



EU-CHINA
Policy Dialogues Support Facility
中欧政策对话支持项目

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Activity 18: CETREGIO Chinese European Training on Regional Policy

Regional Disparities, Regional Legislation and Statistical Information Systems in Europe

16–31 July 2010

SUMMARY REPORT

Official Activity within the
EU-China Regional Policy Dialogue

Dialogue Partners:



European Union

DG Regional Policy



Implemented by:



Europäische Rechtsakademie
Academy of European Law
Académie de Droit Européen
Accademia di Diritto Europeo

on behalf of ICON

This report has been prepared by Pablo Gándara and Joanna Kuzaj, staff members in charge of the training. For further consultations, please refer to Joanna Kuzaj, jkuzaj@era.int.



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1. Presentation and Objectives of the Programme

In 2006, the EU and China established the Regional Policy Dialogue. This initiative aims at sharing experiences in regional policy as a key element for achieving a balanced and sustainable economic development in both regions. In 2010 the dialogue partners launched CETREGIO, Chinese European Training on Regional Policy. The programme aims at delivering European experiences to Chinese experts during the preparation of the 12th Five-Year Plan.

This two-week information and training course in regional policy proposed and implemented by the Academy of European Law (ERA) focused on regional disparities, regional policy and legislation and statistical information systems. The course was aimed at providing insights into European experiences in these fields. It was not intended to provide tailor-made solutions for the Chinese reality but rather to offer Chinese experts a source of reference when developing future regional policy measures.

Programme Contents

The training session focused on three topics:

2.1. Policies to counter regional disparity in Europe: In order to eliminate regional disparities in Europe and at the same time to keep promoting weak regions in the original member states, the European Commission had to review its regional policy programmes, including the existing criteria for classifying regional support needs.

2.2. Legislation on regional policy: EU regional policy is a cornerstone of a complex multilevel governance system comprising supranational, national and regional levels. Participants received an analysis of the actors, their interests and preferences as well as the institutional setting which is responsible for regional policy outcome.

2.3. Statistical and geographical information systems for regions: Data gathering and analysis are key tools for developing regional policies. Due to its unique complexity, Chinese regional planners face major challenges when further developing their sophisticated information systems. European information systems may provide a useful tool for Chinese requirements. Special attention was devoted to innovative solutions such as ESPON and INSPIRE, that provide policy makers with comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios for the development of regions, cities and larger territories. This training course allowed Chinese regional development experts to obtain an insight into complex European regional data systems, assessing their use for China.



2. List of Participants

		Last Name	First Name	Institution	Professional Background
1	Mr.	Zhou	Jin	The Regional Cooperation and Exchange Office of Shanghai / Municipal People's Government, Hainan Office	Director Head of Delegation
2	Mr.	Tian	Hongjie	Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Cooperation, Secretariat	Vice-researcher
3	Mr.	An	Limin	Tianjin International Engineering Consultant Company	Assistant General Manager
4	Mr.	Wang	Yichun	Yunnan Meilan Coordination Group Office	Division Chief
5	Ms.	Xie	Qinglan	Fujian Longyan Development and Reform Commission	Director
6	Mr.	Li	Jianwei	Xinjiang Development and Reform Commission, Reform Legislation Division	Division Chief
7	Mr.	Wang	Zhongqi	Hebei Development and Reform Commission, Economic and Technical Cooperation Office	Vice-researcher
8	Mr.	Wang	Shuotong	Shanghai Development and Reform Commission, Regional Economic Division	Division Chief
9	Mr.	Yang	Xiping	Jiangsu Development and Reform Commission, Economic Cooperation Division	Division Chief
10	Ms.	Xing	Zhijia	Regional Cooperation and Exchange Office of Tianjin Municipal People's Government, Around Bohai Regional Economic Division	Division Chief
11	Mr.	Chen	Jun	Xiamen Development and Reform Commission, Beijing Division	Deputy Division Chief
12	Mr.	Dong	Wenzhong	Guangdong Development and Reform Commission, Programming Division	Deputy Division Chief
13	Mr.	Wang	Weiguo	Shenzhen Development and Reform Commission, Regional Economic Division	Deputy Division Chief
14	Mr.	Dai	Hui	The Economic Office of Anhui	Researcher
15	Mr.	He	Jinxi	Yunnan Meilan Coordination Group Office	Inspector
16	Mr.	Zhang	Hao	Hubei Development and Reform Commission, Regional Economic Division	Staff
17	Mr.	Li	Xiaoguang	Jilin Development and Reform Commission	Staff



3. Programme Overview

Day	General Issues	Location
Friday, 16.07.10	Briefing session in Beijing	NDRC - Beijing
Saturday, 17.07.	Flight Beijing - Frankfurt	Beijing - Frankfurt
Sunday, 18.07.	Guided Tour	Trier - Luxembourg
Monday, 19.07.	Opening, Introduction and Lectures	Trier
Tuesday, 20.07.	Lectures	Trier
Wednesday, 21.07.	Field Visit Regional Development	France - Belgium
Thursday, 22.07.	Field Visit EU Institutions	Luxembourg
Friday, 23.07.	Field Visit EU Institutions	Brussels
Saturday, 24.07.	Sightseeing	Brussels
Sunday, 25.07.	Departure for Warsaw	Brussels - Warsaw
Monday, 26.07.	Lectures and Field Visit	Warsaw
Tuesday, 27.07.	Field Visit Regional Development	Gdansk
Wednesday, 28.07.	Flight to Frankfurt	Gdansk - Frankfurt
Thursday, 29.07.	Field Visit Regional Development	Frankfurt - Mainz
Friday, 30.07.	Lectures	Trier
Saturday, 31.07.	Departure to Beijing	Frankfurt - Beijing



