



**Information Sessions in Regional Policy  
Regional Policy Dialogues with China and Ukraine**

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 Nr.1  
Territorial Cohesion & Urban-Rural Linkages**

**18 – 31 March 2011**

**A two-week 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:

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and

City of Trier

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## 1. Background of the programme

This information session for 20 Chinese representatives of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) was carried out on behalf of the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional Policy (DG REGIO). It took place from 18 to 31 March 2011 within the framework of the European Parliament's pilot project to enhance regional and local co-operation by promoting EU regional policy on a global scale. It was the first in a series of four sessions that are implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Entwicklung (GIZ) GmbH and the City of Trier. GIZ is a globally operating agency supporting sustainable development through enhancing human capacities, international dialogue and contributing to decentralized co-operation. Most of GIZ's activities are commissioned by the German Federal Government. The City of Trier brings in its contacts and competences gained in the development of the European-Chinese Center for Education and Research in Regional Development Planning (ECER)<sup>1</sup>.

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

## 2. Objective of the information session

The information session was designed to achieve following immediate objectives<sup>2</sup>:

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 territorial cohesion as well as further promoting innovation and clusters; and
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 project shall contribute to disseminating the experience gained during the information sessions. The consortium will therefore issue a newsletters in due time in order to support participants in disseminating their knowledge reaching further experts who again could be involved in future cooperation events and to achieve the desired multiplier effect

## 3. Content

This training session focused on strengthening territorial cohesion and urban-rural linkages. Territorial cohesion has been in the centre of EU regional policy since the Commission's Green Paper published in 2008. Moreover, EU action in the territorial cohesion is formally justified on Art.158 TFEU which adds "territorial cohesion" to the earlier aims of economic and social cohesion. In fact, the Treaty adds

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<sup>1</sup> For further information on the ECER project, please refer to <http://cms.trier.de/stadt-trier/Integrale?SID=5E60319FDA670DD35854E11066EC0028&MODULE=Frontend&ACTION=ViewPageView&PageView.PK=6&Filter.EvaluationMode=standard&Document.Cl.Stichwort=ECZ+%2F+ECER&Filter.OrderCriteria.Idx.Geschaeftsbereich=asc&Filter.OrderCriteria.Idx.Titel=asc&Filter.WindowSize=50>

<sup>2</sup> This is a quotation from the Call for Tender on the Information Sessions issued by DG REGIO in July 2010.

a new paragraph that specifies how the concept will be interpreted “among the regions concerned, particular attention shall be paid to rural areas, areas affected by industrial transition, and regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps such as the northernmost regions with very low population density and island, cross-border and mountain regions”. This provision set a major debate in the EU regional policy community with regard to the different classifications of regions and to the implications of this for the allocation of funding<sup>3</sup>.

For the EU regional policy, strengthening urban-rural linkages stands at the core of its efforts towards achieving sustainable development in Europe. Against this backdrop, a series of seminars and conferences on urban-rural linkages took place in Brussels during 2008-2009. As the Commission stated, “the seminars provided the opportunity for the Commission, Member States, local and regional governments and stakeholder organisations to reflect on current research and practice in the area of urban-rural linkages and territorial competitiveness, and also to identify ‘what works’ (and conversely what doesn’t work) and to consider how this can be effectively transferred between territories”<sup>4</sup>. Especially since the already mentioned new provisions of the Treaty, the Commission is keen to acting in improving urban-rural linkages. This interest is particularly timely given wider debates on issues such as migration from rural areas to cities, the emphasis on globalisation of economies in the Europe 2020 Strategy, and the rapidly developing knowledge economy. By using the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Commission finances a wide variety of projects in key areas to enhancing competitiveness through urban-rural integration.

#### 4. Methodology

The information session grounded on a sound mix of lectures and study visits were particularly welcomed by the participants and very relevant for their future work at the national and provincial Development and Reform Commissions. The training approach included three phases:

1. During the preparatory phase, contents’ interests and preferences of the DG Regio were actively requested by the implementing consortium. Once the schedule had been approved by DG REGIO, participants received preparatory information at 4 weeks before training, including an overview of the programme.
2. The implementation phase started already in Beijing with a half-day briefing session. After a brief introduction to the programme, a national expert on Chinese regional development<sup>5</sup> delivered an introductory speech on the Chinese regional disparities. A particular feature of the implementation was to promote dialogue and reflection among participants through an evaluation and planning-workshop on the last day. Here, participants were asked to compare acquired knowledge on the European situation with their own realities. The results of the evaluation are shown in Annex II.
3. The reporting and dissemination phase started with this technical report and will involve press articles about and further activities to communicate the results of the session to a wider community.

<sup>3</sup> See Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) article from 17 December 2009. London.

<sup>4</sup> See Seminar on Urban-Rural linkages enhancing European territorial competitiveness. Brussels 17 September 2008

<sup>5</sup> Prof. Dr. Shi Peijun, Vice-Director of the Beijing Normal University and Partner of the ECER Project.

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 delivered to presentations and (consecutive) interpretation. The remaining time was used by the project coordinator to promote a vivid discussion between the participants and the 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 European funded projects.
3. Interactive participation through one or 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 contribution 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, facilitating the mutual exchange of experience between European and Chinese regional policy experts.

## **5. Rationale for selection of cities regions that were visited**

The countries, cities and rural areas visited during the information session were chosen in coordination with DG Regio giving participants the opportunity to get exposed to a representative cross-section of European regional development areas. In order to deal with the issues of urban-rural relations, the programme included the visits of the City of Trier, the CityRegio Aachen and the CityRegio Amsterdam in Western Europe. In Eastern Europe, the programme included the visits to Prague, Ostrava and Krakow.

The City of Trier was chosen as location for the introductory part of the information session during the first day due to its role as partner in the consortium and its regional linkages with the neighbouring countries Luxembourg and France. The Department for Urban Development and Statistics of the City of Trier referred in the keynote speech to the relevance of education, training and research for sustainable urban and regional development, taking the ECER project as example.

The City of Aachen was chosen due to both, its cross-regional dimension at the border between Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, as well as due to its cooperation framework between the urban and the rural areas. The rationale behind was to show some best practices on urban-rural cooperation. Against this background, the delegation was able to visit the Eifel Initiative, a joint project organised by the City of Aachen aiming at strengthening regional added value, competitiveness of companies and establishing networks for innovation.

The visit to the Amsterdam and its metropolitan area were selected by the consortium in order to reflect the cooperation between major urban hubs and rural and their rural spokes in Europe. The CityRegio Amsterdam plays here a key role, especially with regard to transportation and spatial planning. Moreover, the City of Amsterdam is currently implementing major urban development

projects, including the South Axis. Its cutting edge solutions on sustainable transportation and regional planning were also a major reason for including the city of Amsterdam in the programme.

The visit to the Prague grounded on the role of the National Government in shaping and implementing regional development policies in the Czech Republic. The City of Prague is a key hub for regional development in Eastern Europe and the visit was also useful in order to analyse the relationship between the urban area and its peripheries. As a region facing serious regional development challenges and implementing some cross-border projects, the consortium also proposed to visit the City of Ostrava. Experiences of the Regional Operational Programme Moravia-Silesia were particularly interesting for programming the visit.

Close to the Czech border, the Krakow is the third biggest Polish city and one of the most important economic development hubs. A visit to the city allowed participants to analyse the Malopolska Regional Operational Programme 2007 – 2013, a master plan for implementing regional policy. Finally, participants were also able to visit successful projects co-financed by the European Regional Development Funds.

The overall rationale of the programme was to ensure a truly European programme, showing the striking differences of regional development between rural and urban areas in Western and Eastern European countries.

## 6. Overview of the programme

Day	General Issues	Location
Friday, 18.03.11	Briefing session in Beijing	Beijing (CN)
Saturday, 19.03.11	Flight Beijing – Frankfurt (14h05) Arrival in Frankfurt (17h45) – Transfer to Trier	Beijing – Frankfurt (DE)
Sunday, 20.03.11	Arrival in Germany – Guided Tour	Frankfurt (DE) – Trier (DE)
Monday, 21.03.11	Opening, Introduction and Lectures	Trier (DE)
Tuesday, 22.03.11	Lectures	Aachen (DE)
Wednesday, 23.03.11	Travel & Field Visit EU Institutions	Brussels (BE)
Thursday, 24.03.11	Travel & Field Visit Regional Development	Amsterdam (NL)
Friday, 25.03.11	Field Visit Regional Development	Amsterdam (NL)
Saturday, 26.03.11	Sightseeing	Amsterdam (NL)
Sunday, 27.03.11	Departure to Prague (09h25) Arrival in Prague (10h50)	Amsterdam (NL) – Prague (CZ)
Monday, 28.03.11	Lectures and Field Visit	Prague (CZ)
Tuesday, 29.03.11	Field Visit Regional Development	Ostrava (CZ)
Wednesday, 30.03.11	Field Visit Regional Development	Ostrava (CZ) – Krakow (PL)
Thursday, 31.03.11	Field Visit Regional Development Flight to Frankfurt (18h55) Arrival in Frankfurt (20h10)	Krakow (PL) – Frankfurt (DE)
Friday, 01.04.11	Lectures	Frankfurt (DE)
Saturday, 02.04.11	Departure to Beijing (20h15)	Frankfurt (DE) – Beijing (CN)

## 7. Detailed programme

### Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Arrival of the delegation members in Beijing

#### 16:00 Briefing session

Description: The information session will start with a briefing meeting in Beijing. This will not only cover basic logistic issues about the information sessions, but also an introduction to territorial cohesion and urban-rural linkages in China and Europe, as well as an introduction to the EU-China Regional Policy Dialogue.

