



World Cities

A project of the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) of the European Commission in the framework of the European Parliament's preparatory action to enhance regional and local co-operation by promoting EU regional policy on a global scale

Final Report 2015-16

28 April 2016

This project is financed by the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission within the European-Chinese Regional Policy Dialogue and the EU-Indian Urban Policy Cooperation. These dialogues have been established to exchange information and best practices of experiences in setting up and implementing cohesion policy.

This report has been elaborated by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. GIZ has been in charge of implementing the World Cities project 2015-16 (contract N° 2014CE160AT031).

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* implemented 2015-2016 the **World Cities**, a project of the European Union managed by the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (**DG REGIO**) of the European Commission. The project originates in a Preparatory Action of the **European Parliament** to promote the exchange of experience and best practice between the European Union and non-EU countries on the theme of territorial development with particular reference to urban development, urban-rural partnership and urban cross-border cooperation.

Participants included representatives from **India, China** and **European Union** member states. Activities were prepared and implemented by the World Cities team in close contact with DG REGIO, the European pilot cities/regions as well as with the partners in China and India. Delegates from India and China were selected by the respective official partners of DG REGIO in the countries, i.e. the National Development and Reform Commission - NDRC - for China and the local authorities of the pilot cities in the case of India.

A key component of the programme was the **selection of cities** that was based on objective criteria including size, socio-economic structure, location, urban geography, urban development stage, existing ties with India and China, energy efficiency, mobility, etc. Also the involvement of potential candidates in **EU initiatives** (e.g. RegioStars, URBACT, INTERREG, EU Green Cities, Smart Cities & Communities, etc.) was taken into consideration. In coordination with DG REGIO, the project team invited 28 European regions and cities to participate at the venture. **Eight** of them were chosen (Copenhagen, Dublin, West Midlands, Stuttgart, Lyon, Barcelona, Lazio and Warsaw). The City of Warsaw – that had originally applied to the programme and then accepted to be involved for the cooperation with India – declined during the inception phase since the Economic Development Department of the city decided not to be involved. The World Cities team rapidly identified further European candidates and - in coordination with DG REGIO - contacted the Andalucía Smart City Cluster to join the project.

From March 2015 until April 2016, a total of **twenty-eight events** was carried out, 17 within the EU-China framework and 11 within the EU-India mechanism. This represents a considerable increase as compared to the contractually agreed number of events (18). **Additional activities** included remarkable milestones like the Italian Week, a B2B and B2C event organised between the Region of Lazio and the City of Tianjin that involved 25 Italian policy and business representatives under the leadership of the Regional Minister of Economy Prof. Guido Fabiani. The project also supported business missions to China (from innovative start-ups and the automotive sector). On the policy side, the World Cities team was also able to strongly support the EU-China High Level Meeting on Regional Policy held during the EU-China Summit in June 2015, two High-Level Visits of NDRC to Europe (including the Vice-Chairman and the Deputy Secretary General of NDRC) as well as the Open Days on Regional Policy in October 2015.

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Thanks to synergies created with other initiatives as well as to negotiations with Chinese cities involved in the **activities**, the programme fully financed or co-financed participation of **199 experts** from the involved European (85), Chinese (93) and Indian (20) cities. This number of participants was considerably higher than originally scheduled and was achieved also thanks to the cooperation with regional and local authorities in Europe, China and India. Moreover, the project also involved **83 external participants** through activities like the Italian Week in Tianjin (a B2B and B2C event), the visit of the European Parliament's delegation to China and the visit of the Tianjin Commerce Commission to Barcelona and Lyon. By these means, the project ensured a triple-helix cooperation between representatives from local and regional governments, business and research institutions.

The World Cities team always intended to **create synergies** with the twinning scheme for EU cooperation with Canada and Japan implemented by ICLEI. The GIZ team gave crucial support to ICLEI to get Vitoria-Gasteiz (EU Green Capital 2012) on board for cooperation with Canada. The team also facilitated participation of ICLEI at the World Cities workshop held in Brussels within the Open Days on EU Regional and Urban Policy in Brussels. The team paid special attention to supporting relevant **EU initiatives** in India and China especially within the EU-China Sustainable Urbanisation Partnership as well as within the EU-Mumbai Partnership.