4. Programme Detail

Friday, 16 July 2010

Briefing Session in Beijing at NDRC

Dinner and accommodation in Beijing

Saturday, 17 July 2010

Flight to Frankfurt am Main at 10:30

Arrival in Frankfurt am Main at 14:35

Transfer to Trier – Arrival at 18:00

Dinner and accommodation in Trier

Sunday, 18 July 2010

10:00 Guided tour of the Mosel region near Trier

Lunch at Chinese Restaurant

Dinner and accommodation in Trier

Monday, 19 July 2010

Location: ERA Conference Centre in Trier (Germany)

Opening session

09:00 Welcome and introduction by Pablo Gándara, Senior Overall Coordinator, Academy of European Law (on behalf of ICON), Trier.

Introduction of the Chinese delegation by the head of the delegation, NDRC, Shanghai.

Introduction to the course by Pablo Gándara, Senior Overall Coordinator, Academy of European Law (on behalf of ICON), Trier.

11:00 Coffee Break



- 11:30 Lecture 1: EU Regional Policy: Introduction**
- Description:** As the second largest field of EU policy, the major goal of European Regional Policy is to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion by reducing disparities between the regions and countries of the European Union. In this way, EU policy contributes positively to the overall economic performance of the EU. By managing three major funding lines, the European Union 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. This lecture gave an overview of the major regional disparities in Europe, the key territorial potentials and the means by which regional policy fosters development in Europe.
- Lecturer:** Mr. Ole Damsgaard, Nordic Centre for Spatial Development (Nordregio), Stockholm
- 13:00 Lunch Break**
- 14:30 Lecture 2: EU Regional Policy: Reducing Disparities and the Economic Challenges**
- Description:** The EU regional policy promotes harmonious development and aims particularly to narrow the gap between the development levels of the various regions. More than EUR 282 Billion are allocated to areas lagging behind in their development where the gross domestic product (GDP) is below 75% of the Community average. The EU's regional policy supported the economic recovery of important cities in poorer member states - such as Madrid or Lisbon - and encouraged an endogenous development. Despite these success stories there are several cohesion regions that still remain behind.
- Lecturer:** Mr. Steffen Osterloh, Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW), Mannheim
- 15:30 Coffee Break**
- 16:00 Lecture 3: EU Regional Policy: Law and Decision Making**
- Description:** EU regional policy is a cornerstone of a complex multilevel governance system comprising supranational, national and regional levels. This lecture provided participants with an analysis of the actors, their interests and preferences as well as the institutional setting which is responsible for regional policy outcome. The lecture focused on the establishment of the European common market and its foundation on common values and policies. The legal framework provides the instruments and decision making procedures for strengthening solidarity between the regions.
- Lecturer:** Mr. Carlos Mendez, European Policies Research Centre (EPRC) Glasgow



17:30 End of the first day

18:30 Guided Tour City of Trier

Accommodation in Trier

Tuesday, 20 July 2010

Location: ERA Conference Centre in Trier (Germany)

09:30 **Lecture 4: European Territorial Cooperation**

Description:

The European Territorial Cooperation objective is financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and supports cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation programmes. The budget of €8.7 billion for this accounts for 2.5% of the total 2007-13 allocation for cohesion policy, including the allocation for member states to participate in EU external border cooperation programmes supported by other instruments. The presentation focused on the INTERREG Programmes such as III-A (Saarland - Mosel - Lorraine - Westpfalz) and IV-A (Grande Région - Belgium, France, Luxembourg and Germany). Some of the projects in these programmes were visited on the next day.

Lecturer:

Mr. Pablo Gándara, on behalf of DG REGIO, Territorial Cooperation Unit

11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:30 **Lecture 5: European Territorial and Statistical Surveillance: National Implementation**

Description:

The Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) focuses on research and consultancy at the interface between science and policy. Activities are designed and applied interdisciplinary, it includes users of knowledge and generates mainly transfer knowledge. In the support of the spatial planning policy of the Federal Government and the Federal States, the BBSR conducts nationwide analyses of spatial development and produces forecasts for future spatial development. With this the BBSR offers a nationwide information basis, the Spatial Monitoring System. This monitoring system conflates data at different regional levels – individual, local, regional, European - from different sources – statistical offices, private data providers. The results of the application-oriented research affect, among others, the programmes for regional funding.

Lecturer:

Ms. Antonia Milbert, Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning BBR, Bonn



13:00 Lunch Break

15:00 Bus departure for Metz (France)

Accommodation in Metz

Wednesday, 21 July 2010

Location: Metz and Sarreguemines - France

09:00 Field Visit 1: **Regional Development Policies - Best Practices in the Lorraine region**

Description: The seminar's first field visit will take participants to Lorraine, a region in France which is part of the operational programme III-A presented in Trier. The programme aims at attracting economic investment and innovation by strengthening economic development, promoting sustainable spatial planning, exploiting human resources and implementing effective management.

Lecturers: Ms. Frédérique Seidel, Ms. Verena Pinzer, Ms. Pauline Philizot, INTERREG III-A

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Field Visit 2: **Regional Development Policies - Visit to a water treatment plant**

Description: The delegation visited a regional development project. The case study was decided in coordination with DG REGIO.

