming at introducing Chinese delegates to European Innovation and Clusters Strategies. Prof Mari Jose Aranguren from the Orkestra-Basque Institute of Competitiveness (Spain) introduced the concept of clustering. She focused on the geographical scope and the types of agents included as well as on the function of management agencies and clusters associations. Ms Aranguren explained the needs and difficulties of cluster policy evaluation, and proposed an evaluation framework. As a case study, she presented the Basque Country, an industrial and prosperous Spanish region with a population of approx 2 million which

contributes approx 6% of Spanish GDP and with a higher per capita GDP than EU average. At the beginning of the 1990s, the Basque Country was losing its traditional competitive advantages. The Basque Government established a competitiveness programme supporting workgroups in 9 priority clusters. This process led to the creation of several cluster Associations aiming at improving the competitiveness of the cluster through co-operation. The Basque Government contributes to co-financing these associations with up to €240.000 per association.

Dr Henning Kroll, Senior Researcher at the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research (ISI) in Karlsruhe presented the evolution of European innovation policy and the challenges of regional adaptation. Regional innovation policies aim at boosting applied research and product development, as well as at fostering knowledge transfer and the establishment of innovation poles and clusters. Moreover, creating an innovation friendly environment stands at the core of the efforts. Today, more than 80% of European regions have a regional innovation strategy, but there is need for differentiation as there is no one-size-fits-all formula. Imitating innovation systems from other regions can lead to misleading results. The European Union countries are currently implementing a smart specialisation strategy, i.e. concentrating all resources in a few areas with real comparative advantages. Dr Kroll also presented some regional potentials in the EU and China. The cooperation between industry, public research and education is very different within European and Chinese regions (e.g. Beijing and Guangdong). Multilevel governance plays also here a key role in facilitating cooperation among key actors. Dr Kroll also introduced the Regional Innovation Monitor (RIM) project which gives an overview of innovation and clusters in around 200 European regions.

Mr Thomas Lämmer-Gamp, Manager of the Competence Networks Initiative at VDI/VDE IT, focused on public clusters development programmes. He reminded that the performance of clusters depend on far more factors than the geographic concentrations of business, research and public agencies. Proper framework conditions and cluster management agencies have a major impact on the clusters. Mr Lämmer-Gamp introduced the NGPExcellence Project, the largest cluster benchmarking and cluster program benchmarking project so far worldwide including 9 countries and 143 clusters. He explained the different performances between R&D- and industry-driven clusters which depend on several factors including the technology development and internationalisation measures. He also presented different types of clusters programmes, focusing on regional economic development, the development of national industries and the commercial exploitation of R&D potentials. Mr Lämmer-Gamp also presented key policy recommendations for Chinese regional development officials. He also gave several examples of European and national clusters programmes, focusing on the Competence Networks Germany, a project of Germany's Federal Ministry of Economy and Technology (BMWi).

On the next day, the delegation visited Berlin Adlershof, one of the most successful technology and business parks in Germany. Mr Frank Lauterbach, representative of the Adlershof management agency Wista, explained the urban development concept, which has led to an impressive development of this integrated science, business and media location since 1991. At the core of the concept is a *Science and Technology Park* with 425 companies, eleven non-university research institutes and six scientific institutes of the Humboldt University in Berlin. The companies and the non-university scientific institutes cooperate in several areas including photonics and optics; microsystems and materials; IT- and media; biotechnology and environment as well as photovoltaic. Participants were able to visit the newly constructed Centre for Microsystems and Materials (ZMM), a building of around 6.500sqm including offices and laboratories for physics and chemical research. Adlershof is co-financed by the European Funds for Regional Development (ERDF).

Sessions in Sweden

The delegation then continued the study tour which took them to Stockholm, one of the most innovative regions of Europe. Dr Göran Lindqvist, Principal Associate at the Centre for Strategy and Competitiveness of the Stockholm School of Economics, is one of the coordinators of the European Clusters Observatory. This is an online platform that provides a single access point to information and analysis of clusters and cluster policy in Europe. It provides data and analysis on clusters and competitiveness, a cluster library, a classroom for cluster education and analysis regional competitiveness conditions. Dr Lindqvist presented his analysis on the driving forces of innovation and introduced a model for cooperation between actors in a cluster. He mentioned some obstacles to interaction, the key gaps of innovation and ways to overcome these. Dr Lindqvist also presented some recommendations to improving a cluster's performance, including the "growth office". Discussion centred on the accuracy of data, the relationship between cooperation and competition among a cluster's companies (especially between SMEs and large companies) and on the coordinating role of the Government. Chinese delegates were also interested in enhancing the European Clusters Observatory with data on Chinese clusters.

Delegates then visited the *Kista Science City* – a creative melting pot where companies, researchers and students collaborate. Mr. Åke Lindström, Market Director of Kista, explained the development of the Kista area – a former shooting field of the Swedish Army - and its focus on ICT (Information and Communication Technology). There are currently almost 1,100 companies, 5,000 university students and 1,100 researchers within ICT in Kista. Different players from business (including large multinational companies like Ericsson and IBM), research and the Government started the Kista Science Project in the 1990s based on the Triple-Helix approach. Kista is being developed by two companies: Whereas Kista Science City is in charge of the overall development, Kista's business incubator (STING) focuses on business coaching and networking for start-ups. Since 2011, a new development concept for Kista is being implemented, focusing on a wider urban development as a key framework condition. This includes the construction of a highway underneath the earth and a new direct tramline to the airport. Discussion centred on cooperation between municipalities involved and not-involved at Kista, the role of ERDF and further European programmes for the development of Kista, the relationship between the Government and the Kista management agencies as well as among the different level of authorities involved in the project. KISTA is a project co-financed by the European Funds for Regional Development (ERDF).