Lecturers: Dr. Liu Liang (Project Assistant), Ms. Wan Fang and Mr. Moritz Mang (GIZ Office in Beijing), Prof. Dr. Shi Peijun (Beijing Normal University / ECER)

Location: Hotel Guoyi Bingguan

Dinner and Accommodation in Beijing

### Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011

14:05 Flight to Frankfurt (CA 931)

17:45 Arrival in Frankfurt and Transfer to Trier by Bus (approx. 3 hours)

21:30 Arrival in Trier

Accommodation in Hotel Deutscher Hof

### Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2011

09:00 Cultural programme - Visit to the City of Trier and surrounding area (Cochem castle)

19:00 Accommodation in Hotel Deutscher Hof

### Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011

09:00 Welcome words and introduction to the programme. Pablo Gándara, Project Coordinator

09:15 Official welcome on behalf of GIZ/City of Trier. Prof. h.c. Dr. Johannes Weinand, Director of the Department of Urban Development and Statistics, City of Trier

09:30 Introduction of the delegation members – background and expectations

10:00 Key note speech: „Education, Training and Research as Fundamentals of a Sustainable Urban and Regional Development – the ECER Project“. Prof. h.c. Dr. Johannes Weinand

#### 11:00 Coffee Break

#### 11:15 Session 1: Introduction to the European Union

Description This lecture gave an overview of the European integration process. It provided participants with the key background information on the political, economic and social dimension of Europe as well as on its regional policy.

Lecturer: Mr. Pablo Gándara, Project Coordinator

Venue: Robert-Schuman-House in Trier



**12:00 Session 2: The Current Debate on the Future of EU Regional Policy**

Description: As the second largest EU policy the major goal of the 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 the 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 focused on the current debate of the future of EU regional policy after 2014.

Lecturer: Mr. Carlos Mendez, European Policy Research Centre, Glasgow

Venue: Robert-Schuman-House in Trier

**13:30 Lunch**

**14.30 Session 3: New paths in German Regional Development Policy**

Description: Due to deindustrialization, a general economic stagnation and a shrinking population, several rural regions worldwide have to cope with a lower economic development. Since the early 1990s, Germany has systematically developed instruments to foster rural development based on sustainable growth. The most famous example of this policy is the Emscher Park. This lecture provided examples of rural development in Germany, focusing on the Federal State of Thüringen, where a new regional development plan has been recently adapted.

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Max Welch, University of Weimar

Venue: Robert-Schuman-House in Trier

**16:00 Coffee break**

**16:15 Session 4: Rural Regions and Territorial Cohesion in the European Union**

Description: It forms part of an ongoing debate at European level on the importance of urban-rural linkages for territorial competitiveness, and on appropriate support mechanisms to assist these developments in Member States. This lecture explored how different approaches to rural areas can be used to support policymakers in setting policy actions for their territories.

Lecturer: Dr. Peter Billing, European Observation Network on Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON)

Venue: Robert-Schuman-House in Trier

18:30 Departure to Aachen (about 2 hours by bus)

Accommodation in Aachen

Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011

## Field Visit to the Aachen County

**09:00 Welcoming words by Mr. Helmut Etschenberg, Head of Aachen County**

**09:15 Session 5: Polycentric spatial development and demographic challenges in Germany**

Description: "In this meeting, experts will discuss a number of global challenges, such as climate change, energy supply, globalization and demographic changes, and their impact on spatial planning policy. They will look into what good practices are emerging in Europe, what readjustments of approaches and reforms of spatial planning systems have already been set up and which are still necessary to meet these challenges". Preliminary description compiled from the last experts' meeting held at the Belgian EU Presidency in October 2010.

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Dirk Vallée, Urban Planning and Transport, University of Aachen

Venue: City Hall of Aachen County

**11:00 Transfer to Conversion Area Vogelsang**

**12:30 Session 6: Field Visit: The Eifel Initiative for Urban-Rural Development**

Description: This field visit took delegates to the rural region of Aachen, where the Eifel Initiative aims at strengthening regional added value, the competitiveness of companies and establishing networks for innovations. The region includes stakeholders from 2 federal states, 10 counties, 53 municipalities, covering an area with around 900.000 inhabitants. There are 5 thematic fields: culture and tourism, wood, agriculture, crafts and technology and innovation. During the afternoon, the work in these thematic fields was illustrated to the experts through different lectures and site visits.

Lecturer: Ms. Iris Poth, Overall Coordinator Eifel Initiative

**13:00 Lunch**

**13:30 Brief Speech on Regional Value Chain: Best-Practices from Companies and Sophisticated Quality Concepts**

Lecturer: Mr. Markus Pfeifer, General Manager Regional Brand *Eifel*

**14:30 Brief speech about the future uses of the Conversion Area Vogelsang**

Lecturers: Mr. Albert Moritz & Mr. Thomas Fischer-Reinbach, General Managers of Development Agency Vogelsang gGmbH.

**15:00 Transfer to Monschau-Imgenbroich**

**15:30 Field Visit: Technology and Innovation in the Eifel Region – A economy perspective  
Visit of the Company Dürr-Ecoclean GmbH including the Production Site**

Lecturers: Mr. Michael Förster (CEO) & Ms. Claudia Denninger (Marketing)

17:00 Transfer to Aachen

18:00 Walking tour in Aachen - Accommodation in Aachen

**Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011**

08:00 Transfer to Brussels

10:30 Arrival in Brussels and Check-in

12:00 Lunch

**14:00 Session 8: Institutions and Regional Policy I – The European Parliament**

Description: The information session in Brussels continued with a visit of the EU institutions. The Chinese participants had the chance to meet a representative of the Regional Development Committee, which is in charge of coordinating the European regional development funds as well as of cooperating with relevant institutions including the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions. Also a representative of the Committee of the Regions, an assembly of 344 local and regional representatives that cooperates with the EU Commission, Parliament and Council, attend the meeting.

Lecturers: MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij, Regional Development Committee and Mr. Wolfgang Petzold, Head of Unit for Communication, Committee of the Regions.

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Jacques Delors Building

**16:00 Session 9: Institutions and Regional Policy II – The European Commission**

Description: The regions within the EU face different levels of economic development. For this reason, the Directorate-General Regional Policy develops programmes and launches funds in order to bridge these disparities of prosperity and development. But every region needs its tailor-made solution. This is why the EU engages strong partnerships with many actors on national, regional and local level. The policy is thus an important expression of the solidarity of the European Union.

Lecturer: Mr. Charles White, DG Regional Policy, European Commission

Venue: DG REGIO

Accommodation in Brussels

**Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011 – TRAVEL DAY**

09:00 Sightseeing in Brussels

12:00 Lunch in Brussels

14:00 Transfer to Amsterdam

18:00 Arrival in Amsterdam

Accommodation in Amsterdam

**Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**09:00 Session 10: Spatial and Regional Development in Amsterdam: The City Region Initiative**

Description: The Stadsregio Amsterdam ('City Region of Amsterdam') is a partnership between 16 municipalities in the Amsterdam region. These municipalities work together in the sphere of spatial development, traffic and transport, economic affairs, housing and youth welfare. De Stadsregio focuses on direct results for participating municipalities in the form of improvements to quality of life, accessibility and economic development. The lecture delivered an overview on its main tasks and particularly on the spatial and regional opportunities that the region of Amsterdam is facing.

Lecturer: Mr. Anne Joustra, City Region of Amsterdam

Venue: City Region of Amsterdam

**11:00 Session 11: Territorial Cohesion & Land Use Planning in the Netherlands**

Description: Land use and mobility closely contribute to territorial cohesion. Both factors interact in multiple ways. For an urban regional planner it is vital to be aware of all these relations and the consequences of interventions in either land use or transportation networks. This presentation explored the interrelation and showed how Amsterdam is taking the full system into account in its planning processes.

Lecturer: Dr. Marco te Brömmelstroet, University of Amsterdam

Venue: City Region of Amsterdam

**Lunch**

**15:00 Session 12: Field Visits - The ZUIDAS (South Axis), a new urban development area**

Description: Zuidas (literally 'Southern Axis') is a major new development zone in Amsterdam. Over the coming years, 270 hectares will be converted into a new urban centre devoted to international commerce and knowledge developments.

Lecturer: Ms. Merza Maaswinkel, Zuidas Amsterdam

Venue: Zuidas Amsterdam

Accommodation in Amsterdam

**Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Free Day in Amsterdam – Walking Tour

Accommodation in Amsterdam

**Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

09:25 Flight to Prague - 10:25 Arrival in Prague

Sightseeing– Accommodation in Prague

Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**09:00 Session 13: European Funds in the Czech Republic: Strengthening urban-rural ties**

Description: This session introduced tasks and responsibilities of the National Coordination Authority (NCA). NCA is an authority covering all operational programmes in the Czech Republic financed from the structural funds and the Cohesion Fund of the European Union. It works within the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic that was appointed a central methodical and coordination authority of the economic and social cohesion policy in the period 2007-2013 and manages a total budget of 26 billion Euro.

Lecturer: Mr. Vít Šumpela, Director, National Coordination Authority, Ministry of Regional Development

Venue: Ministry of Regional Development, Prague

**11:00 Session 14: Cross-border Cooperation between Poland and the Czech Republic**

Description: The Operational Programme Cross-Border Cooperation CR-Poland (OP CR-Poland) amounts approx. 220 million Euro, supplemented from Czech and Polish national public resources by 38.73 million Euro. It is focused on several axes including transport accessibility of the cross-border region, support of economic cooperation, support of cross-border infrastructure as well as tourism services development. As concerns the operational programmes of cross-border cooperation, the cross-border effect of the project is important as both sides of the border must benefit from the project realization. In addition, the projects have to include beneficiaries from both countries that cooperate at least in two of the following ways: common preparation, common realization, common use of employees and common financing.