Lecturer: Staff of INTERREG III-A and local experts.

16:00 Field Visit 2: **Cross-Regional Cooperation in a Coal Museum**

Description: After the first field visit in France, the delegation visited the regional development project in the old coal mine of Petite-Rosselle.

Lecturer: Staff of INTERREG III-A and local experts.

18:00 Travel to Luxembourg
Free Afternoon in Luxembourg
Accommodation in Luxembourg



Thursday, 22 July 2010

Location: Luxembourg

- 10:00** **Lecture 7:** **Financing EU cohesion policy – the Role of EIB**
- Description:** The European Investment Bank (EIB) finances a major part of EU activities aimed at balanced development and economic and social cohesion of the EU member states. The bank manages structural funds and has developed four specially conceived Cohesion Policy Joint Initiatives: Jaspers, Jessica, Jasmine and Jeremie. This lecture provided Chinese experts with the financial methodology of EU regional policy strategy, amounting to more than € 93 billion in 2009.
- Lecturer:** Mr. Sebastian Hyzyk, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg
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- 12:00** **Lecture 8:** **Harmonising statistics within the EU: Eurostat**
- Description:** The statistical office of the European Union provides the European Union with statistics at supranational level that enable comparisons between countries and regions. The presentation included the classification of regions according the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS), a fundamental tool for the analytical and legal framework of EU regional policy. This field visit allowed Chinese experts to see on the spot how statistics are produced and managed in Europe.
- Lecturer:** Mr. Daniele Rizzi, Eurostat, Luxembourg
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- 13:30** **Lunch Break**
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- 15:30** **Lecture 9:** **Analysing territorial development and cohesion in Europe – the role of ESPON**
- Description:** The *European Observation Network on Territorial Development and Cohesion* (ESPON) aims at producing comparable information, evidence, analyses and scenarios on framework conditions for the development of regions, cities and larger territories. The ESPON 2013 programme emphasises the reinforcement of regional policy based on studies, data and observation of development trends. The ESPON programme also strongly supports policy development aimed at achieving territorial cohesion and harmonious development of European territory. The programme reveals territorial capital and potentials for development of regions and larger territories.
- Lecturer:** Mr. Peter Mehlbye, Director, Espon Coordination Unit, Luxembourg
-
- 16:30** **Travel to Brussels**
Accommodation in Brussels



Friday, 23 July 2010

Location: Brussels

- 09:00** **Lecture 10:** **Institutions and Regional Policy I - DG REGIO**
- Description:** Regions in the EU have different levels of economic development. Because of this, the Directorate-General Regional Policy develops programmes and provides funds to bridge these disparities in prosperity and development. But every region needs its tailor-made solution, which is why the EU engages in strong partnerships with many actors at national, regional and local level. The policy is an important expression of the solidarity of the European Union.
- Lecturer:** Mr. Charles White, Directorate-General Regional Policy, EU Commission, Brussels.
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- 11:30** **Lecture 11:** **Institutions and Regional Policy II – The EP Regional Development Committee**
- Description:** The study tour in Brussels was continued with a visit to the EU Parliament. The Chinese participants had the opportunity to meet a representative of the Regional Development Committee which is in charge of coordinating European regional development funds as well as of cooperation with institutions of inter-regional cooperation, such as the Committee of the Regions.
- Lecturer:** EU Parliament - Regional Development Committee, Brussels.
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- 13:00** **Lunch Break**
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- 15:00** **Lecture 12:** **Regional Policy in Europe III – The Committee of the Regions**
- Description:** The EU Committee of the Regions is an assembly of 344 local and regional representatives that provides the EU Commission, Parliament and Council with a direct voice on issues of regional and local significance. The Committee's work is organised in 6 different commissions. Although the Committee has no legislative power, its work has a major impact on the EU regional policy.
- Lecturer:** Mr. Wolfgang Petzold, EU Committee of the Regions, Brussels.

Accommodation in Brussels

Saturday, 24 July 2010

Location: Brussels

Guided Tour and Free Time in Brussels

Accommodation in Brussels



Sunday, 25 July 2010

Location: Brussels - Warsaw, Poland

Cultural programme in Brussels

19:15 Flight Brussels - Warsaw

21:15 Arrival in Warsaw

Accommodation in Warsaw

Monday, 26 July 2010

Locations: Chancellery of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Regional Development, EU Delegation Warsaw

09:00 Field Visit 2: Regional development policies and the EU

Description:

The Ministry of Regional Development performs functions related to the preparation and implementation of national development strategy and manages EU assistance funds. On November 2006, the Council of Ministers adopted the National Development Strategy 2007 - 2015, giving priority to regional development and the improvement of territorial cohesion. The department visited is responsible for structural policy coordination and presenting Poland's position on the structural and cohesion policy of the European Union. It prepares draft programme documents in the area of the cohesion policy. The department is in charge of evaluating the implementation of the Community Support Framework and the National Cohesion Strategy. It prepares draft national development strategies and analyses the consistency of other strategic documents with the National Development Strategy. It is accountable for developing the spatial development concept for Poland.