Sessions in Latvia

Delegates were then transferred to Riga, where they firstly attended two presentations on EU support to cohesion and innovation policy in Latvia. Mr Aleksander Antonovs, Deputy Secretary of State at the Ministry of Finance (coordinating authority for EU Structural and Cohesion Funds), welcomed the delegation and introduced the key role of regional planning for attracting foreign investment to Latvia. His colleague Ms Inta Liepa, Deputy Director at the EU Funds Strategy Department, introduced the key facts of the EU funding scheme in Latvia since its accession 2004. For the period 2007–13, Latvia has been allocated around €4.6 billion in total. Investments in research and innovation amount approx. €1 billion. The thematic concentration of funding on this area – a key element of Europe's 2020 Strategy – has led to a strong impact on companies and clusters. Further colleagues from the Ministry explained that cooperation among stakeholders has been key to achieving a remarkable

development in Europe. Moreover, she stated that business R&D expenditures are currently at a similar level like East German Regions and that the patents applications are at a similar level as in Spain, Portugal and most Eastern European Member States. Discussions centred on Latvia's catch-up process since the mid 1990s, the impact of the current EU Commission's legislative proposal for the next financial framework (2014-2020), the key projects implemented in Latvia through EU co-funding mechanisms and the main areas of specialisation in the local economy (pharmacy, ICT, biotech and wood-processing).

The Chinese delegates then met Ms Lilita Spartane, Executive Director of the IT Cluster in Riga. Ms Spartane introduced the development of clusters in Latvia since ten years. ICT was identified since the beginning as one of the leading business sectors to be promoted through clusters programmes. The cooperation between the Ministry of Economy and the companies involved in the cluster is based on a bottom-up approach. Communication with other industrial branches (logistics, food, wood, machinery) is one of the main fields of action of the clusters management agency, as these are some of the most important customers of ICT industry. Ms Spartane mentioned some examples of ICT-innovations made-in-Latvia, including IT systems for NATO and a language shore software for saving native languages of small countries. The IT Cluster agency has been able to implement many EU co-funded projects with a total volume of approx. 2 Mio. €. The IT Cluster members – multinationals like ORACLE and SMES - have an annual turnover of approx. € 118 Mio and employ approx. 2.100 people. Clusters cooperation partners are research institutes and universities in Latvia as well as business and science parks in Estonia, Belarus and Russia. Discussion with Chinese delegates focused on the cooperation between companies and the Government, membership requirements, wages differences with other EU countries as well as rules for the implementation of EU co-funded projects.

In the afternoon, Chinese delegates attended a presentation by Ms Signe Balina, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the IT Competence Centre and three representatives of ICT companies. The Centre – which is co-funded through the ERDF – acts a cluster's development agency and supports the development of research projects in areas like business process analysis and human language technologies. The IT Centre is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Ms Balina's presentation was followed by Mr Uldis Dzenis, Board Member of TILDE, who introduced his company and its innovative solutions in language technologies. Mr Dennis introduced the Language Shore project, a platform for automatic translation of small languages. The language shore promotes cooperation of research institutions, digital content organizations, IT companies, academic institutions and other institutions in the field of language technologies. The IT training provider DZC presented an innovative language e-learning platform for mobile devices, which has been awarded by the European Commission. The solution allows GPS based localisation in order to receive real time information about a specific spot. Mr Aigas Atvars, Project Manager, introduced the Eye Movement recognition technology, currently under development, which aims at interpreting the reading behaviour of different target groups.

The Chinese delegates posted many questions about these innovative IT-applications, including the technical specifications and the importance of an innovation-friendly environment in Latvia. Through European programmes, the IT Centre gets access to finance and – especially important – to a network of cooperation partners across Europe.

Sessions in France

The delegation first visited the Préfecture de la Région Nord Pas-de-Calais, which is the managing authority for the European funding programme (regional OP). Ms Isabelle Liban, Director of the General Secretariat for Regional Affairs, introduced the operational programme for the region. Nord-Pas de Calais is home to 4 million inhabitants and has 350 km of border with Belgium and 100 million inhabitants within a 300 km radius. Trade between Great Britain and continental Europe has given rise to large ports (Calais, Boulogne and Dunkerque). The regional economy is dynamic and diversified. Ms Liban explained the challenges related with the major economic and social re-structuring in the last 25 years, especially with regard to traditional sectors like coal-mining, metal-work and textile industry. European cohesion plays a key role by strengthening innovation as one of the regional driving forces for economic prosperity. Against the backdrop of the current financial crisis, Ms Liban underlined the significance of long term commitment provided by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through. Also labour qualification programmes receive support through EU mechanisms (ESF). Ms Liban stated that as Nord-Pas de Calais counts for 10% of total industrial conversion in France and that labour qualification has been a prerequisite for attracting innovative companies to the region. Discussion with delegates centred on the future development of regional policy in the next financial framework (2014-2020), the innovation strengths of the region and the importance of cooperation with regional stakeholders (including the chambers of commerce).