Lecturer: Mr. Jiří, Horáček, Department of Cross-border Cooperation, Ministry of Regional Development

Venue: Ministry of Regional Development, Prague

**Lunch**

**15:00 Session 15: City regions and polycentric territorial development in Czech Republic**

Description: The focus on polycentric settlement systems is framed by the normative goal of sustainable spatially balanced territorial (see ESPON, Interreg IIIb programmes). The experience of the former socialist countries of Central Europe shows that issues of territorial development discussed under the concept of polycentricity have a long tradition in this region. Instead of a division of space into exclusive and closed territories with only one choice structure, which was operationalised under Communism, polycentricity now offers a plurality of choices for populations and firms within a networked system of centres.

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Ludek Sýkora, Charles University, Prague, Faculty of Science, Department of Social Geography & Regional Development

Venue: Ministry of Regional Development, Prague

Accommodation in Prague

**Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

09:13 Train transport to Ostrava (Czech Republic) (384km)

12:18 Arrival in Ostrava

13:30 Check-in and lunch

**15:00 Session 16: The Regional Operational Programme (ROP) Moravia Silesia**

Description: The goal of the programme is to contribute to the overall development of the Moravian-Silesian Cohesion Region. The ROP Moravia Silesia is divided thematically into 4 basic priority axes: 1) Regional Infrastructure and Accessibility, 2) Support to Regional Prosperity, 3) Development of Cities, and 4) Development of Countryside. This lecture delivered an overview of the results of the programme since its implementation in 2007 as well as of the regional strategy 2007 – 2015.

Lecturer: Mr. David Sventek, Regional Council of the Moravia-Silesia Cohesion Region

Venue: Regional Council of the Moravia-Silesia Cohesion Region

**16:00 Session 17: Innovative Concepts in the Regional Policy in Ostrava**

Description: The new paradigm of regional policy in the Czech Republic is based more on competitiveness, innovation and internal potential of regions than on balancing regional disparities by public aid only. This is underlined in key EU strategic documents for new planning period 2007-2013 including. The lecture described the contemporary approach to regional policy in the Czech Republic with special focus to regional innovation strategies and innovative clusters and the possible ways of financing from EU Structural funds. The approach is documented in the case study of Moravia Silesia region, former steel heart of the country, which passes through huge structural transformation in the last decade.

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Karel Skokan, VSB-Technical University of Ostrava, Faculty of Economics.

Venue: Regional Council of the Moravia-Silesia Cohesion Region

Dinner with Representatives of the Regional Council

Accommodation in Ostrava

**Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**09:00 Session 18: Field Visit of an EU funded Project - The Integrated Safety Centre in Ostrava**

12:00 Lunch

13:00 Bus transport to Krakow (Poland) (171km)

17:00 Sightseeing Tour in Krakow

Dinner and Accommodation in Krakow

**Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

**09:00 Session 19: The Małopolskie Operational Programme**

Description: The Małopolskie Regional Operational Programme (ROP) 2007-2013 ERDF is the region's first ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures. The objective of the Programme is to create conditions facilitating economic growth and employment. The programme has nine priority axes including intra-regional cohesion and regional opportunity economy.

Lecturer: Mr. Łukasz Foltyn, Head of ROP Management Division

Venue: Office of the Marshal of the Małopolska Voivodship

**10:30 Session 20: Field Visit**

Description: During the field visit, NDRC representatives visited two examples of European co-funded regional development projects: the Opera of Krakow and the Aviation Museum of Krakow.

Lecturer: Department of Regional Policy of the Małopolska Voivodship

**13:30 Lunch**

**18:55 Flight to Frankfurt**

Dinner and Accommodation in Frankfurt

**Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011**

**09:00 Session 21: Workshop - European sustainable development strategies: A way forward for China?**

Description: A particular feature of the information session is to promote dialogue and reflection among participants' through a plan-workshop in the last day. Here, participants were asked to develop their own reflection on EU regional policy and its lessons for Chinese challenges. Moreover, Chinese experts had the opportunity to reflect on ways to further fostering regional policy dialogue between both partners.

Moderators: Mr. Michael Funcke-Bartz, GIZ, Prof. h.c. Dr. Johannes Weinand, City of Trier

Venue: GIZ Headquarters in Eschborn

**Lunch**

**15:00 Session 22: Evaluation, Certificates**

Accommodation in Frankfurt

**Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011**

20:15 Return to Beijing

## 8. Summary of sessions

The programme started with one briefing session in Beijing combining a briefing on basic logistic issues and provided the participants with an introduction to development disparities between urban and rural areas in China. This presentation was delivered by Prof. Shi Peijiung, Vice-President of the Beijing Normal University (BNU) and partner of the ECER project, a joint initiative with the City of Trier. The session was coordinated by the Project Assistant, Dr. Liu Liang, who then joined the delegation for the coming two weeks. The project coordinator welcomed the delegation in Trier.

### Sessions in Germany

The first training day in Europe began with four lectures aiming at introducing NDRC delegates to the EU regional policy, rural-urban linkages and to the territorial 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 key instruments of European regional policy (ERDF, ESF, etc). He also explained the wider scope of regional policy since the Lisbon Treaty (“territorial cohesion”). Mr. Gándara also introduced the economic development strategy Europe 2020.

Prof. h.c. Dr. Johannes Weinand, Head of the Department for Urban Development and Statistics of the City of Trier, introduced the ECER project, an initiative for „Education, Training and Research as Fundamentals of a Sustainable Urban and Regional Development“. The ECER project aims at training up to 1500 Chinese government officials, academics and civil society members within the coming years. The long term vision of Prof. Weinand is to establish an institution with up to 50 staff members in Trier to deal with European-Chinese regional development. Participants asked about the indicators for measuring comparable living standards in Europe.

Prof. Dr. Max Welch introduced the urban-rural linkages in Germany, focusing on the shrinking population, the land-use and rural-urban typology. He also explained different ways to measuring territorial disparities and potentials. As a result of German regional planning, the overall regional development has been remarkably increased. However, there are some regions which shall irrevocably lag behind the average and policy makers should assume and communicate this. Mr. Welch also reviewed future perspectives of German regional development policy. Chinese participants asked about the political acceptability Germany’s shrinking population challenge in rural areas as well as on the development chances for these.

In the afternoon of the first day, 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. There are quite some lessons to be learnt from EU regional policy, including its long term vision, a co-financing system that enhances co-ownership and a transparent method for monitoring and evaluating. Chinese participants asked about the role of local authorities in shaping regional policy as well as on the decision-making regarding funding.



The last day's session was delivered by Mr. Peter Billing from ESPON. His institution supports structural policy development with evidence on European territorial structures, trends, perspectives and policy impacts. ESPON aims at providing comparable information on territorial dynamics that can reveal territorial capital and potentials. Mr. Billing referred to key projects on urban-rural relations including EDORA (Development Opportunities in different types of Rural Areas), PURR (Potential of Rural Regions) and TeDi (Territorial Diversity). He also stressed the EU Policy Framework for Territorial Cohesion, including some trends on demographic issues. Finally, Mr. Billing introduced the typology of rural areas in Europe, concluding that many of them are global players, especially with regard to innovation. The endogenous development potentials of rural areas and their wide diversity should be strongly included in the strategic programming in regional policy post 2013.

The second day consisted of a field visit to the City of Aachen and surrounding areas. Mr. Thomas König and Ms. Andrea Dossert (both from City Regio Aachen) prepared the whole day programme. This included a welcoming speech by Mr. Helmut Etschenberg, Head of Aachen County. In his speech, Mr. Etschenberg noted that he had already been in China and referred to the existing ties between the City of Aachen and China. Moreover, he mentioned the key functions of City Region Aachen for ensuring a sustainable development in the region.

His presentation was followed by a lecture of Prof. Dirk Vallée, from the University of Aachen. Prof. Vallée delivered a speech on Polycentric spatial development and demographic challenges in Germany. He focused on the German counter-currency principle of regional planning, an approach that allows both the bottom-up and top-down development of projects and strategies for regional development and aims at increasing its societal acceptance. Professor Vallée focused on transportation planning, especially with regard to an integrated strategy. He also referred to various EU directives aimed at harmonizing transportation and environmental planning.

Participants were then transferred by bus to the Conversion Area Vogelsang. Here the delegation received a presentation on urban-rural linkages by the Eifel Initiative, which had been presented during the Open Days of DG REGIO 2008. Ms. Iris Pohl introduced the Eifel Initiative, a joint project organised by the CityRegio Aachen aiming at strengthening regional added value, competitiveness of companies and establishing networks for innovation. The Eifel Initiative includes stakeholders from 2 federal states, 10 counties, 53 municipalities, covering an area with around 900.000 inhabitants. Ms. Pohl introduced some thematic fields, including tourism, wood, agriculture and technology. She introduced several PR-measures of the Eifel initiative, including the Eifel Award. Ms. Pohl stated that EU regional policy funds are very important for the Eifel region and that many projects are co-funded through these lines. Chinese participants asked about EU support during elaboration of the strategic concept of Eifel Initiative as well as about the role of the public administration in elaborating and implementing the EU-funded projects.

Mr. Markus Pfeiffer, General Manager of the Regional Branding Eifel, delivered a presentation on regional value chain as an instrument for strengthening rural regions. He concentrated on the potential of regional wood products and aliments for the regional market. Eifel Branding has developed a series of PR-instruments to promote regional products, including an online portal, events and brochures. Chinese participants asked about the means to motivate regional producers to participate at this

branding initiative as well as about mechanisms to coordinate prices and competitions among regional producers from the same branches.