The overall objective of the activities in Europe, China and India was to decentralise cooperation and establish direct working relations between Chinese, Indian and European regions and cities. The specific objective was to support counterparts towards their economic development, focusing on the identification of business development possibilities. Herefore, the programme involved regional and local economic development agencies that acted as multipliers and supported the recruitment and follow-up activities of business representatives. As a result, **14 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)** were signed between European and Chinese counterparts from local or regional governments as well as from **business organisations**. As of April 2016, a MoU is under preparation between the CLEAN Cluster of Copenhagen and the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh (India). The programme involved dozens of European, Chinese and Indian business representatives in the activities.

The World Cities team achieved an **extensive press coverage** of the activities in China, India and Europe. This included newspapers, online publications and television. This remarkable coverage was possible also thanks to the cooperation with local authorities as well as with the Delegations of the European Union to India and China. **Visibility** at the **EU level** was also achieved thanks to participation at related events in Brussels, regular meetings with relevant European institutions (especially the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions) as well as communication with the Missions of China and India to the European Union. The project team also launched the **website** www.world-cities.eu at the very beginning of the project and used it as the main tool for dissemination of the activities. Moreover, the team also facilitated full access to the website to the ICLEI team in order to use it for the activities with Canada and Japan.

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1. TEAM

Coordination

- ✓ Stefanie Klein, GIZ Project Director / Backstopping. Stefanie was in charge of ensuring the high quality of services, the institutional support of GIZ and the necessary backstopping during implementation.
- ✓ Pablo Gándara, Project Coordinator / Team Leader. Pablo was responsible for the overall project coordination including contents, logistics, financial management. He was appointed as the single contact point for the EU Commission on all tasks.

Europe

- ✓ Juan Prat y Coll, Senior Advisor for EU Policies. Juan is a former General Director of the EU Commission (RELEX) and a former Spanish Ambassador to Italy, the Netherlands, NATO and the OPCW. Juan was in charge of ensuring World Cities policy coherence with other European and international initiatives, and maintains communication with EU institutions.
- ✓ Jean-Marie Rousseau, Senior Expert for Regional and Urban Development Policies in non-EU Countries. He has worked over the last sixteen years in regional development policy, specialising in R&D valorisation, territorial intelligence as well as social and human capital issues within the knowledge economy.

China

- ✓ Shi Xin, China Coordinator. Shi Xin is based in Beijing and has a long experience in planning and implementing international events. Shi Xin was the team's contact point in China and responsible for all activities in China.
- ✓ Oscar Prat van Thielcoovels, Senior Expert China. Oscar is based in Shanghai and has worked before in Germany, Belgium and Italy. He supported implementation of activities in China and Europe and has specialised in start-ups and business promotion.

India

- ✓ Neelabh Singh, Senior Expert India. Neelabh is based in Copenhagen and is an experienced global business development professional with an outstanding record in the energy and environment sectors, including smart and green city development. Neelabh coordinated communication with Chandigarh and supports dialogue with other Indian cities.
- ✓ Panagiotis Karamanos, Senior Expert India. Panagiotis is based in India and coordinated cooperation with Mumbai. He has vast experience on environmental management & policy, urban environmental issues, climate change and waste management.
- ✓ Shishir Joshi, Mumbai-Navi Mumbai Coordination. Shishir is the CEO of Mumbai First, a private initiative aiming at enhancing the quality of the citizens of Mumbai and improving the economic and social fabric of the city. Mumbai First was commissioned by GIZ IS to support the project implementation in India.