The delegation then visited Euralille, one of Europe's most ambitious urban development projects implemented in last decades. Euralille was inaugurated 1994, after the arrival of the high speed railway LGV Nord to Lille. It has become the third largest business district of France after La Defense (Paris) and La Part-Dieu (Lyon). Euralille covers nearly 110 hectares and includes over 740 000 m² combining offices, activities, shops, housing, parks and public spaces. Chinese delegates were received in Euralille by Mr Bertrand Fontaine, Regional Director of OSEO – the French public finance agency. Mr Fontaine introduced the key figures of public support to innovation in France and the Region Nord Pas de Calais. With a total portfolio of € 29 Bio, OSEO promotes regional development through venture capital, loans and guarantees. These instruments are particularly important in order to boost private investment. OSEO provides also technical assistance to SMEs. Mr Mathieu Defresne, specialist on innovation, explained that OSEO invested 2010 approx. € 27 Mio in the region Nord-Pas de Calais, primarily devoted to regional innovation projects, including the development of clusters. He stated that public investment in innovative projects boosts up to four times private investments. The Chinese delegates discussed with OSEO representatives about the access to financing, the specifics of OSEO's funds for innovation and the cooperation with other institutions like the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The Chinese delegation was then received by Mr Yann Pitollet (Director) and Mr Guillaume Jinkoji (Project Manager) of Invest in Northern France. Mr Pitollet introduced the region of Nord-Pas de Calais through an interesting video film showing the key features of this innovative region. Mr Jinkoji ran a presentation in Chinese language about cooperation with China and the importance of European regional policy for the region. Moreover, Mr Didier Decoupigny, Deputy Director for Economic Development at Regional Council of Nord-Pas de Calais, welcomed the Chinese delegation and took the chance to have an interesting discussion on regional development in issues. He presented the *Project Center* (www.projectcenter.fr), a web-based information platform for all those who are

interested in cooperating with partners from the Nord-Pas de Calais region. He also mentioned the regional vision for future cooperation with China, which includes the development of regional ports as entry gates for Chinese products to Europe.

Mr Huan Li, Project Manager at Lille Metropole Development Agency, explained Chinese delegates the strategic development of the region and the significance of cooperation with China. Lille Metropole Communauté urbaine, regroups 85 towns that are located halfway between the two largest European metropolitan areas, London and Paris, and very close to Brussels. The metropolitan area totals fifteen head offices of multinational companies and four European Secretariats, including the European Railway Agency (ERA). The region has a working population of 1.3 million people, of which 500,000 work within the Lille Metropole area. Lille Metropole is at the heart of France's youngest region: 36% of the population is less than 25 years old. The metropolitan area has a multicultural and multilingual population with 3.2% of foreign residents and 28,000 people commuting daily between Belgium and France.

During the last working session, Mr Jean-Marie Pruvot, Director of Nord France Innovation Développement (NFID) mentioned that Lille was recently awarded as the most innovative region of France. He also explained the Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS) with three thematic orientations, including a smart specialisation in railways, logistics, agrofood and health care. Innovation should be also devoted to automotive, advanced materials, energy and waste management. These and further areas are promoted through the innovation clusters. The region has six clusters of competitiveness geared towards research and development at national and/or world level and 11 clusters of excellence, complementing the former, which are mainly geared towards providing support and assistance to companies. Moreover, Nord-Pas de Calais has large, internationally recognised laboratories and research institutes, which attract researchers from throughout the world and help establishing efficient partnerships. Mr Pruvot introduced J'Innove, a network of regional stakeholders of innovation and research valorization.

Discussions focused on the RIS, the decision making process regarding the allocation of funds and the co-financing rate in European projects.

After these working sessions, the Chinese delegates visited Euratechnologies. This innovation hotspot is located in a refurbished textile factory which has been transformed to a unique center of excellence dedicated to Information and Communication Technologies. EuraTechnologies gathers, under one roof, a wide range of enterprises, from start-ups to worldwide companies, offering them an innovative infrastructure and customized services. Mr. Jérôme Fauquemberg, Business Manager, showed the complex's facilities – including innovative mobile offices – and responded many questions related to the development potentials of the centre. EuraTechnologies has received an important contribution from European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) and is starting a second phase in a neighbouring old factory building.

The overall coordination of the visit in Lille was especially supported by Mr Carlos Pereira from NFID and Mr Saïd Benbouziane from the Regional Council.

Sessions in the Netherlands and Germany

On the next day, the Chinese delegation visited the Provincial Government of Limburg in Maastricht. Mr Paul Baeten, Head Strategy and Innovation Department Province of Limburg, briefly introduced the China Platform, a regional task-force to join forces for cooperation with China. Dr. Jean Severijns, Head of Internationalisation, delivered a lecture on smart specialisation in a functional region. Limburg is a border region with a dynamic industrial and economic growth based on its many SMEs (over 90%), including automotive, logistics, agro-food, high tech and chemical industries. Its location at the centre of Europe ("European Pentagon") provides access to a large population share with a very high purchasing power. Mr Severijns explained the industrial tradition of the region, whose coal mines were gradually closed between 1962 and 1973. This posed a major unemployment challenge for the region, making innovation a key element to confront it. Mr. Severijns explained the decision making process in regional development in the Netherlands and the importance of cooperation with the private sector.

The regional delegates also explained the new Dutch innovation policy, which has shifted the financial approach concentrating on loans rather than on subsidies. The Netherlands have focused research and innovation to nine top sectors, implementing the concept of smart specialisation as a multi-annual approach aimed at developing a well-performing national or regional research and innovation system. Mr Severijns stated that smart specialisation is also about defining a policy mix with a focus on a limited number of priorities targeted at stimulating smart growth. Against this backdrop, he explained the TTR-ELAT Initiative, a cooperative approach between cross-border regions in order to become the leading Top Technology Region in Europe. He also explained the European Clusters Alliance (supported by the EU Commission) and innovation network ProInno. Mr Severijns also mentioned the positive externalities of cooperation between competing border regions in Europe and the need of clear priorities for implementing regional development projects. Cooperation is based on a triple-helix approach for cooperation between politics, research and business. Discussion focused on the selection of sectors for the smart specialisation strategy, the cooperation between regional stakeholders and cross-border cooperation mechanisms.