Lecturer:

Mr. Piotr Siewierski, Department of Structural Policy Coordination, Ministry of Regional Development, Warsaw, Poland



- 11:00 Field Visit 3: National development policies: Poland 2030**
- Description:** With a total population of some 38 million inhabitants, Poland is the largest Eastern European member state. Poland's central government issued in 2009 the "Poland 2030 Strategy Report", aiming at outlining a perspective for potential routes for Poland's development in the next 20 years. Referring back to the completed process of Poland's transformation and pointing out the potential for further development, this study presents the dilemmas which must be solved in the near future, especially in the field of economic and social policies, infrastructure, energy safety and efficient management of the administration.
- Lecturer:** Mr. Jakub Michałowski, Board of Strategic Advisors to the Prime Minister, Warsaw
- 13:00 Lunch**
- 15:00 Field Visit 4: The Masovian Region**
- Description:** This field visit was arranged with the Ministry of Regional Development, Warsaw, Poland.
- Lecturer:** Mariusz Frankowski
- 17:00 End of the Day**
- 18:00 Guided Tour**
- Accommodation in Warsaw**

Tuesday, 27 July 2010

Location: Gdańsk

11:20 Flight Warsaw - Gdańsk

14:00 Check in Gdańsk

Lunch

15:30 Field Visit 5: Regional Programmes: Pomorskie Voivodeship

Description: The Pomorskie Voivodeship Regional Operational Programme (2007-2013) is one of the key instruments for boosting regional development in northern Poland. The programme involves a total of € 1,2 billion dedicated to improving transport systems (rail & road), revitalising poor areas and modernising public space. The programme also involves investment in environmental protection, tourist infrastructure and health care.

Lecturer: Mr. Jan Szymański, Department of Regional and Spatial Development, Office of the Marshal of the Pomeranian Region, Gdańsk



17:00 Field Visit 6: Cross Border Cooperation: the South Baltic Sea Regional Programme

Description: Within the cross-border cooperation scheme, Poland is in charge of coordinating the South Baltic Programme which aims at strengthening sustainable development of the South Baltic area through joint actions, as well as increasing its competitiveness and enhancing integration between people and institutions. The programme covers coastal regions in Germany, Poland, Sweden, Denmark and Lithuania.

Lecturer: Ms. Marta Plichta, Head of Secretariat, South Baltic Programme, Gdańsk

**19:00 Walking tour and dinner in Gdańsk
Accommodation in Gdańsk**

Wednesday, 28 July 2010

Location: Gdańsk - Frankfurt

09:00 Field Visit 7: The Science and Technology Park in Gdynia

Description: The Gdańsk Science and Technology Park provides an optimal location for companies, research and development units, advice and financial services necessary for their operations. The Park also connects scientists and leaders of modern industries. There is cooperation between science, business and local government. The park also has a Technology Incubator.

Lecturer: Office of the Marshal of the Pomeranian Region, Gdańsk

Lunch in Gdańsk

15:30 Flight Gdańsk – Frankfurt am Main

17:15 Arrival in Frankfurt

Dinner and Accommodation in Frankfurt



Thursday, 29 July 2010

Location: Frankfurt / Kaiserslautern / Trier

- 09:30** **Lecture 13:** **GIS in Europe – Germany’s Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG)**
- Description:** The demand for geodata has risen enormously over the last few years as a consequence of the growing importance of applications with geospatial reference and of fast-developing modern information and communication technologies. BKG provides geodetic reference data and basic spatial data for the needs of the German Federal Government, the administrative, economic and scientific sectors as well as for the citizen. Beyond Germany’s borders BKG contributes in close cooperation with its European and international partners to the establishment of a European and global Geodata Infrastructure.
- Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Dietmar Grünreich, President BKG, Frankfurt
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- 12:00** **Lecture 14:** **Regional Economic Policy in Rhineland Palatinate**
- Description:** Located at the core of Europe, Rhineland Palatine is one of Germany’s most dynamic regions. With an export rate of roughly 50 percent, it ranks first in this category among Germany’s states. Its economy is remarkably diversified, including wine and wood production, chemical and automobile industries. This field visit introduced participants to the regional development strategy "Growth through Innovation". The Ministry demonstrated the key role of European regional development funds (ERDF) for reducing regional disparities and strengthening social and economic cohesion.
- Lecturer:** Mr. Hans-Georg Schneider, Head of Department for European Structural Policy, Ministry of Economy, Transport, Agriculture and Viticulture (MWVLW), Rhineland-Palatine, Mainz
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- 13:30** **Lunch Break**
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- 15:00** **Departure for Trier**



- 17:00** **Lecture 15:** **Regional Development in Trier-Luxembourg and its links with China**
- Description:** Trier and Luxembourg (Trilux) is a European model region where a variety of strategic approaches to cross-border sustainable regional and urban development are being implemented through specific projects (Logistics Trilux, Science Park Trilux). The City of Trier has recently defined cooperation with China as a further development element of the region. With the envisaged establishment of the *European-Chinese Centre for Training and Research in Development and Planning* (ECER), the city has developed a remarkable competence in this field. The centre will aim at triggering various effects in European and Chinese regions in order to achieve sustainable urban and regional development.
- Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Johannes Weinand, Director, Office for Urban Development and Statistics, City of Trier