After the lunch break, Mr. Albert Moritz and Mr. Thomas Fischer-Reinbach, from the Development Agency Vogelsang gGmbH, presented the development plan for the conversion area Vogelsang. This 100-hectare conversion site was originally built by the Nazis for ideological training and - after the second world war - used for military training by the allies. Today, the buildings are being transformed for recreation purposes, to provide information and to support a varied training programme. Mr. Moritz and Mr. Fischer showed a model of the development project and explained the key investments.

The delegation was then transferred to Monschau, in order to visit the Dürr-Ecoclean GmbH, an international company producing cleaning and filtration systems (CFS). Mr. Michael Förster (CEO) and his colleague Ms. Claudia Denninger (Marketing) welcomed the Chinese delegation and introduced the company, including its activities in China. The company has a production site in the rural area of Monschau since over 40 years and closely cooperates with the regional authorities. Delegates were able to visit the production site and discussing about technology exchange between European and Chinese companies. Mr. Förster was invited by Mr. Li Hanxin from Shenyang (Liaoning province) to visit China.

During this field visit, the Major of the City of Monschau, Ms. Magga Ritter, welcomed the delegation and organised a walking tour through the medieval city. Ms. Bianca Lanio, Director of the Tourist Department of Monschau, invited the delegates to a join reception in the old city.

### **Sessions in Belgium**

On the third day of the information session, NDRC delegates first visited the Committee of the Regions (CoR) in order to meet Mr. Lambert van Nistelrooij, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) and Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Regional Development. The meeting was hosted by Mr. Wolfgang Petztold, Head of Unit at the CoR. Mr. van Nistelrooij mentioned the role of the European Parliament in supporting the EU-China Regional Policy Dialogue and focused on the role of innovation for the regional development in Europe. Here, he emphasised the necessity to build on economic strengths and to gain competitiveness ('smart specialisation'). MEP van Nistelrooij gave an overview of the EU regional policy making, especially with regard to the new provisions of the Lisbon Treaty on enhanced subsidiarity as well as on achieving territorial cohesion. He also mentioned that for the EU Parliament, territorial dimension should work at all levels in the Union (the 3 C's: Concentration, Cooperation & Connection). The discussion with Chinese participants centred on the relationship between Member States with regard to the allocation of funding as well as on the main areas of expenditure for regional policy funds.

Mr. Wolfgang Petzold introduced the Committee of the Regions, pointing out that it is a very young institution which offers a voice in Brussels for the regions of the European Union member states. The CoR monitors and comments the legislative proposals issued by the European Commission in order to ensure that the regions' interests are reflected. He noted that the biggest share of the total public expenditure in Europe is done by the regional and local level. Against this background, the CoR plays a key role in achieving multi-level governance. The Chinese experts asked about the main challenges

of the CoR with regard to regional policy development since the Lisbon Treaty. Discussion also centred on the procedures for receiving European funding.

NDRC delegates were then transferred to the Directorate General regional Policy (DG REGIO) of the European Commission, where Mr. Charles White welcomed them. Mr. White delivered a presentation on EU regional policy as an inspiration for third countries. He underlined the cooperation between public and private sector in financing regional development and emphasised that regional policy is not only a budget but rather a working methodology. The approach grounds on the assumption of investing in new projects rather than in subsidising inefficient sectors. Mr. White also stated that the contracts for regional development funding are publicly tendered and open to companies of the whole world. He mentioned some examples of Chinese involvement in regional policy measures. Mr. White also explained the role of the European Commission and the Member States on regional policy making and mentioned the 458 operational programmes through which regional policy is implemented. He also mentioned key achievements of European cohesion policy, including connectivity, jobs and cross-border cooperation. Discussion with the Chinese experts focused on the multi-level governance approach as well as on the principle of subsidiarity.

### **Sessions in the Netherlands**

After a travel day, NDRC delegates were welcomed in Amsterdam by Mr. Anne Joustra (Director) and his colleague Ms. Debbie Liew-On (Communications Advisor) at the headquarters of the City Region (also Stadsregio) of Amsterdam. He noted that the Stadsregio Amsterdam is an institution mandated by 16 municipalities of the Amsterdam region in joined partnership. It coordinates spatial development, traffic and transport, economic affairs, housing and youth welfare issues of the municipalities with a total annual budget of 600 million Euros provided by the central government. He mentioned that competition is one of the key principles for allocating resources, and noted that the transportation system of Amsterdam will be tendered soon. He also emphasised the significance of coordinating economic development among the different municipalities. Finally, Mr. Joustra mentioned a positive external evaluation of Stadsregio and commented some future challenges. Discussion centred on the decision making power between the municipalities as well as on the duration of the planning process and the instruments to reduce disparities between the municipalities.

Following Mr. Joustra's speech, Prof. Marco te Brömmelstroet (University of Amsterdam) held a presentation on transportation planning in the Netherlands. He introduced the main patterns of the development since the 1950s. Prof. te Brömmelstroet underlined some positive and negative effects of transportation growth. The future goal of transportation policy in the Netherlands should be to improve not accessibility but not mobility, as this is already at a very high level. He then focused on the land-use transport feed back cycle and underlined the challenge of achieving sustainable accessibility through modal choice. Prof. te Brömmelstroet also showed a self-made video about transportation challenges in China, especially in the cities of Wuhan and Nanjing. Discussion with the Chinese experts centred on concrete ideas for Chinese cities in order to avoid car congestion. Also the significance of transportation planning for achieving sustainable regional development was a major topic of discussion.

The delegation then visited ZUIDAS (South Axis), a new urban development area with a total investment volume of 2.3 billion Euros.

### Sessions in the Czech Republic

The second week of the information session started in Prague. The Vice-Minister for Regional Development, Mr. Michal Janeba's welcomed the delegation personally and mentioned the strong cooperation between the Czech Republic and its neighbouring countries (particularly Poland). The Director of the National Coordination Authority, Mr. Vít Šumpela, introduced the implementation of EU cohesion policy in the Czech Republic. He explained the main objectives of the national reference strategic framework (NSFR) and the system of coordination between the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry for Regional Development and the EU Commission. Mr. Šumpela noted that within the current period (2007-13) the Czech Republic has one of the highest per capita regional funding allocations in the EU. Discussion with Chinese experts centred on the role of Prague in regional development as well as on the allocation and management of regional development resources.

Three further experts of the Department for Cross-Regional Cooperation (Mr. Jiří, Horáček, Mr. Vladimír Šourek and Ms. Kamila Matoušková) gave interesting presentations for the Chinese delegation. They introduced the main cross-border programmes with Austria, Poland, Germany and Slovakia. The core of the projects is made of small projects between 1 – 2 million Euro. As projects have to be submitted by authorities of at least two member states, the application process offer the chance to strengthen cooperation. Moreover, this bottom-up approach allows for an effective involvement of civil society actors in different countries. Discussion focused on the role of the management authorities for allocating funds as well as on the bodies in charge of monitoring.

Following these speeches, Prof. Ludek Sykora (Charles University in Prague) delivered a lecture on city regions and polycentric territorial development in Czech Republic. He explained the role of cities in the Europe 2020 strategy and introduced complex micro-regions. Urban areas in the Czech Republic concentrate 88% of all jobs and 83% of all population. However, uncontrolled urban sprawl may hamper economic efficiency, social inclusiveness and environmental sustainability. City regions are the adequate planning mechanisms in order to achieve cooperation between urban and rural areas. Chinese experts were very interested in the incentives offered for polycentric development as well as on coordination between cities and regions.

The delegation then visited the city of Ostrava, the third largest of the country. The region has experienced a major transformation in the last 20 years; including an enormous industrial adjustment (especially in the coal and steel industry) with the subsequent loses of thousands of jobs. Mr. David Sventek's and his team from the Regional Council of the Moravia-Silesia Cohesion Region (Ms. Gabriela Kaločová and Ms. Lucie Zurková) prepared a comprehensive programme, including a presentation of the Regional Operational Programme Moravia-Silesia. The ROP has 4 basic priority axes: 1) Regional Infrastructure and Accessibility, 2) Support to Regional Prosperity, 3) Development of Cities, and 4) Development of Countryside. Following his presentation, Prof. Karel Skokan (VSB-Technical University of Ostrava) delivered a lecture on the regional innovation systems in Moravia Silesia. He focused on industry clusters at national and regional levels in the Czech Republic. Prof. Skokan concluded that European regional policy has highly contributed to the overall development of the Moravia-Silesia, especially with regard to the transformation of traditional industries (mining,

metallurgy) into new industry branches, the development of new clusters and the modernisations and upgrading of organisations and institutions. Discussions centred on the key industries and clusters for regional development in Moravia-Silesia as well as on the urban-rural relations.

Ms. Gabriela Kaločová led the delegation to a field visit in the centre of Ostrava. The first visit was the Integrated Safety Centre, a major investment of around 30 million Euros, where as much as 85 percent had been covered by the European Union's structural funds. On invitation of Mr. Karel Malík, Project Manager at the Department of Economic Development to City of Ostrava, delegates were also able to visit the Puppet Theatre of Ostrava, where a new building has been recently build with contribution of the European regional development funds. The visit to Ostrava ended with a site visit to the Ostravice river bank revitalization, which is part of the Integrated Municipality Development Plan.

### Sessions in Poland

In Krakow, the delegation visited the Marshall Office of the Małopolska Region. Mr. Stanislaw Sorys, Member of the Board of the Małopolska Region, delivered a welcoming speech and introduced the key facts of the region (3 million inhabitants, 8% of Polish registered companies and 33 higher level education centres). The main economic activity is tourism, with 11.4 million visitors per year. Mr. Sorys introduced the main functions of the regional government, including the implementation of EU programmes. Mr. Lukasz Foltyn delivered a presentation on the Malopolska Regional Operational Programme (ROP) 2007 – 2013. He mentioned its general objectives and its detailed programming. Moreover, Mr. Foltyn explained the mechanism for selecting projects through open tendering and strategic areas. The ROP has been able to allocate 80% of the funding, showing an enormous commitment of the regional and national authorities (through co-financing).