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2. OVERVIEW OF THE CITY PAIRS AND ACTIVITIES

During 2015 – 2016, the World Cities project implemented an innovative **open pairing scheme** between selected European, Chinese and Indian regions or cities. The selection of European candidates was based on several criteria including their different stage of economic development, their relevance for the Chinese or Indian regions and their commitment in terms of man-power and local support for activities carried out in Europe. The Chinese cities and regions were chosen by the National Development and Reform Commission in a top-down approach. Cities in India were chosen by DG REGIO in coordination with the World Cities team and the Delegation of the European Union to India. Following 9 city-pairs were supported:

✓ **EU – China Cooperation:**

- Tianjin – Birmingham / West Midlands (UK)
- Chengdu – Barcelona (ES) / Dublin-Fingal (IE)
- Wuhan – Barcelona (ES) / Dublin-Fingal (IE)
- Guangzhou – Lyon (FR)
- Shantou - Andalucía (ES)

✓ **EU – India Cooperation:**

- Mumbai – Stuttgart (DE)
- Navi Mumbai – Lazio (IT)
- Chandigarh - Copenhagen / Clean Cluster (DK)
- Pune – Andalucía Smart City Cluster (ES)

It should be mentioned that these city pairs were not treated as close shops, but rather as focus regions for cooperation. This network approach encouraged all involved cities to interact with each other not only within the focus country, but also with India. In fact, all European cities were able to visit and establish working relations with at least three cities in either China or India. Also some European cities established a common approach for their activities with China or India. This is the case for example for Dublin and Barcelona for their activities with Chengdu and Wuhan. The West Midlands established working relations with Guangzhou and Tianjin.

As mentioned in the executive summary, the World Cities team always intended to **create synergies** with the twinning scheme for EU cooperation with **Canada** and **Japan** implemented by ICLEI. The team supported communication of European pilot cities with the project coordinators of ICLEI, leading - for example - to the involvement of the West Midlands European Service at the Sustainable Urban China conference held in Berlin in May 2015 within the Metropolitan Solutions 2015. Moreover, the team also supported ICLEI in getting high-level European candidate cities onboard for the cooperation with Canada. For these means, the GIZ project team introduced Vitoria-Gasteiz (EU Green Capital 2012) to ICLEI staff.

The World Cities team paid special attention to supporting relevant EU initiatives in India and China especially within the EU-China Sustainable Urbanisation Partnership (EC-Link project) as well as within the EU-Mumbai Partnership (Technical Assistance on Waste and Wastewater).

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Following overview shows the events implemented between March 2015 and April 2016:

1. EU-China: Barcelona fact-finding mission to Tianjin (20 – 23 March 2015)
2. EU-China: West Midlands / Birmingham mission to Tianjin and Guangzhou (27 April to 02 May 2015)
3. EU-China: Barcelona and Dublin mission to Chengdu and Wuhan (05 to 12 May 2015)
4. EU-China: Italian Week in Tianjin (17 – 24 May 2015)
5. EU-India: Kick-Off conference in Mumbai (24 - 25 May 2015)
6. EU-India: Working meeting of delegates from Stuttgart and Lazio in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai (26 - 29 May 2015)
7. EU-India: Visit of Copenhagen to Chandigarh (28 – 30 May 2015)
8. EU-China: Tianjin Delegation visit to Barcelona and Lyon (16 – 19 June 2015)
9. EU-China: Lyon mission to Guangzhou (25 to 27 June 2015)
10. EU-China: Chinese pilot cities' visits to Brussels, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Malaga, Lazio and West Midlands (22 – 30 June 2015)
11. EU-China: NDRC High-Level Mission (Vice Chairman HE Lifeng) to Belgium and Ireland (22 – 26 June 2015)
12. EU-China: EU – China High Level Seminar on Regional Policy (Brussels, 29 June 2015)
13. EU-China: Tianjin mission to Frankfurt and Lazio (21 – 26 September 2015)
14. EU-China: NDRC High Level visit (Deputy General Secretary Fan Hengshan) to Brussels and Croatia (11 – 18 October 2015)
15. EU-India: Follow-up visit of Indian delegates from Pune, Navi Mumbai and Mumbai to Brussels, Stuttgart, Bologna and Milan (11 – 17 October 2015)
16. EU-India / EU-China: Contents support of DG REGIO for the World Cities workshop held within the Open Days on EU Regional and Urban Policy in Brussels (13 October 2015)
17. EU-China: Support to a Sino-German fact finding mission of Dalian DRC to Rome (14 – 16 October 2015)
18. EU-China: Mission of European start-ups to Beijing, Wuhan and Chengdu (21 – 30 October 2015)
19. EU-India: Mission of Indian experts from Chandigarh to Brussels and Copenhagen (25 – 31 October 2015)