Delegates also visited the Chemelot, one of six clusters of national importance for the Dutch regional development. Chemelot is a magnet for innovative companies in the Chemical sector and has two areas of development: one the largest European chemical industrial parks (allowing the common use of infrastructure for production and a higher value chain) and a research campus. Mr Klaas Bos, Spokesperson of Chemelot, explained the history of the industrial park with the company DSM as the driving force economic development. He also explained the development of the campus since 2005, with 34 new companies and about 1.100 employees which produce approx. 200 patents per year. These new companies make use of the knowledge and skills available at the campus. Their presence at the campus enables young entrepreneurs to rapidly realize their ideas and make a success of their companies. The collaboration between government (Province of Limburg), education (Maastricht University/Maastricht UMC+) and industry (DSM) ensures that the already highly successful Chemelot Campus will be developed into a widely recognized cluster of companies and knowledge and research institutions in the field of CHEMaterials. This will also reinforce the position of the south of the Netherlands as Technological Top Region (TTR).

Mr Mart Dijk, Deputy Director of the Foreign Investment Department of the Regional Development and Investment Agency LIOF introduced the importance of public support through venture capitals, loans and guarantees instead of subsidies. He presented the innovation-friendly environment of the region, including the tax sector. LIOF was created in the 1970s to develop economic activity and to deal with the socio-economic adjustment process resulting of the coal mine restructuring.

Discussion with Chinese delegates focused on cooperation with other clusters in the Netherlands and Europe, the labour challenges after industrial adjustment in the 1970s, the tax advantages for foreign investments and the overall importance of European cohesion policy instruments for the region.

On the next day delegated visited the Research Institute for Industrial Management (FIR) at the RWTH Aachen University. Mr Peter Laing, Head of Department Information Management, explained that FIT is a non-profit, intersectoral research institution concerned with business organisation and corporate development. The institute provides research, qualification programmes and lectures in the fields of service management, information management and production management. As a member of the German Federation of Industrial Research Associations, the FIR promotes research and development for the benefit of SMEs. Mr Laing introduced the innovation labs (ERP, smart object and service sciences) and presented several examples of innovation in areas like coal-mining, agro-food and renewable energy. He also introduced “Aachen Campus”, a major development project including the University of Aachen and international partners from business. Aachen Campus closely cooperates with the Provincial Government of Limburg (NL) within the TTC ELAt Region. The campus concept foresees the creation of up to 19 clusters, six of which are currently under construction.

Discussions with Chinese delegates centred on the importance of EU innovation strategies for the region, the relationship between public and private investment in the campus development, the cooperation with Netherlands (especially with Limburg), tailor-made models for clusters development and the possibilities of cooperation with China.

Sessions in Brussels

Participants attended the VI EU-China Seminar on regional policy co-operation within the framework of the Open Days of Regional Policy held in Brussels from 10 to 13 October 2011. Presentations of this event are available at the website of the Open Days.

Closing session

The seminar ended with a half-day workshop in Bonn. The workshop was moderated by Mr. Michael Funcke-Bartz, Head of Division Sustainable Technologies, Industrial and Urban Development at GIZ. Participants were requested to develop their own reflection on EU regional policy and its usefulness for Chinese challenges.

Mr Sun, leader of the delegation, and his colleagues expressed their gratitude to the European Commission and to GIZ as the implementing agency for the biweekly information session. They mentioned that the activity has been extremely useful for understanding the regional development concept of the EU and the key role of innovation. They also stated that European regional policy has several instruments and programmes the development of innovation. These examples provide important references for China, especially for the development of hinterland regions which have to use their competitive advantages.

The delegation also acknowledged the high level of the meetings and the good quality of lectures and speeches. They stressed that the contacts which have been made offer direct cooperation possibilities with several countries and regions. Delegates also very much appreciated the opportunity to discuss with representatives of government, research and business.

NDRC representatives also mentioned the role of Governments at supranational, national, regional and local level. Although EU member states have different governance systems, they all seek to achieve cooperation on innovation with the private sector and research. Developing clusters and promoting a smooth management is - in this context - one interesting experience for China. They mentioned that the different management approaches to clusters provide valuable tools for Chinese development. They also emphasised the cooperation between SMEs and multinational companies within the clusters and the key coordination role of the management agencies. They also reflected on the need of tailor-made solutions for different regions and gave examples of smart specialisation in the visited European regions. They also mentioned the good cooperation between research, business and politics towards clusters and innovation development in Europe and compared this with experiences in China, including the Yiangtse River Delta Plan.

The effective management system of EU regional policy was also centre of discussions. Delegates showed strong interest in learning more about the evaluation and monitoring systems. Delegates also emphasised the importance of strategic regional planning in Europe. Through its unique multi-level governance system, European regional policy involves all relevant stakeholders and regional planning levels.

With regard to future cooperation between the EU and China, delegates explained the importance of sustainable urban development and the need for regional policy legislation, especially with regard to the allocation of funding and to the cross-border cooperation mechanisms (for instance regarding the Yiangtse River Delta Plan). Delegates also mentioned the cooperation on regional policy instruments to confront the climate change as one important field. Some delegates proposed cooperation on poverty alleviation through regional policy as one of the focuses for the information sessions. In this context, some mentioned that clusters may increase economic disparities between regions and that therefore there is a need for complementary policies. They also underlined the importance of involving non-state actors in the design and implementation of regional policies.