The working sessions in Krakow also included site visits organised by Ms. Małgorzata Jaglarz. She first brought the delegation to the Krakow Opera, a major regional investment co-funded by the EU with more than 150 million Euros from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The director and the technical director of the opera welcomed Chinese representatives and introduced the key features of the house. The site visit in Krakow also included the Polish Aviation Museum Krakow, which had also been co-financed by ERDF.

### Closing Session

After having stayed overnight at Frankfurt am Main, the seminar ended with a one day workshop at the GIZ head office in Eschborn<sup>6</sup>. The workshop was moderated by Mr. Michael Funcke-Bartz (Head of Division Sustainable Technologies, Industrial and Urban Development – GIZ) and Prof. h.c. Dr. Johannes Weinand. Participants were requested to develop their own reflection on EU regional policy and its usefulness for Chinese challenges.

Against the background of the big rural – urban disparities in China, the Chinese delegation underpinned the importance of the regional balance that already has been achieved in Europe. They added that this achievement is particularly relevant for the Chinese regional development policy.

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<sup>6</sup> The results of this activity are extensive very. In case of further interest, please contact the consortium.

Delegates also stated that China is currently implementing new rural policy instruments. Cooperation with Europe should be particularly strong in this area.

Besides that, they recognized the level of environmental protection and the importance of conserving the cultural heritage as basis for local identity and cohesion in economic, ecologic and social terms. The Chinese delegation also stressed the fact that – under the circumstances of fast growth – planning processes in China have to be faster than in many European countries. Nevertheless, more long-term planning would be needed. This would also include a stronger clustering of industries and services along the East-West and the South-North development axes and more special economic areas near harbours as poles for development. Delegates also mentioned that due to the Western China Development Programme (*GO-West*), the region is growing at a faster pace than the rest of the country (catching-up process). Whereas infrastructure development projects would be a prerequisite for regional development in China, delegates mentioned that other areas like innovation, education and environmental protection (especially waste management) should play an important role as well.

Chinese delegates also explained some elements of China's financial instruments for regional cohesion and stated that they are short-term committed (six-month basis). They mentioned that European regional policy law, including the multi-annual financial planning, the project management tools and the classification of regions, is very relevant for China. Delegates were also very interested about the involvement of civil society groups in regional development projects.

Finally, delegates also compared similar challenges between China and Europe, including shrinking population and the aging. They proposed that European regions should cooperate even more and explained the trans-provincial marketing measures in China.

The workshop also included a brief summary of the field visits delivered by the project coordinator, Mr. Pablo Gándara. Participants were also able to evaluate the activity (see chapter 17). The delegates prepared an official evaluation report in Chinese which was given to the moderator. The overall programme was received very positively by the Chinese delegates and the overall spirit in the group was very committed.

## 9. Logistics

The Chinese delegates came together in Beijing on Friday 18 March 2011, where they had the briefing session (see chapters 7 and 8). The intercontinental flight to from Beijing to Frankfurt was carried out by Air China.

On arrival in Frankfurt, participants transferred by bus to Trier, which took more than two hours. The same bus transported the delegation during the first week of the information session, including field visits in the area of Aachen (Germany), Brussels (Belgium) and Amsterdam (Netherlands). The bus returned from Amsterdam to Trier.

The delegation flew from Amsterdam to Prague (Czech Airlines), where the central-eastern European part of the information session was to be carried out. For the trip between Prague and Ostrava the delegation travelled by high-speed train "Pendolino" within three hours. After some lectures and field visits, the delegation was transferred by bus to Krakow, about 200km from Ostrava. On the next day the delegates flew from Krakow to Frankfurt. On Saturday 2 April 2011, participants flew from Frankfurt to Beijing accompanied by the project assistant.

With regard to the accommodation, participants stayed in single rooms in all sites. All hotels had 3, 4 or 5 stars and were very good evaluated by the Chinese delegates.

## 10. Language issues

Regarding the language of the seminar, only one interpreter was appointed for a consecutive translation of all sessions. Although the experienced interpreter Ms. Liu Qiuping always delivered an excellent quality, having only one interpreter was very exhausting and should be revised by the implementing consortium.

## 11. Cultural programme

The implementing consortium emphasised on the necessity of implementing an attractive cultural programme to promote cooperation among participants as well interaction with the visited institutions.

The cultural programme started on Sunday 20 March 2011 with a guided tour to the Castle of Cochem in the surroundings of Trier (Germany). Prior to a joint dinner in a Chinese restaurant, participants were officially welcomed at Karl-Marx-House by Prof. h.c. Dr. Johannes Weinand, Director of Urban Development and Statistics of the City of Trier.

After a site visit to the City of Aachen and its surrounding areas, participants visited Monschau, a world famous middle-age village. The visit was kindly organised by the Major of the City of Monschau, Ms. Margareta Ritter and her team.

In Brussels, Amsterdam and Prague participants were offered a Chinese walking tour through the respective historical city centres. Depending on the time availability, participants were able to absolve a broader cultural programme. This included a visit to the van Gogh museum in Amsterdam as well as a boat tour through the channels of the same city Amsterdam. In Prague, the delegation members were able to visit the Petřínská rozhledna tower and the Charles Bridge. Some highlights in Brussels included a short visit to the Atomium-square as well as the City Hall and the Grande-Place.

## 12. Cooperation with other institutions

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

- Institutions in the European Union: European Commission (DG REGIO); the European Parliament (EP) and the Committee of the Regions (CoR)
- The National Ministry for Regional Development in Czech Republic (Prague)
- Regional Government Authorities: The City Regio Aachen, the City Regio Amsterdam, as well as the Regional Governments in Ostrava and Krakow.
- International research institutes, including the European Policy Research Centre (Glasgow) and the Universities of Weimar, Aachen, Amsterdam, Prague and Ostrava.

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

### 13. Composition and list of participants

The Chinese delegation was composed of regional-level officials and representatives of NDRC coming from 11 Chinese provinces, most of them on leading positions in their regions. It should be stated that all participants were senior experts in their areas and the majority had even decision-making competences on regional development issues in their provinces. Furthermore, this profile fully met the requirements for an eventual long term commitment of key institutions in Europe.

Name	Gender	Position	Employer
Shen Xujian	Male	Deputy Counsel (DDG-level)	Department of Regional Economy, NDRC
Guo Zhiping	Female	Adviser (DD-level)	Department of Regional Economy, NDRC
Li Qinfang	Female	Programme Officer	Department of Regional Economy, NDRC
Xiao Ruxin	Female	Programme Officer	Department of International Cooperation, NDRC
Guo Jianping	Male	Adviser (DD-level)	Budget Department of Ministry of Finance
Liu Yongcun	Male	Programme Officer	Shanxi Provincial Development and Reform Commission
Wang Yadong	Male	Deputy Director Division	Neimenggu Development and Reform Commission
Li Hanxin	Male	Deputy Director Division	Liaoning Provincial Development and Reform Commission
Lu Yuchun	Male	Director Division	Heilongjiang Provincial Development and Reform Commission
Zhu Bin	Male	Deputy Director of The Government Office	The Government Office of Lianyungang City of Jiangsu Province
Ma Defu	Male	Director Division	Zhejiang Provincial Development and Reform Commission
Jia Weitang	Male	Deputy Director Division	Zhejiang Provincial Economical Technological Cooperation Office
Zeng Wenming	Male	Vice Director General	Jiangxi Provincial Development and Reform Commission
Chen Jinfu	Male	Programme Officer	Fujian Provincial Development and Reform Commission
Qiao Changen	Male	Adviser (DD-level)	Henan Provincial Development and Reform Commission



Wang Guangyao	Male	Director Division	Hubei Provincial Development and Reform Commission
Zhang Jingsong	Male	Deputy Director Division	Hubei Provincial Development and Reform Commission
Wei Beihua	Male	Director Division	Hubei Provincial Economical Technological Cooperation Office
Cheng Weiguang	Male	Director Division	Guangxi Development and Reform Commission
Han Bin	Male	Deputy Director Division	Sichuan Provincial Development and Reform Commission

#### 14. Documentation provided to the participants

Detailed documentation folders (over 200 pages) were handed out to the participants in their introductory session in Trier. The prepared folders included:

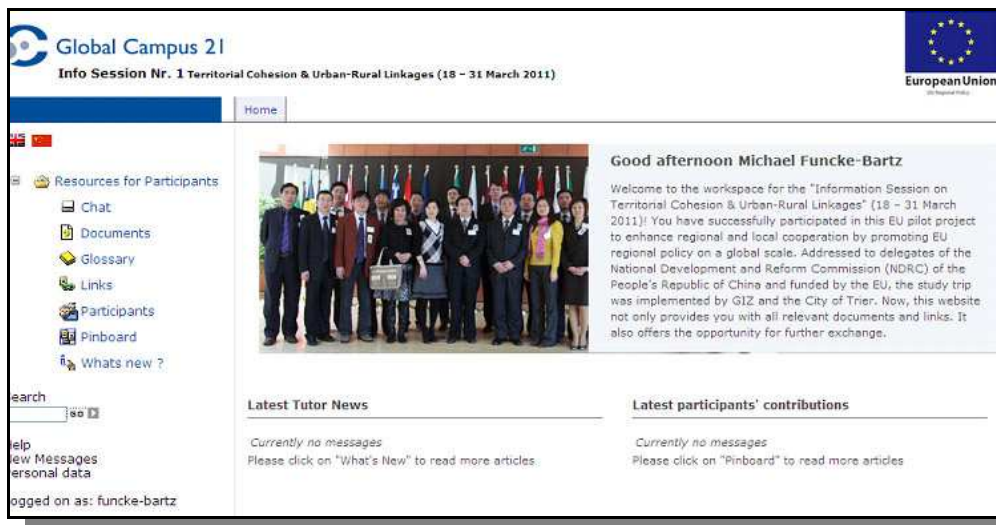
- Programme
- Background material on EU-China Regional Policy dialogue, EU Cohesion Policy 2007-2013 and EU legislation.
- Background material on the relevant Operation Programmes to be visited
- Background material on some presentations

As part of the preparation, part of the material as background information on European regional policy were provided through GIZ's e-learning module Global Campus 21 © (see Point 15).