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20. EU-China: Contents and *on-the-spot* support to the mission of the EU Parliament (MEP van Nistelrooij, MEP Martina Werner, etc.) to Shanghai (05 Nov 2015)
21. EU-China: Support to China-Italy Innovation Week in Beijing Chongqing and Tianjin (16 – 20 November 2015)
22. EU-India: Follow-up visit from Copenhagen to Chandigarh, also involving all delegates from Stuttgart and Lazio (17 – 20 January 2016)
23. EU-India: Follow-up visit of experts from Andalucía Smart City Cluster to Pune (20 – 22 January 2016)
24. EU-India: World Cities conference in Mumbai (22-23 January 2016)
25. EU-India: Visit of Chandigarh's Municipal Commissioner (Mr Purushartha) to Copenhagen, (29 February - 02 March 2016)
26. EU-China: World Cities follow-up event in Chengdu (13 – 17 March 2016)
27. EU-China: World Cities conference in Chengdu and Shantou (17 – 20 March 2016)
28. EU-China: B2B visit of Catalan automotive cluster to Wuhan (14 - 15 March 2016)

A detail of the activities is specified in the chapter 4. Please refer to our website for more information (documentation, press, etc.).

Please refer to the next chapter to see a detail of the participants' numbers.

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3. PARTICIPANTS' NUMBERS

As mentioned in the executive summary, thanks to synergies created with other initiatives as well as to negotiations with Chinese and Indian cities involved in the **activities**, the programme fully financed or co-financed participation of **199 experts** from the involved European (85), Chinese (93) and Indian (20) cities. This number of participants was considerably higher than originally scheduled and was achieved also thanks to the cooperation with regional and local authorities in Europe, China and India.

Kick-off and closing conference in China and India always involved a considerable number of national experts, whose travel costs and allowance were partly financed by the programme. This national audience is estimated at approximately **300 experts** in China and India.

Moreover, the project also involved **83 external participants** through activities like the Italian Week in Tianjin (a B2B and B2C event), the visit of the European Parliament's delegation to China and the visit of the Tianjin Commerce Commission to Barcelona and Lyon. By these means, the project ensured a triple-helix cooperation between representatives from local and regional governments, business and research institutions.