Dinner and Accommodation in Trier

Friday, 30 July 2010

Location: ERA Conference Centre in Trier

- 09:00** **Lecture 16:** **Economic Regional Development in Europe: The Way Forward**
- Description:** The European Union has recently launched a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth called Europe 2020. This strategy is a continuation of the Lisbon Strategy of 2000, which did not achieve similar objectives. This presentation assessed the role of these policies in regional development in Europe and the catching-up of hinterland regions.
- Lecturer:** Dr. Andreas Kern, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, Berlin
- 10:30** **Lecture 17:** **EU-China Regional Policy: an Outlook**
- Description:** The rapid economic development in China has led to expanded welfare and better living conditions for millions of citizens. However, this situation has accentuated existing interregional disparities, especially between the booming coastal areas, where 10 regions account for 58% of national GDP and the western regions that contribute only 13% of GDP. The European Union is also facing major demographic and economic challenges with enormous implications for its regional policy development. In 2006 the EU and China established the Regional Policy Dialogue. This initiative aims at sharing experiences in regional policy as a key element for achieving balanced and sustainable economic development.
- Lecturer:** Mr. Ramón López, DG REGIO, European Commission, Brussels



12:00 Coffee Break

12:15 **Summary Session, Evaluation & Certificates**

Description: Back in Trier, the study trip was summarised. Speakers and participants evaluated and discussed the past two weeks. Certificates were given to all participants.

Lecturer: Mr. Pablo Gándara, Senior Overall Coordinator, Academy of European Law, Trier

13:00 Lunch Break

15:00 End of the course

17:00 Cultural programme and dinner in Trier

Saturday, 31 July 2010

10:00 Departure for Frankfurt am Main (Airport)

17:20 Flight to Beijing



5. Evaluation

The seminar offered a unique opportunity for Chinese participants to become familiar with the regulations, policies and structures of regional policy in Europe. This section evaluates different aspects of the seminar.

5.1. Choice of the topic

The topic was chosen in cooperation with the DG REGIO and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) during the EU-China High Level Committee Meeting on Regional Policy held in Brussels in October 2009. The topic reflected the increasing Chinese interest in exchanging experience with Europe in order to learn more about its regional policy.

During 2009, within the framework of the inception phase of the European-Chinese Centre for Education and Research in Spatial Development Planning (ECER), ERA organised two bi-weekly training courses for Chinese civil servants and academics. The issues of training covered disaster preparedness, emergency management and sustainable transportation. This and further training activities with China enabled the Academy to develop its own expertise on EU-China cooperation issues.

5.2. Programme design and implementation

ERA prepared a first draft programme in October 2009, few weeks after the EU-China High Level Committee Meeting. The programme focused on basic contents of EU regional policy, innovation and clusters, cross-regional cooperation. The Academy proposed lectures and field visits in Germany, the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic. Suggested speakers included experts from different EU member states and professional backgrounds.

During consultations with DG Regional Policy, it became clear that the programme should focus more on regional statistics methods rather than on the issue of innovation and clusters. ERA amended the programme and submitted a further draft in January 2010. The training finally consisted of 17 lectures and seven field visits illustrating different aspects of practical cross-border and inter-regional cooperation within EU Regional Policy. The seminar was scheduled from 17 to 31 July 2010. Due to some difficulties in visa application procedures, the final number of participants was 17 as opposed to the originally agreed number of 20.



The coordination of contents was ensured via e-mail and telephone conferences with the speakers before the seminar.

The programme started with one day of four lectures dealing with EU regional policy, EU legislation and regional disparities in Europe. Mr. Pablo Gándara, Project Coordinator, introduced the key figures of European integration and briefly explained the regional diversities across the continent. He also explained the institutional policy making of European legislation as well as the legal basis of European regional policy, considering the wider scope since the Lisbon Treaty. Mr. Gándara also introduced the economic development strategy Europe 2020.

Mr. Ole Damsgaard, Director of the Nordregio in Stockholm, introduced the European territory, focusing on the concentration of population, land-use and rural-urban typology, the accessibility of European regions as well as on demographic development. He also explained different ways of measuring territorial disparities and potentials. As a result of EU regional policy, the regional gap has been remarkably reduced. Mr. Damsgaard also briefly introduced the key features of EU regional policy.

Mr. Carlos Mendez from the EPRC in Glasgow introduced the reform of cohesion policy after 2013, focusing on the issues of concentration, performance and governance. Mr. Mendez underlined the importance of strategic coherence between policies and instruments. Although EU regional policy has achieved great results in tackling regional disparities, its instruments need to be simplified. The role of the European Commission should be rebalanced towards strategic management.

Mr. Steffen Osterloh from the ZEW in Mannheim introduced the economic challenges the EU is facing in tackling regional disparities. He explained the political-economic motives for EU regional policy, including the generation of spill-over effects, economies of scale and side payments to achieve larger support for specific goals. He underlined that European solidarity is not as pronounced as solidarity at the national level. Mr. Osterloh analysed the allocation of cohesion funds in Europe and the political consequences. He finally concentrated on the economic evaluation of the policy, underlining that the convergence and territorial cooperation objectives have been largely achieved, whereas the enhancement of regional competitiveness has not reached the desired level.

Taking into account the preferences of the NDRC for more practically related topics, ERA offered two days of field visits, providing examples of project implementation within the framework of INTERREG III-A in Lorraine Region. The INTERREG III-A programme covers the two border regions (Saarland in Germany and Lorraine in France). During the period 2000-2006, these have profited from Community financing



(from the European Regional Development Fund) amounting to a total of € 26.712.543 for 34 projects. After a brief session introducing the programme, most of the projects were presented by the local coordinators in Sarreguémines and a lively discussion enabled the Chinese participants to gain a clear overview of the management system governing the programme. The delegation was then invited to visit a water treatment plant in Sarreguémines and the coal museum in the former mine Petite-Rosselle.