10. Cultural programme

GIZ was committed to implementing an attractive cultural programme in order to facilitate cooperation among participants and to promote cooperation with the regions that have been visited. The cultural programme included guided tours in the cities of Berlin, Riga, Brussels and Bonn.

11. Cooperation with other institutions

GIZ is especially grateful for the support of key governmental and non governmental institutions, including:

- The University of Sussex
- The Basque Institute for Innovation
- The Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research, ISI, Karlsruhe
- The Competence Networks Initiative in Berlin
- The Technology Park Adlershof
- The Stockholm School of Economics
- The Kista Science City in Stockholm
- The Ministry of Finance in Latvia
- The IT Cluster and the ICT Centre in Riga
- The Préfecture of the Region Nord-Pas deCalais
- The Regional Council of Nord-Pas de Calais
- OSEO, the French Public Bank
- Invest in North France
- The Lille Metropole Development Agency
- North France Innovation Development
- The Provincial Government of Limburg and the Limburg Investment and Investment Agency
- The Chemelot Campus
- The Research Institute for Industrial Management at the University of Aachen

It should be stressed that all lecturers were very motivated with the activity as well as with the discussions with Chinese delegation members.

12. Composition of the Chinese delegation

Name	Position	Organisation
Mr Sun Guangxuan	Director	Department of Regional Economy of National Development and Reform Commission
Ms Pan Mali	Director	Department of Regional Economy of National Development and Reform Commission
Ms Fang Yuan	Programme Officer	Department of Regional Economy of National Development and Reform Commission
Mr Li Hongjun	Deputy Director	Department of international cooperation of National Development and Reform Commission
Mr Xun Zhiqian	Director	Hebei Provincial Development and Reform Commission
Mr Wang Xiaoping	Director	Jilin Provincial Economic and Technological cooperation development
Ms Feng Yan	Director	Hainan Provincial Development and Reform Commission
Mr Jia Yongan	Director	Gansu Provincial Development and Reform Commission
Mr He Jixiong	Deputy Director	Guangzhou City Economical Technological Cooperation Office
Ms Du Changxiu	Deputy Director	Anhui Provincial Development and Reform Commission
Mr Zhou Yuping	Deputy Director	Ningxia Development and Reform Commission
Mr Zhou Hua	Director	Hangzhou City Economical Technological Cooperation Office
Ms Wang Min	Programme Officer	Jiangsu Provincial Development and Reform Commission
Mr Qu Yawen	Programme Officer	Xinjiang Production and Construction Crops Development and Reform Commission
Mr Duan Jiyang	Director	Shenyang Development and Reform Commission
Mr Yang Zhaoke	Director	Beijing Corresponding Aid Office
Mr Gao Yang	Deputy Director	Henan Provincial Development and Reform Commission

Mr Yang Qiang	Program Officer	Chongqing Development and Reform Commission
Mr Zhang Jianjun	Deputy Director	Xizang Development and Reform Commission

13. Documentation provided to the participants

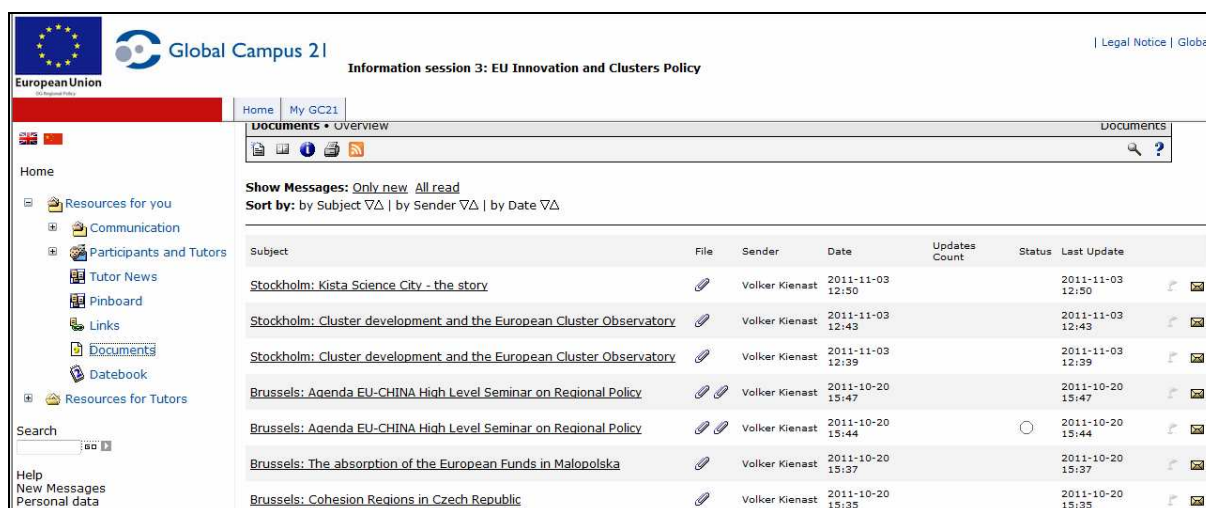
Detailed documentation folders were handed out to the participants in their introductory session in Trier. The prepared folders included:

- Programme
- Background material on EU-China Regional Policy Dialogue, EU Cohesion Policy 2007-2013.
- Background material on the relevant Operation Programmes (OPs) to be visited
- Background material on some lectures and presentations

14. E-Learning platform Global Campus 21 ©

Most presentations held during the two-week training were uploaded to Global Campus 21® (GC21), GIZ's virtual learning platform on the Internet. It is based on a learning management system using modern web technology.