#### 15. 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. Participants from all over the world use the online courses and virtual workrooms, to learn together, discuss and share their experiences, and collaborate on projects.

For every information session, a shared workspace was established in English and Chinese. This provided various online tools, such as chat & discussion forums, pin board, document pools, link collections, and mailing features.



For the coming information sessions, GC21 will be used even more intensively during the preparation phase for an effective involvement of participants in advance of the study tour. This will include providing documents, presentations and other relevant information on technical aspects, cultural background and general information on the diverse EU destinations to be visited .

## 16. 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 (19 participants chose "excellent", 1 participant chose "good")

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

All participants think what 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 key topics to be further discussed on Chinese cohesion policy and give reasons

- Urban-rural linkages
- Territorial cooperation
- Enhancement of ecological environment
- Transformation of economic structure
- Improvement of social welfare (including education)

- Optimization of marketing system
- Reasons for the unbalanced regional development, increasing differences between the rich and the poor and imperfection of the regional policies
- Legislation on regional policy
- Human resource and talent training
- Innovation
- Sustainability of developed area
- Enhancement of the farsightedness of cohesion policy
- Supervision and management of the implement of cohesion policy
- Goals and measures of cohesion policy
- Financial sources (the precondition of the implementation of the policy)
- Investment place of the funds (to improve the efficiency of the funds)
- Supervision and control of the funds (to ensure the security of the funds)
- Improvement of the employment rate
- Policy on the Grand Western Development
- Financial policy (verification of the aiding funds)
- Policy on the allocation of the funds (focus of the investment place can be then clear)
- Assessment of the implementation of the policy
- Development of Grand Western China
- Revitalization of Northeast China
- The Rising of Middle China

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

- Inspection and accreditation of cohesion programme
- Legislation on regional policy
- Principles of allocation of cohesion funds and management measures
- How to avoid problems such as repeated construction and industrial convergence to enhance dislocation competition?
- Issues on the industrial development in multi-centre territory
- Aiding measures for the poor
- Territorial cooperation
- Implementation of cohesion policies in Italy and Spain
- The relationship between EU and stakeholders (not handled in depth)

- The role of enterprises in territorial development
- Re-employment of the former-workers during industrial transformation
- System of territorial cooperation
- Criteria of project-choosing and project application process
- Construction of an integrating territorial market
- Issues of legislation in terms of territorial cooperation
- The current problems the EU member states confront and their solutions

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

More promoting work should be done to let more people learn what regional policy is and to encourage more people to participate in regional development. In this way, more solidarity can be reached and more cohesion can be realised.

- Choose good projects and implement them well to transfer good ideas and good methods to more people.
- Advanced European methods and measures for environment protection should be introduced into regional planning in China
- In terms of development, economic development should go harmoniously with environment protection.
- More attention should be paid on improving local people's living standard.
- The college education on regional development should be promoted because more talents in this field are urgently needed.
- The assessing system for the territorial economical development should be improved.
- Regional policy should be improved.
- The current funds should be integrated. More support for regional development should be achieved.
- Regional development funds can be established.
- The idea of cohesion should be localized.
- To enhance regional cohesion, the first thing to do is to promote education, the second is to improve infrastructure and then boost industrial development.
- Urban- and rural linkage should be further promoted. In fact, the unbalanced development between urban- and rural area is the most visible unbalance in current China. Financially, more support should be given to rural area to reduce disparities between urban- and rural area.
- Cohesion projects can be pushed into market.

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

- The ideas of sustainability, urban construction and urban- and rural linkage
- Environment protection, urban planning
- Multi-centre regional development strategy
- The important role of education and infrastructure

- The important role of supporting less-developed area
- Territorial cooperation and its assessing system
- Territorial integration
- The idea of promoting territorial development through improving territorial competitiveness and territorial cooperation
- Cohesion funds
- Cohesion policy
- More investment in education
- Integrated territorial market
- Market-based cohesion projects

## 7. Challenges you may confront in applying what you've gained from this information session and reasons

- Problems of funds (current funds are managed by various authorities)
- Different social systems (the one conducted in China is different from the one in Europe)
- Language and culture differences
- Big investment should be made in education, but stable and sufficient budget would be a problem.
- China is a country with huge population but weak economic foundation. It is difficult for China to give so massive financial support to less developed areas as what is done in Europe.
- China needs to further improve its own overall financial ability to invest more to enhance urban- rural linkage.
- Insight of the national policy makers
- China and Europe are in different developing stages.
- There are not enough talents and the managing level needs improving.

## 8. Learning effects

The absolute majority of all participants (16 persons) think that the form of this information session (lectures plus field visits) is very good.

The half of all participants (10 persons) is very satisfied with the training materials (PowerPoint, handouts, etc.) and the schedules of the whole journey. They also think the discussions with the European experts on the chances China nowadays face and how to apply what they learn into their working provinces are very good.

Six participants think the quality of the training materials is good. Two participants think it is OK.

Two participants think that the discussions with European experts on the chances China nowadays faces are OK, especially regarding how to apply what they have learnt into their working provinces. Three participants think that they need to be improved.

## 9. Participants

The vast majority of all participants think highly of the professional quality of other participants. They think the overall atmosphere during the information session among them is very good and the process of exchanging ideas during the two weeks is very good.

## 10. Achievement of goals

The majority of all participants (14 persons) think they have gained very good understanding on various plans, projects to reduce regional disparities implemented in Europe. They also think they have perfectly understood that the systematic and long-term policies on territorial cohesion and urban-rural linkage play an important role in sustainable development.

Most participants think they have reached the goal well to make contacts with possible partners (e.g. enterprises and governments). Five participants are not sure about it.

## 11. Objectives not fully achieved

- One participant says he would like to know more about the cooperation system and assessment system.
- One participant says the two-week information session could have been handled in more depth.
- One participant says it is hard to establish deep and fixed contacts with related authorities or persons because of the too short contacting time. The whole schedule for the two weeks is too full.

## 12. Evaluation on the organising work

Most participants are very satisfied with the overall organising work including hotels, dinners and pre-session materials.

## 13. Suggestions on the future organising work

- More background materials should be provided.
- More exchanging time should be provided.

- Related Chinese-English materials can be printed beforehand, so that participants can be better prepared.
- More pre-session training can be conducted in Beijing before the training formally starts in Europe because it is always better for participants to learn with questions.
- It is suggested that one-day training can be held in China before the delegation leaves for Europe. It can be about the background of the training, EU overall regional situation, forms of the training and retirements for participants.

#### 14. Suggestions on cultural programmes

Most participants are very satisfied with the cultural programmes arranged during the information session.

The most satisfying cultural programme

- Sightseeing in Trier, Prague
- Visiting Karl-Max Museum
- Visiting the old castle in Cochem
- Visiting the Puppet theatre in Ostrava
- Visiting the museums
- Field visits in Aachen
- Sightseeing in various European cities (particularly visiting the places of interest)

#### 15. On what themes discussions can be further made after the information session?

- Cohesion funds
- How to promote regional harmonious development
- Territorial cooperation
- Cooperation-system, implementation system and assessment system among EU member states
- Policy on integrated market
- New approaches to regional policies
- Strengthening the link between China and EU
- Project funds
- How to strengthen the EU-China cooperation in various fields such as in the field of regional policy and the field of economics
- How to further learn from each other (EU-China)



- Comparative studies on the EU-China sustainable strategies
- Follow-up training in China
- Application of some market-oriented cohesion projects in China
- Management of cohesion funds
- Integration of infrastructure in multi-centre regions
- Legislation on regional development
- Some flexible ways can be conducted to make further exchange such as through internet, papers, conferences, training, etc.