Participants in World Cities EU-India-China 2015-2016 (not counting any team member or EU staff) - numbers in red funded by other projects through synergies					
Part 1 - EU - China Cooperation					
Month	Event in	Event Name	From the EU	Cities of origin	From China
March 2015	Tianjin	Fact finding mission	2	Barcelona	
April 2015	Tianjin - Guangzhou	Working meeting	5	West Midlands	
May 2015	Wuhan - Chengdu	Working meeting	8	Dublin - Barcelona	
May 2015	Tianjin	Italian Week	20	Regione Lazio	
June 2015	Barcelona - Lyon	Mission of Commerce Commission		Tianjin	8
June 2015	Guangzhou	Working meeting	5	Lyon	
June 2015	Brussels, Leuven, Dublin	High-Level NDRC Delegation (HE Lifeng)		NDRC	6
June 2015	Brussels, Amsterdam, Andalusia, UK	Kick-off/EU-China Summit / High Level Seminar	10	all EU and Chinese pilot cities	40
Sept. 2015	Frankfurt, Lazio, Luxemburg	Working meeting	2	Andalusia, WMs, Tianjin	6
Oct. 2015	Brussels, Zagren, Rijeka	High-Level NDRC Delegation (Fan Hengshan)		NDRC	5
Oct 2015	Beijing - Wuhan - Changdu	Innovation Week - EU start ups trip to China	4	Berlin, Rome, WMs, Lyon	
Oct. 2015	Rome	Fact finding mission / Revitalization industry		Dalian	6
Nov 2015	Beijing - Shanghai	Visit of the European Parliament to China	12	EU Parliament delegation	
Nov 2015	Dublin - Barcelona	Working meeting		NDRC, Wuhan, Chengdu	12
Nov 2015	WMs - Lyon	Working meeting		Tianjin - Guangzhou	17
Nov 2015	Beijing - Tianjin	China Italy Innovation Week	37	Lazio	
March 2016	Chengdu - Shantou	Closing conference	27	EU pilot cities	100
			132		200
		fully or co-funded by World Cities	63		186
		financed by other projects through synergies	69		14
Part 2 - EU India Cooperation					
Month	Event in		From the EU	Cities of origin	From India
May 2015	Mumbai - Navi Mumbai - Chandigarh	Kick-Off - Working Meeting	8	Stuttgart, Lazio, Copenhagen	100
October 2015	Brussels - Bologna - Milan - Stuttgart	Working meeting		Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune	14
October 2015	Brussels - Copenhagen	Working meeting		Chandigarh	5
Jan. 2016	Mumbai - Navi Mumbai - Chandigarh - Pune	Closing conference	14	All EU pilot cities	100
Feb 2016	Copenhagen	Visit of Chandigarh Municipal Corporation		Chandigarh	1
			22		220
		Grand Total (not including those finance by others)	491		
		From the EU	85		
		From China			186
		From India			220
		External participants			
		From China funded by other programmes	14		
		From the EU funded by other programmes	69		
		Total external participants	83		

4. DETAILS OF THE ACTIVITIES

In this chapter we present some brief summaries of the activities. For detailed documentation and contents of the events (including summaries of most working sessions), please refer to our website <http://world-cities.eu/programmes-2/2015-2/> or to the interim technical reports already delivered during the contract implementation.

4.1. EU-CHINA

The **first activity** was a fact-finding mission of authorities from Barcelona to Beijing and Tianjin and took place in March 2015. A delegation headed by the Commissioner for International Relations of Barcelona City Council (Mr Joaquim Llimona) held meetings in Beijing with Mr Ignacio Asenjo from the EU Delegation to China. The World Cities team also arranged meetings in Tianjin, including one with the Chairman of DRC Tianjin, Mr Xiao Hong as well another as with the Deputy Director-General of Tianjin's Commerce Commission, Mr SUN Jiannan. Mr Llimona was accompanied by Ms Montserrat Riba, General Secretary of Casa Asia, a public institution owned by the Spanish Government, the Reginal Government of Catalonia and the municipalities of Barcelona and Madrid. Delegates visited the Binhai New Area, a huge development area along the southeast coast of Tianjin. It covers three urban areas (Tanggu, Hangu and Dagang) and nine economic functional zones, such as development zones, free trade zone, high-tech zone, and Dongjiang Free Trade Port Zone of Tianjin port. The Binhai New Area is being developed into a gateway for northern China as well as a base of modern manufacturing and R&D transformation. Binhai authorities and European representatives exchanged ideas for the future cooperation beyond the bilateral work-programme between Barcelona and Chengdu.