For this information session, a shared workspace was established in English and Chinese. This provides various online tools, such as chat & discussion forums, pin board, document pools, link collections, and mailing features. It also provides other relevant information on technical aspects, cultural background and general information on the diverse EU destinations that were visited



The screenshot shows the 'Documents' overview page in the Global Campus 21 platform. The page title is 'Information session 3: EU Innovation and Clusters Policy'. The interface includes a navigation menu on the left with options like 'Home', 'Resources for you', 'Communication', 'Participants and Tutors', 'Tutor News', 'Pinboard', 'Links', 'Documents', 'Datebook', and 'Resources for Tutors'. The main content area displays a table of documents with columns for Subject, File, Sender, Date, Updates Count, Status, and Last Update. The documents listed are:

Subject	File	Sender	Date	Updates Count	Status	Last Update
Stockholm: Kista Science City - the story		Volker Kienast	2011-11-03 12:50			2011-11-03 12:50
Stockholm: Cluster development and the European Cluster Observatory		Volker Kienast	2011-11-03 12:43			2011-11-03 12:43
Stockholm: Cluster development and the European Cluster Observatory		Volker Kienast	2011-11-03 12:39			2011-11-03 12:39
Brussels: Agenda EU-CHINA High Level Seminar on Regional Policy		Volker Kienast	2011-10-20 15:47			2011-10-20 15:47
Brussels: Agenda EU-CHINA High Level Seminar on Regional Policy		Volker Kienast	2011-10-20 15:44			2011-10-20 15:44
Brussels: The absorption of the European Funds in Malopolska		Volker Kienast	2011-10-20 15:37			2011-10-20 15:37
Brussels: Cohesion Regions in Czech Republic		Volker Kienast	2011-10-20 15:35			2011-10-20 15:35

These documents are available for Chinese participants in a restricted area of Global Campus 21®.

15. Results of the written evaluation by the participants

Each participant received an evaluation form to be filled in after the seminar. The form contained several categories including contents, logistics and assistance. Participants were also able to enter additional remarks on different aspects of the seminar. The results of the assessment form are as follow:

1. Overall evaluation

Excellent (1 to 5, where 1 is excellent and 5 is poor)

2. The impact of the information session on your future work

All participants stated that they have gained from the information session will play an important and positive role in their future work and they are ready to transfer it to their colleagues or related persons.

3. Please write some topics particularly relevant for innovation policy in China

- the role of the government
- assessing and monitoring systems
- clusters systems
- service guide
- cooperation
- communication
- regional development
- cohesion and harmony
- cohesion policy
- innovative cluster
- establishment and development of science parks (cities)
- strengthening innovation in clusters
- strengthening connections among enterprises
- promoting fine labor division among regional clusters
- education
- innovation funds
- the management conducted by government in clusters and innovations
- integration of regions
- the role of regional policies in integration of regions
- the guiding role of universities, institutions and leading enterprises
- highly efficient working mechanism
- open working attitude and open information platform
- developing comparative advantages of different regions and countries
- cross regional cooperation
- legislation
- the power of innovation
- professional management of clusters

4. Crucial issues not dealt with or not dealt with in sufficient depth during this Information Session

- concrete innovation projects
- too tight timing to carry out in-depth discussions
- poverty alleviation within regions
- urban development
- harmonious development
- regional planning
- industry isomorphism
- the more detailed explanation on the concrete implementation of related policies
- concrete operating mechanism
- innovation about dealing with climate-change
- the aspects of innovation and clusters that need to be improved

5. Your own concrete ideas about how to apply what you've gained from the information session in China

- By spreading the knowledge about the main bodies of innovation and the related services that were introduced by the Stockholm School of Economics
- By introducing the successful experience about EU innovation, clusters and cohesion policies to Anhui Province
- Strengthening cooperation and innovation
- By introducing EU's experience to China's regional planning
- Paying more attention to the cooperation with universities and research institutions while developing innovative clusters
- By establishing regional development funds
- By promoting connections between enterprises in clusters and promoting R&D
- By establish tourism-oriented clusters and promoting innovation
- By implementing innovative thinking ways and methods
- By coordinating various forces to form a powerful resultant force to complete challenging work
- By establishing information platforms to improve mechanisms
- By spreading EU innovation spirit and ideas of integrated regional development
- By promoting policy compliance
- By strengthening monitoring mechanism
- By improving management efficiency
- By testing a management model base on cooperated with private agencies
- By putting theory into practice to improve the regional cooperation
- By activating the functions of NGOs, especially in forming up a cluster, because any cluster needs new pushing forces

6. What concepts/ideas in your opinion can be effectively implemented in China?

- industrial innovation
- planning clusters on the current basis of clusters and scientific research
- clusters and innovation
- managing and monitoring mechanism
- management, assessment and monitoring
- cohesion policy

- the attention paid on the development of clusters
- the attention paid on the role of innovation
- comprehensive development
- explore one's own way by learning from the EU
- to learn from the managing mechanism of the EU
- opening-up
- exchange
- to collect experience and learn from other sides
- to strengthen coordination
- to promote participation
- to establish innovation platforms
- regional policy
- to support one leading industry first, then form up a cluster
- to establish highly efficient, authentic and timely information service

7. Where do you see difficulties in applying this knowledge, please give your reasons!

- It's difficult to coordinate all sides efficiently because of lacking of professionals.
- Regional realities must be taken into account while implementing cohesion policies and cluster policies.
- Supporting funds are insufficient.
- Some more detailed operating methods need to be known.
- More education is needed.
- New communication models for research institutes and enterprises are needed.
- The system and mechanism should be further improved.
- The government has not yet formed up a good coordinating system.
- Cultural and political differences
- More development thorough understanding on the EU's operation is needed.
- Local protectionism can exist in laying out industries.
- There is lack of coordination among municipalities, enterprises and universities.
- Subjectivity can arise in policy making and implementation.