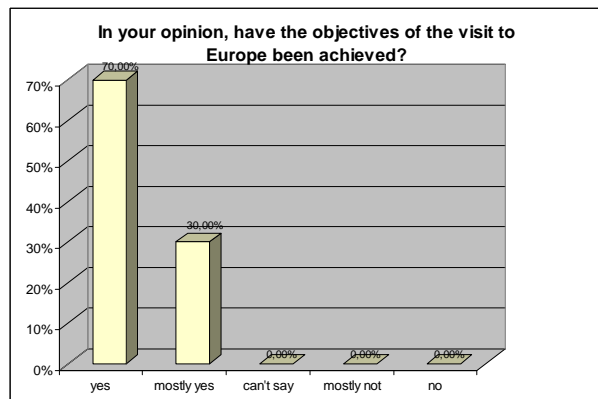
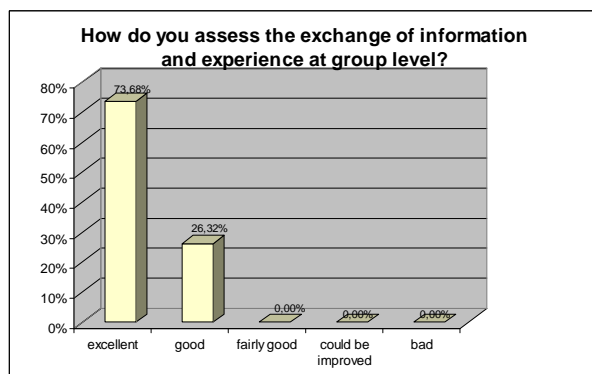
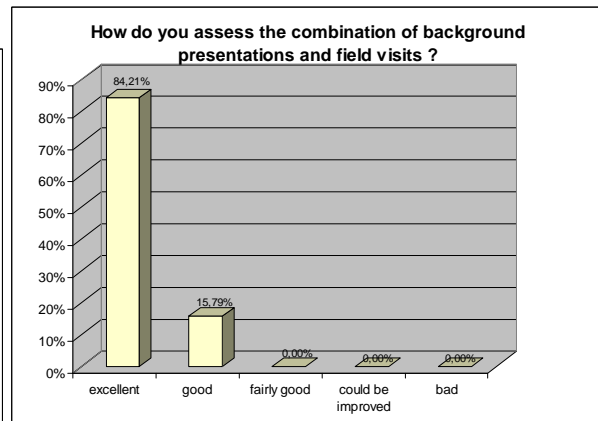
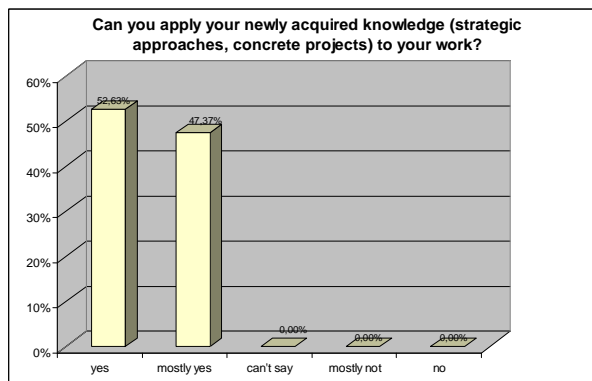
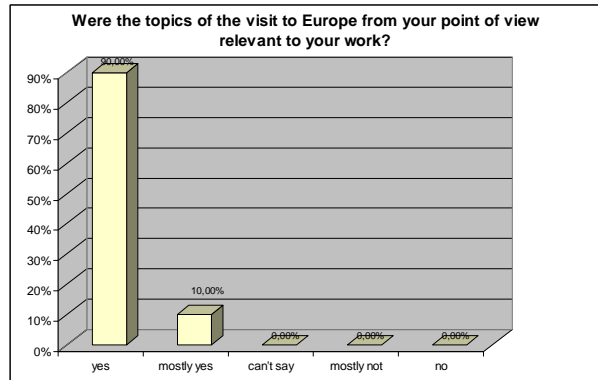
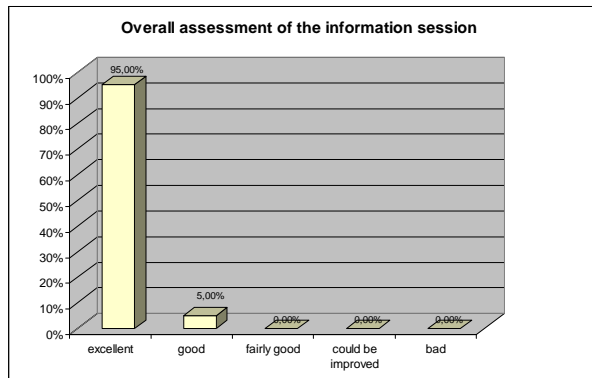
#### **16. Concrete plans or projects you hope to conduct with European partners**

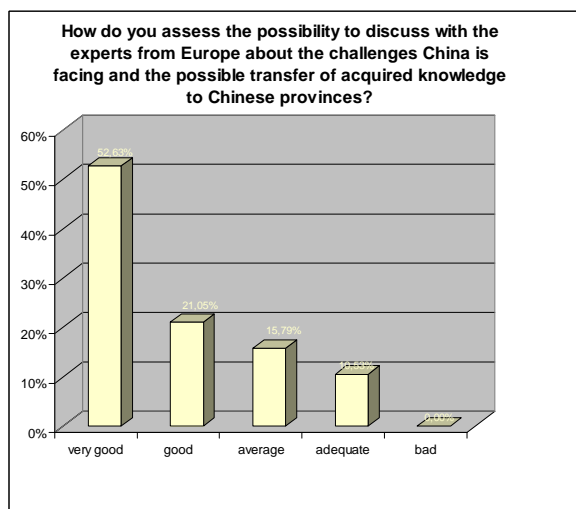
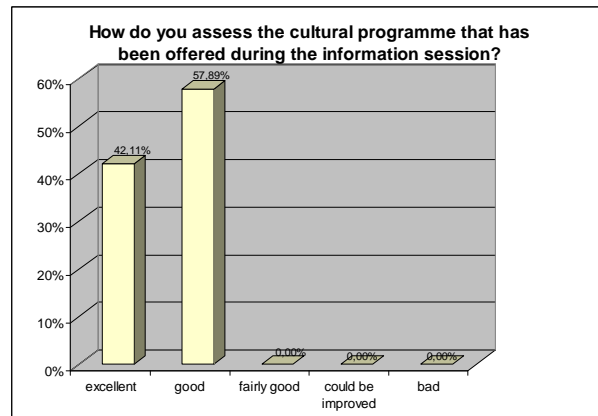
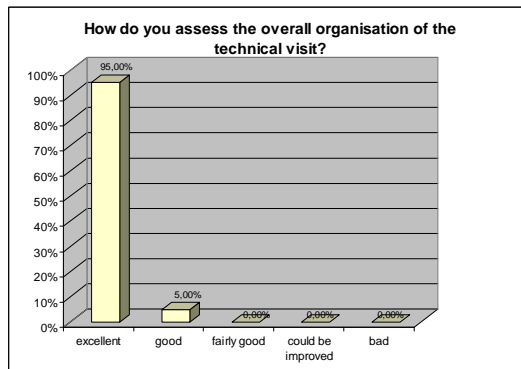
- Research on legislation on regional development
- Strengthen similar training to let more related persons to learn from EU
- Guangxi province has been strengthening economic cooperation with EU. Currently many big projects in fields of electric power, paper making, and automobile are being implemented.

#### **17. Other suggestions**

- The number of visiting countries can be reduced. Lectures, field visits and ideas exchange can take place in different regions in one country.
- Time for exchange can be extended. Chinese experts can/should also introduce their experience.
- A macro- introduction can be made before each lecture.
- The schedule of the information session can be further improved. That is, a certain free time can be provided to participants to let them not be too exhausted to learn carefully.
- A brief but comprehensive training can be made beforehand in China.
- The effects of the training are basically decided by the potential and quality of the participants, therefore it is necessary to choose good participants. A more careful examination on the quality of the participants such as the age, working years and health state should be performed beforehand.
- There is much repetition and general introduction during the information session. I suggest more practical lectures be added.
- More time should be provided for discussion.
- The content of the information session can be more diversified.
- Maybe the numbers of the lectures can be reduced, and there can be more field visits.
- It's better to have two interpreters.

### 17. Quantitative presentation of the evaluation results





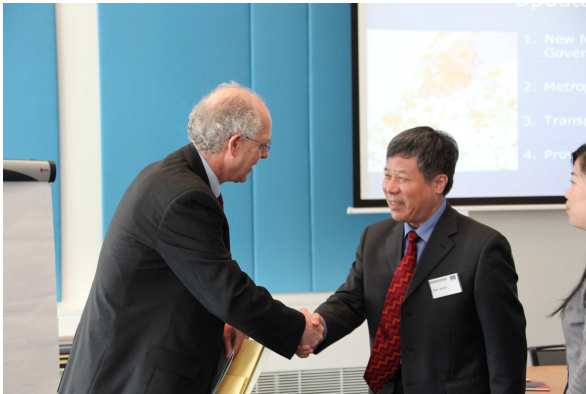
## 18. Pictures gallery



Opening Session in Trier



EU-supported Conversion Area Vogelsang



Mr. Anne Joustra, Director Stadsregio Amsterdam and Mr. Shen Xujian, NDRC Beijing



Lectures at the Ministry of Regional Development, Prague



Discussion with Mr. Lambert van Nistelrooij, MEP



Presentation by Mr. Charles White, DG REGIO



Meeting at the Committee of the Regions (Mr. Wolfgang Petzold)



Lunch with Mr. Stanislaw Sorys, Board of the Małopolska Region, Krakow



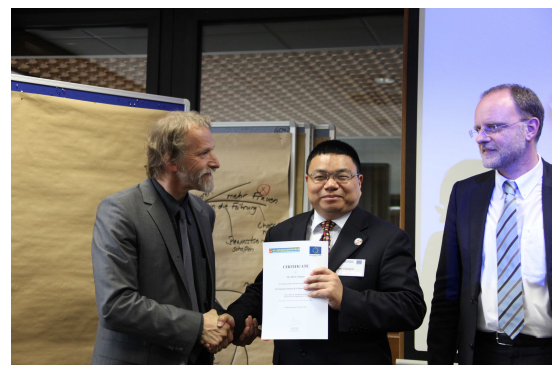
Visit to the Krakow Opera (supported with ERDF)



Visit to the Regional Council of the Moravia-Silesia (Mr. David Sventek)



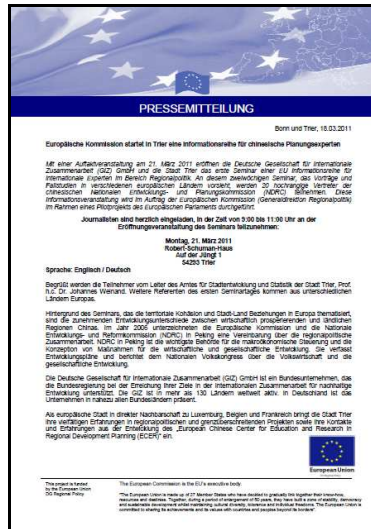
Closing workshop at GIZ in Eschborn



Mr. Funcke-Bartz (GIZ) and Dr. Weinand (City of Trier) awarding Mr. Qiao Changen (NDRC) with a participation certificate

### 19. Media coverage

As stated in the consortium's application, the most effective way to stir public debate and to create public awareness about the EU regional policy dialogue with China is through appearances in the mass media - including interviews, newspaper articles, appearances on TV and radio, and extensive coverage of the training activities on the internet. In order to achieve this goal, the consortium issued a press release prior to the introductory session in Trier.