The programme continued the next day with visits to three EU-institutions in Luxembourg: the European Investment Bank (EIB), Eurostat and ESPON. Mr. Sebastian Hyzyk from the EIB explained the role of the bank in financing regional policy. Mr. Daniele Rizzi from Eurostat focused on the role of geographic information systems (GIS) for regional policy as well as the European system for the classification of regions (NUTS). He also explained the roadmap for INSPIRE, a European spatial data system which will allow the harmonisation of different national standards. The delegation then visited the City of Esch in Luxembourg, where the head of ESPON, Mr. Peter Mehlbye, explained the implications of territorial observation for regional policy making in the EU.

Participants then travelled to Brussels in order to interact with the European institutions including the European Commission (DG REGIO), the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions. During the presentation of Mr. Charles White from DG REGIO, participants were able to learn about European regional policy lessons for China. Mr. White focused on the importance of a long-term strategic vision as well as on the objectives of “non-political” transparent methods for raising and allocating resources. He also noted that empowering regions through the co-ownership principle brings sustainable local identification with regional development goals. Mr. White also noted the key role of bottom-up project development in order to achieve broad regional development.

Mr. Wolfgang Petzold from the Committee of the Regions (CoR) explained regionalisation in Europe, European and multi-level governance and the lobbying of regions at European level. Mr. Petzold focused on the economic performances of regions and on the role of the CoR in coordinating and balancing regional incentives. He explained member states’ political orientations towards the EU and the different administrative orders of all member states.

After a free Saturday and Sunday in Brussels and Bruges, the delegation travelled by air to Warsaw. The first meeting took place at the Polish Ministry of Regional Development, where Mr. Piotr Siewierski, Head of the Department of Structural Policy Coordination, explained the role of European cohesion policy for the regional development of his country. Between 2004–07, nearly 85,000 projects worth a total of €22.5 billion



were implemented in Poland. Priority was given to investments in basic infrastructure. Mr. Siewierski also explained the key development priorities in Poland, especially with regard to regions of the country that are lagging behind. Mr. Mariusz Frankowski introduced urban policy and culture in the Mazovia region around Warsaw.

The NDRC delegation then attended a meeting with representatives from the Board of Strategic Advisors of the Prime Minister. Mr. Paweł Kaczmarczyk and his colleagues Dominika Milczarek-Andrzejewska, Jakub Michałowski and Piotr Arak introduced the national development strategy up to 2030. After explaining key development challenges for Poland (labour force participation, energy supply, quality of infrastructure, enhanced innovation, etc), they focused on the polarisation and diffusion of regional development up to 2030. The Agenda 2030 is meant as a diagnosis of the current Polish development, identifying nine strategic areas for medium term policies. During the afternoon, the NDRC delegation met representatives from the City of Warsaw, where European funds have been used for urban development projects.

The next morning DRC delegates travelled to Gdańsk, where the Office of the Marshal of the Pomorskie Voivodeship organised a one day workshop including lectures from different departments. Mr. Mieczysław Struk, Marshal of the region, welcomed the delegation personally. Mr. Jan Symański introduced the regional strategy for the region, providing an overview of how different economic sectors in the region have been supported, including the reconstruction of transport systems, the revitalisation of poorer city areas, environmental protection, the modernisation of tourist infrastructure and health care. Ms. Karolina Lipińska and Ms. Marita Koszarek focused on clusters policies and the Pomeranian ICT clusters as future development axes. Mr. Robert Mazurkiewicz explained the cross-regional cooperation within the INTERREG project "South Baltic Sea".

The following day was dedicated to field visits to the Hewelianum Center, an interactive museum of natural sciences and innovation housed in a former fortress in Gdynia, as well as to the Pomeranian Science and Technology Park in Gdynia.

The delegation then returned to Frankfurt to visit Germany's Federal Office for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG). Mr. Dietmar Grünreich, president of the BKG, explained the role of his office in supporting national, European and global geospatial data infrastructure (GDI). He focused on European GDI, including Eurographics, INSPIRE and GMES. Mr. Grünreich concluded that sustainable development depends on reliable and useful geoinformation.

The delegation then travelled to Mainz, where representatives of the Rhineland-Palatinate Ministry of Economy, Transport, Agriculture and Viticulture (MWVLW) ex-



plained regional development. Mr. Hans-Georg Schneider explained the historical economic development in the region, which has developed from an agricultural base (winery) to an industrialised region (chemical, pharmaceutical and automotive clusters), but still with a major tourist industry. Mr. Schneider explained the challenges of conversion of land-use in the context of the end of the cold war. Important technology and innovation centres have been developed in these areas. Mr. Kniestedt introduced the implementation of the European Regional Development Funds in the federal state. Further colleagues introduced technology, agricultural and structural policies as well as the relations with China, especially with the province of Fujian.

The seminar was completed by a one-day closing session in Trier, which included evaluation by the Chinese participants as well as a summary session by ERA. The feed-back of the Chinese regional planning experts arrived several days after the beginning of the training. The overall programme was received very positively and the overall spirit in the group was very friendly and enthusiastic. The sound mix of lectures at ERA headquarters in Trier and the many study visits were particularly welcomed by the participants, given that all of them are governors or planners at the NDRC in eleven Chinese provinces.