8. If the objectives of the activity were not fully achieved, please explain in which respect

- Language barrier
- Different thinking
- Different national conditions
- Good connections with related enterprises and institutions have not been established

9. How could participants of future trainings be involved in advance in the pre-selection of topics of the information session?

- The three members of the project team are very hard-working. I appreciate it very much! Still, I suggest some more background materials about related cities, institutions and enterprises be prepared in advance for future participants.
- More training can be added.
- To collect ideas from provinces in advance.
- To promote exchange

- To collect topics among participants
- To require future participants to hand in their own background materials and their interested themes and then, the organizing side decides the ultimate theme.
- “Poverty alleviation” can be a good theme.
- Pre-training can be conducted in China.

10. Which topics of the information session or which additional topics should be discussed as part of possible follow-up process?

- Topics about the establishment and operation of related administrations and institutions
- Urbanization
- Urban-rural disparities
- Keep in touch and provide consultation in future
- Further communication and discussion can be conducted
- Combined with regional realities, a further training can be conducted in China after our returning in China
- A workshop can be conducted in two months
- Linkage between R&D institutions and cluster enterprises

11. Are there any concrete approaches or projects you would like to develop further – in Europe or China - with European partners?

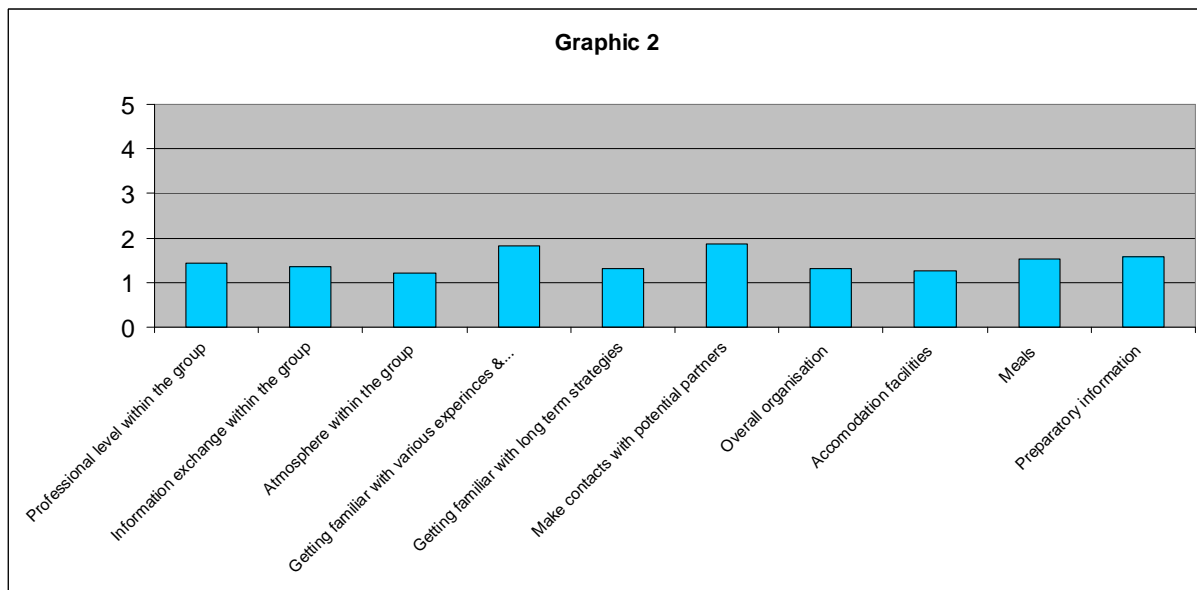
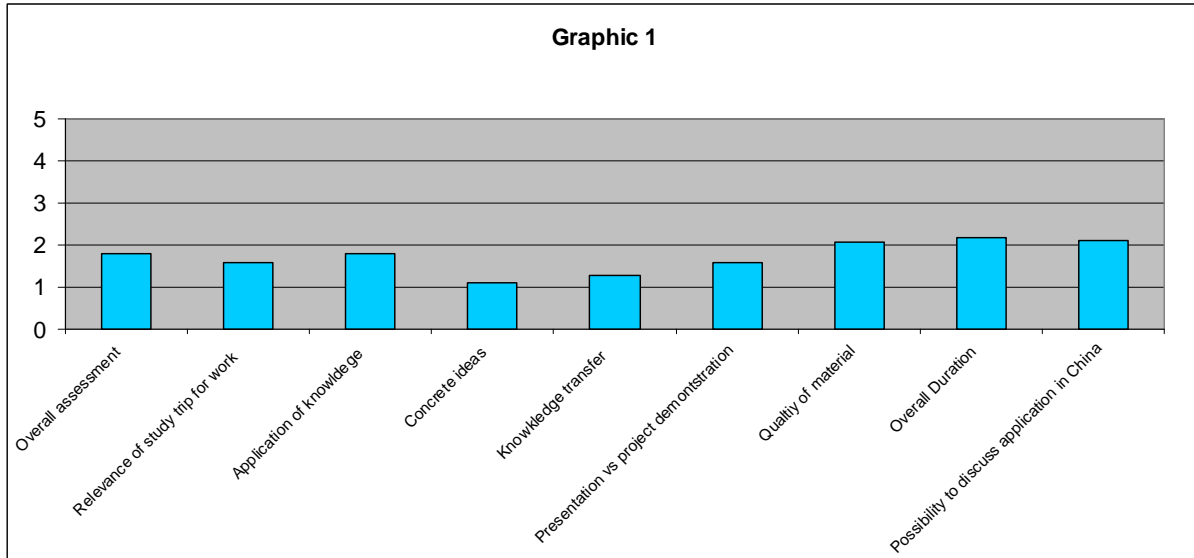
- Regional policy in the EU
- Thorough analysis on the EU debt-crisis and the EU economic development
- Energy saving
- Emission reduction
- Environment protection
- Tourism-oriented cluster and innovation
- Talent cooperation
- Technology cooperation
- To hold a joint symposium on the objectives of both sides