Cooperation with local authorities was a key element in order to ensure press coverage during the information session. As an example, an article on the delegation's visit was published by the Aachener Zeitung, a local newspaper with a significant regional readership. With regard to press coverage in Chinese for the wider dissemination, the consortium invited a journalist and photographer working for Chinese online newspapers to write an article for a German-Chinese newspaper.



## 20. Staff engaged in the implementation of the programme

*Pablo Gándara, Project Coordinator*

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.

*Dr. Liu Liang, Project Assistant*

After Master of Arts of Wuhan University, P.R.China, had been acquired, Miss Liu Liang went to University of Trier, Germany, in 2003 for further education and then acquired the PhD in German Language and Literature in 2010. During the study period in Germany, Liu Liang had been employed as sinology teacher of University of Trier as well as project organiser in the European-Chinese Centre for Education and Research in Regional Development Planning (ECER), a project coordinated by the Office of Urban Development and Statistic of the City of Trier. Since 2003 she has also worked as interpreter in many cultural and economic exchange activities between Trier and China.

### Further experts of the implementing consortium

*Prof. h.c. Dr. Johannes Weinand, Head of the Department for Urban Development, City of Trier and Coordinator of the ECER Project*

Dr. Johannes Weinand, Honorary Professor of the Beijing Normal University, is head of the Office of Urban Development and Statistics of the City of Trier. He works in direct assignment to the Mayor of the City of Trier. The office with about 20 employees is responsible for the strategic future-oriented urban development based on qualified analysis and forecasting. In his twenty-year career, Dr. Weinand has worked in leading positions of urban, regional and cross-border responsibility. Since the mid-1990s, Dr. Weinand has developed and managed several urban projects including the strategic concept "Future of Trier 2020" and several sectoral development projects. Since 2004 he has been developing the European-Chinese Center for Education and Research in Regional Development Planning (ECER).

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

Since 2010, Michael 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 organizations 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.

## Annexes

### I. Certificates

Based on a similar activity of the European Commission conducted in July 2010<sup>7</sup>, the project coordinator elaborated a template for the certificates to be given for successful participation.



<sup>7</sup> The final report of the Chinese-European Training on Regional Policy (CETREGIO) is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/international/china\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/international/china_en.htm).



## II. Evaluation questionnaire

Dear participants,

You have been participating in the Information Session “Territorial Cohesion & Urban-Rural Linkages” that is funded by the European Union DG Regional Policy and implemented by a consortium composed by GIZ and City of Trier. As project team, we strive to continuously improve our performance and meet your specific needs and requirements with our programmes. Therefore we would like to ask you to help us with your experience and recommendations regarding the course you have just completed.

It goes without saying that we will evaluate this questionnaire anonymously. Your data will not be made available to third parties. It is for internal statistical use only, enabling us to draw conclusions on the quality of our training measures. Please be sure to fill in the complete questionnaire.

Thank you for your support  
Your project team

### 1. General information

Programme title	1 <sup>st</sup> Information Session Territorial Cohesion & Urban-Rural Linkages
Duration	March 19 <sup>th</sup> – 1 <sup>st</sup> April, 2010
Country of origin	China

### 2. Overall assessment of the information session

	excellent ++	good +	fairly good 0	could be improved -	poor --
Please give us your feedback concerning your overall assessment of this information session for territorial cohesion policy in China?					

### 3. Impact on daily work routine

	yes ++	Mostly yes +	can't say 0	mostly not -	No --
Were the topics of the visit to Europe from your point of view relevant to your work?					

<p>Please name <b>three main topics</b> that from your point of view were most relevant for Chinese cohesion policy and justify your opinion!</p>	
<p>Please name topics that were <b>not</b> covered or <b>not in the necessary depth</b> concerning Chinese cohesion policy but would have been important for your work!</p>	

	yes ++	Mostly yes +	can't say 0	mostly not -	no --
<p>Can you apply your newly acquired knowledge (strategic approaches, concrete projects) to your work?</p>					

<p>Do you already have any concrete idea how to apply your newly acquired knowledge?</p>	yes	No
<p>Please explain these ideas in brief!</p>		
<p>Which concepts/ methods do you foresee for an efficient implementation in China?</p>		

<p>Where do you see difficulties in applying this knowledge, please give your reasons!</p>	
--	--

	yes ++	Mostly yes +	can't say 0	most ly not -	no --
<b>Do you plan to pass on your new expertise to colleagues and others in your working environment?</b>					
If not, please explain					

#### 4. Methodology / learning effect

How do you assess	excellent ++	good +	fairly good 0	could be improved -	poor --
- the combination of background presentations and field visits ?					
- the quality of training material (presentations, handouts)?					
- the overall duration of the visit to Europe?					
- the possibility to discuss with the experts from Europe about the challenges China is facing and the possible transfer of acquired knowledge to Chinese provinces					

#### 5. Participants

How do you assess	excellent ++	good +	fairly good 0	could be improved -	poor --
- the group's professional experience and skill levels?					
- the exchange of information and experience at group level?					
- the atmosphere within the group?					

#### 6. Objectives

In your opinion, have the objectives of the visit to Europe been achieved?	yes ++	mostly yes +	can't say 0	mostly not -	no --

- make participants familiar with different concepts, projects and their implementation for reducing the regional disparity					
- make participants familiar with the importance of systematic and long term strategies for territorial cohesion and urban-rural linkages for a sustainable development					
- make contacts with various potential partners such as enterprises, municipalities					
If the objectives were not fully achieved, please explain in which respect					

## 7. Organisation

How do you assess	excellent ++	good +	fairly good 0	could be improved -	poor --
- the overall organisation of the technical visit?					
- the accommodation facilities?					
- the meals provided during the information session?					
- the information, you received <b>prior</b> to the information session (topics, lecturers, field visits)?					
How could participants of future trainings be involved in advance in the pre-selection of topics of the information session?					

## 8. Cultural programme

	excellent ++	good +	fairly good 0	could be improved -	poor --

How do you assess the cultural programme that has been offered during the information session?					
Which part of the programme did you like most?					

### 9. Follow-up

Which topics of the information session or which additional topics should be discussed as part of possible follow-up process?					
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Are there any concrete approaches or projects you would like to develop further – in Europe or China - with European partners?					
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Further comments and suggestions for improvements	
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Thank you!

Your project team

### III. Aggregated results of the evaluations by the participants

#### 1. General information

Programme title	1 <sup>st</sup> Information Session Territorial Cohesion & Urban-Rural Linkages
Duration	March 19 <sup>th</sup> – 1 <sup>st</sup> April, 2010
Country of origin	China

#### 2. Overall assessment of the information session

	excellent ++	good +	fairly good 0	could be improved -	Poor --
Please give us your feedback concerning your overall assessment of this information session for territorial cohesion policy in China?	19	1			

#### 3. Impact on daily work routine

	yes ++	Mostly yes +	can't say 0	mostly not -	No --
Were the topics of the visit to Europe from your point of view relevant to your work?	18	2			

	yes ++	Mostly yes +	can't say 0	mostly not -	No --
Can you apply your newly acquired knowledge (strategic approaches, concrete projects) to your work?	10	9			

	yes ++	Mostly yes +	can't say 0	mostly not -	No --
Do you plan to pass on your new expertise to colleagues and others in your working environment?	15	4			

#### 4. Methodology / learning effect

How do you assess	excellent ++	good +	fairly good 0	could be improved -	Poor --
- the combination of background presentations and field visits ?	16	3			
- the quality of training material (presentations, handouts)?	11	6	2		
- the overall duration of the visit to Europe?	12	7			
- the possibility to discuss with the experts from Europe about the challenges China is facing and the possible transfer of acquired knowledge to Chinese provinces	10	4	3	2	

#### 5. Participants

How do you assess	excellent ++	good +	fairly good 0	could be improved -	Poor --
- the group's professional experience and skill levels?	16	3			
- the exchange of information and experience at group level?	14	5			
- the atmosphere within the group?	16	3			

#### 6. Objectives

In your opinion, have the objectives of the visit to Europe been achieved?	yes ++	mostly yes +	can't say 0	mostly not -	No --
- make participants familiar with different concepts, projects and their implementation for reducing the regional disparity	14	6			
- make participants familiar with the importance of systematic and long term strategies for territorial cohesion and urban-rural linkages for a sustainable development	14	6			
- make contacts with various potential partners such as enterprises, municipalities	9	7	4		



## 7. Organisation

How do you assess	excellent	good	fairly good	could be improved	Poor
	++	+	0	-	--
- the overall organisation of the technical visit?	19	1			
- the accommodation facilities?	20				
- the meals provided during the information session?	20				
- the information, you received <b>prior</b> to the information session (topics, lecturers, field visits)?	13	6	1		

## 8. Cultural programme

	excellent	good	fairly good	could be improved	Poor
	++	+	0	-	--
How do you assess the cultural programme that has been offered during the information session?	8	11			