In our view the overall seminar was a striking success for both participants and the NDRC delegates, as we were able to establish further links with key decision makers on regional spatial development policy in Europe. Also the commitment of the PDSF office in Beijing was a key factor for success.

5.3. Participants' profile

The Chinese delegation was composed of regional-level officials and representatives of NDRC from 13 Chinese provinces, most of them with leading positions in their regions. All participants were senior experts in their areas and the majority had decision-making competences on regional development issues in their provinces. This profile fully met the requirements for an eventual long term commitment by key European institutions. Participants were very interested in all the lectures, which triggered active interaction between them and the lecturers.



5.4. Language issues

Regarding the language of the seminar, it had been arranged that two interpreters on a rotating basis would guarantee optimal understanding of the training contents. This solution brought good results. According to the Chinese participants, the quality of the interpretation was very high.

5.5. Documentation

Detailed documentation folders (over 400 pages) containing the programme, the speakers' backgrounds and chronological overview of all lectures was provided to participants.

The folders included:

- Information on PDSF and CETREGIO activities
- Programme
- Lecturers' CVs
- Background material on the EU-China Regional Policy Dialogue, EU Cohesion Policy 2007-2013 and EU legislation.
- Speakers' presentations
- Evaluation forms

This documentation was very much appreciated by the Chinese participants as they could prepare in advance any questions and comments on the lectures.

There was also an e-learning module including background information on European regional policy, its legal basis and the presentations of the speakers.

5.6. Cooperation with other institutions

Particularly during the preparation of the programme, ERA experienced sound cooperation with the main actors of European Regional Development policy, including:

- Institutions in the European Union: European Commission (DG REGIO); European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions
- European Investment Bank (responsible for financing of Cohesion Policy Joint Initiatives)
- Key statistical institutions in the EU (e.g. Eurostat, ESPON)



- German Government Authorities: Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning; Ministry of Economy, Transport and Agriculture of Rhineland-Palatine as well as the German Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy
- Polish Government Authorities: (Ministry of Regional Development in Warsaw, and regional offices for Spatial Development in Gdańsk)
- Senior academics and consultants to European policy makers: e.g. the Board of Strategic Advisors to the Prime Minister of Poland
- International research institutes: e.g. NORDREGIO (Sweden); the Centre for Economic Research (Germany) and the European Policy Research Center (Glasgow)

The response by the institutions was mostly very positive. Often the lecturers involved expressed motivation to be involved in similar training in the future.

5.7. Media coverage

To ensure publicity, ERA's corporate communications department published a short article on the ERA website, stressing the importance of promoting the Policy Dialogues between the EU and China. A journalist and photographer working for Chinese online newspapers in Europe were invited to take a group picture of the Chinese delegation and to report for the Chinese media ([read more](#)). The English translation of the article can be found in [Annex 1](#) of the report.

5.8. Evaluation by the Chinese participants

On the return of the NDRC delegates to China, the head of the delegation, Mr. Zhou Jin also produced a final report on this training measure, summarising the insights and feed-back from the Chinese side. The original version in Chinese can be found in [Annex 2](#).

Each participant was given an evaluation form for completing after the course. The form contained several categories of questions including on contents, logistics and assistance. Participants were also able to make additional comments on different aspects of the seminar. Please find below an example:



PARTICIPANT EVALUATION

Your opinion matters to us: For the benefit of future participants, we should be grateful if you would reply briefly to the following questions

Training Course on Regional Policy (210D68, 19-31 July 2010)

Your profession

Ministry official

Other civil servant

Other (please specify):

What particularly met with your approval?

通过学习了了解欧盟区域政策, 对于
~~欧盟~~ 政策在地区发展政策, 促进地区合作的一
 些佳话有了更深的了解。对于我今后在国内
 从事相关工作有很好的借鉴意义。这种培训
 很有必要。

What did not meet with your approval?

某些内容的内容略少。

What is your assessment of this event?	very good good satisfactory adequate poor					Your comments:
	1	2	3	4	5	
The subject matter was dealt with as I expected	✓					
I gained new insights into the subject matter	✓					
I received useful advice on application and implementation	✓					
Interpreter (LIU Qiuping)	✓					
Interpreter (SHI Xin)	✓					
Documentation/ conference papers	✓					
Social programme	✓					
Execution of the programme	✓					
Assistance during the seminar	✓					

Name of Session / Speaker	very good good satisfactory adequate poor					Your comments:
	1	2	3	4	5	
Lecture 1 EU Regional Policy: Introduction Mr. Ole Damsgaard		✓				
Lecture 2 EU Regional Policy: Reducing Disparities, Economic Challenges Mr. Steffen Osterloh			✓			
Lecture 3 EU Regional Policy: Law and Decision Making Mr. Carlos Mendez			✓			
Lecture 4 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Europe - Introduction Mr. Daniele Rizzi, Eurostat				✓		
Lecture 5 European Territorial and Statistical Surveillance: National Implementation Ms. Antonia Milbert				✓		
Lecture 6 European Territorial Cooperation Mr. Pablo Gándara				✓		
Field Visit 1: Metz (France) Regional Development Policies: Best practices in the Lorraine region Ms. Verena Pinzer				✓		
Field Visit 1 (continuation): Regional Development Policies: The RUBIN Project on Biomass at University of Saarbrücken				✓		
Lecture 7 Financing EU cohesion policy: The role of EIB Mr. Sebastian Hryzyk				✓		

Details of all evaluations can be found in *Annex 3* at the end of this document.