Further comments and suggestions for improvements

- To add more cultural programs and more field visits
- To give more time for discussions
- To give more respect to the living habits of ethnic minorities
- To give more time for sightseeing and shopping
- Thank you very much for giving us such a good opportunity to learn from you. I suggest more information about the government’s work be introduced.
- The program is too tight. I suggest that the time for lectures can be prolonged and the number of the visited cities and regions can be reduced.
- My most sincere thanks go to DG REGIO and GIZ because you have done a very good and significant thing for the EU and China. I suggest that further connections and communications be conducted and some similar EU-funded EU delegation visit China.
- More information about China’s regional situation can be introduced.

16. Quantitative presentation of the evaluation results

Please find below the aggregated data of the evaluation made anonymously by Chinese delegates. The scale goes from 1 (excellent) to 5 (poor).



17. Staff engaged in the implementation of the programme

Michael Funcke-Bartz, Head of Division Sustainable Technologies, Industrial and Urban Development, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Since 2010, Mr. Funcke-Bartz is in charge of the Division “Sustainable Technologies, Industrial and Urban Development” at GIZ’s head office in Bonn. Since 1985, he worked for the predecessor organisations Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft e.V. (CDG) and Capacity Building International, Germany (InWEnt) as human capacity building specialist in the field of urban development and infrastructure management. As senior project manager, he was responsible for the developing, implementing and monitoring advanced professional training programmes for professionals and decision-makers in developing countries.

Pablo Gándara, Project Coordinator for GIZ, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Mr Gándara studied political science with a focus on economics in Chile (Santiago) and Germany (Berlin). Mr. Gándara has a long track record in leading public communication agencies, economic associations as well as academic and training institutions. He has also published several articles on EU foreign policy and regional integration issues. Mr. Gándara has developed and managed large scale research and training projects co-funded by the European Commission.

Volker Kienast, Project Assistant for GIZ, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Mr. Kienast studied geography and sinology in Germany and Taiwan. He is experienced in planning, implementing and evaluating of capacity building activities for executives of different Asian countries. He has provided capacity building and advisory services, especially of public urban transport and logistics and urban planning.

18. Pictures Gallery



Visit to Technology Park Adlershof (Berlin)



Introductory session at GIZ in Berlin



Discussion at Stockholm School of Economics (EU Cluster Observatory)



Presentation in Kista (Stockholm)



Working session at the Latvian Ministry of Finance



Meeting with IT Cluster and ICT Centre in Riga



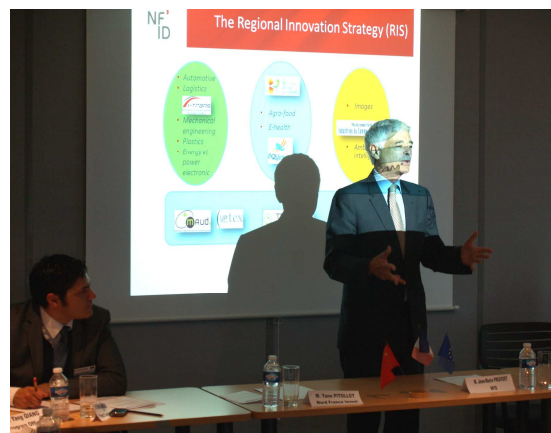
Working session at the Prefecture of Lille



Presentations at OSEO, Lille



Presentations at Espace International, Lille



Welcoming words by the Regional Council Nord-Pas de Calais, Lille



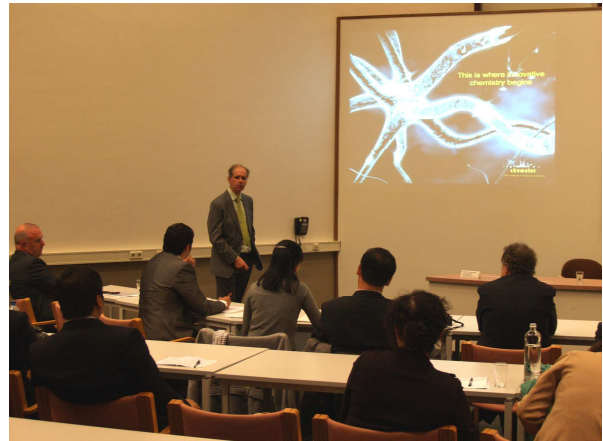
Group picture with involved authorities in Lille



Visit of EuraTechnologies in Lille



Group picture at the Provincial Government of Limburg (around the desk where the Treaty of Maastricht was signed)



Discussions at the campus Chemelot, Limburg



Discussions at the Research Innovation Centre FIR, RWTH Aachen



Participation at the EU-China Seminar on Regional Policy, Brussels



Closing workshop in Bonn



Closing workshop in Bonn