The following comments are examples of replies to the main categories (quotation):

- a) What particularly met with your approval?
 - a. Good selection of lecturers, especially the good mixture between practice & theory
 - b. Contents were very impressive
 - c. Comprehensive documentation
 - d. Interacting field work and diversity of topics
 - e. Very nice training facilities; good service and highly dedicated staff
 - f. Field visits were very interesting
 - g. Very insightful ideas about regional planning and politics

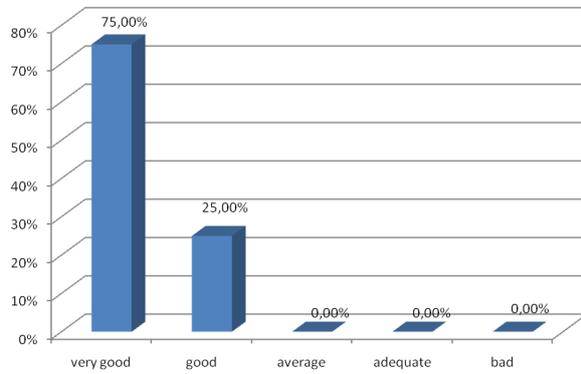
- b) What did not meet with your approval?
 - a. Some contents should be more practical
 - b. If possible, more field visits



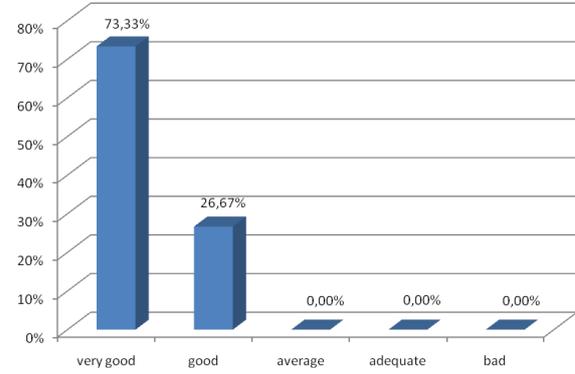
c. Very intensive programme – some participants were very tired

ERA staff analysed all the responses evaluations and came to the following encouraging figures:

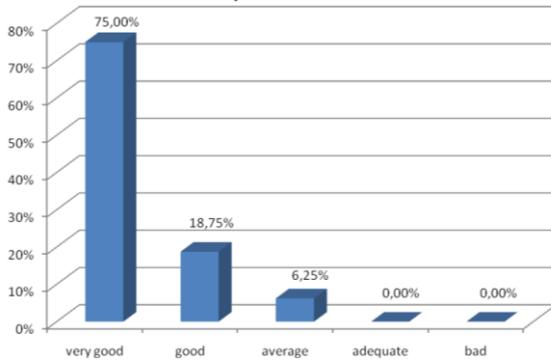
The subject matter was dealt



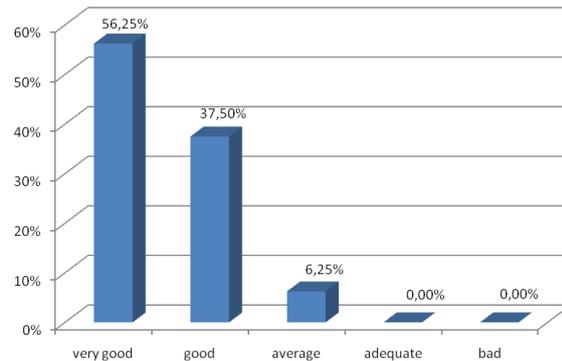
I gained new insights



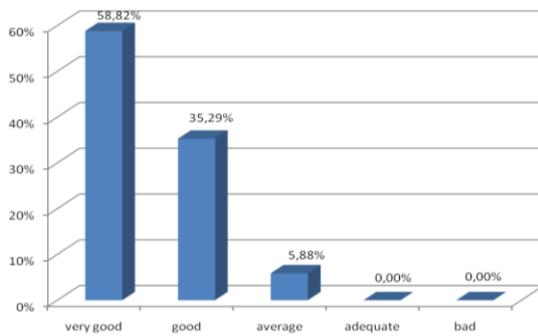
I received useful advice on application and implementation



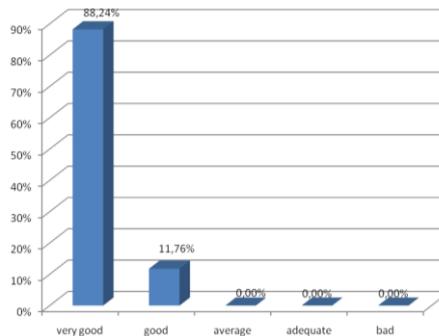
Documentation



Execution of the programme



Assistance during the seminar





To sum up, participants highly appreciated both programme contents and logistics of the seminar. ERA's professionalism was widely acknowledged. Nevertheless, some participants complained about too tight a schedule while others expressed the wish that the traditional Chinese midday nap be catered for and that they be served, if possible all the time, only Chinese food.

At the end of the course all participants received a certificate of participation signed by the organisers of the training course:





6. Picture gallery



Visit to INTERREG III-A, Sarreguémines



Visit to the EIB, Luxembourg



Visit to the European Commission Brussels



Visit to the European Parliament



Visit to the Ministry of Economy, Transport, Agriculture, Rhineland-Palatine



Visit to the Chancellery, Warsaw