The **second activity** was a one-week targeted twinning session for West-Midlands (WM) regional authorities business and R&D representatives to Guangzhou Development District (GDD) and Tianjin and took place from 27 April to 02 May 2015. It focused on SMEs cooperation (especially from the renewable energy and environment protection sectors) and the Biotech Bridge model (to allow universities and businesses to access the Guangzhou International Bio Tech Island. The delegation was headed by Mr Philip Atkins (Leader Staffordshire County Council) and included Mark Schneider (WM European Service), David Pilsbury (PVC for International Development, Coventry University), Mike Murray (Birmingham



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City Council), John Carr (LEP business representative). The results of the mission included the establishment of an office in the WM to develop links with the GDD and Tianjin port and airport to allow the delivery of 6 areas of activity identified. Also the University of Birmingham's office in Guangzhou is involved in the programme development. Discussions were held with Tianjin to establish a representation office there, taking up the office space being offered by Tianjin DRC. On the business side, GDD and WMs agreed to explore the opportunity of bidding into the circular economy fund to support business development. Also Tianjin offered concrete funding opportunities through the EU-China regional cooperation fund to support business development opportunities between Tianjin and Europe. Moreover, talks were held with the British Consulate in Guangzhou as well as with the British Embassy in Beijing to create synergies with existing UK-China programmes.

The **third activity** consisted of an experts' mission from Barcelona and Dublin to Chengdu and Wuhan and was implemented from 05 to 12 May 2015. The programme was designed for representatives of local authorities as well as for representatives of the business sectors for the areas related to regional and urban innovation. The event consisted of field visits and working meetings relevant for cooperation in smart-city and innovation. The programme in Chengdu was hosted by Mr LIU Xingjun, Director General of Chengdu DRC and included



meetings with representatives of the urban development, environmental protection and economic development departments. Field visits included China-wide flagship development areas like the Tianfu New District (<http://www.tianfusoftwarepark.com/en.html>) and the Chengdu High Tech Zone (www.chengduhitech.com). Here European and Chinese representatives discussed ideas for cooperation in the smart city area. In Wuhan the programme was



coordinated by Mr ZHANG Wenshang, Vice-Director General of DRC Wuhan and included meetings with the Mayor of Wuhan, Mr WANG Yong, as well as with two Vice Mayors (incl. Executive Deputy Mr LU Shaye) and the Chairman of DRC Wuhan. A workshop discussion involved the heads of the departments for education, tourism, regional economy, innovation and

R&D. Field Visits were undertaken to the Donghu High-Tech Industrial Park (<http://en.wehdz.gov.cn>) as well as to the Wuhan Economic Zone (<http://www.wedz.gov.cn/theme/foreignlanguage/en/1-1.html>). Meetings with European and Chinese companies from the automotive and optics sectors were organised. Dublin and Barcelona representatives agreed in a shared twinning approach for cooperation with Chengdu and Wuhan.

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The **fourth activity** was the support to the Italian Week, a spin-off of the CETREGIO programme between Tianjin and the Regional Government of Lazio (Italy). The programme took place from 17 – 24 May 2015 and was inaugurated by the Minister of Economy of Lazio Region, Prof Guido Fabiani. The Italian Week included the participation of more than 30 companies from Lazio that had a joint 600m2 boot in Tianjin International Fair. Moreover, Tianjin DRC announced to develop an EU-China Regional Economic Cooperation Fund in order to support bilateral activities between European and Tianjin SME's.



The World Cities programme also co-organised a regional cooperation forum with participation from companies, local authorities and R&D institutions from China and Italy. The event focused on innovation for smart and green cities. Field visits in Tianjin included the FTZ Yujiapu Financial District, the Tianjin Airport Economic Zone, the European Trade Center and the Airbus airplane assembly plant.



The **fifth activity** consisted of an experts visit from Tianjin to Barcelona and Lyon (16 – 19 June 2015). The delegation headed by Mr SUN Jiannan, Vice General-Director of Tianjin's Commerce Commission, met with authorities of Grand Lyon, the pilot city of the World Cities programme. They visited the new Confluence district, focusing on smart cities and mobility projects (<http://www.lyon-confluence.fr/>).

Meetings in Barcelona were held with Mr Miquel Matieu, Director Asia-Pacific at Barcelona City Council. Chinese delegates then participated at forum on regional economic cooperation with selected economic institutions from Barcelona (including Invest in Catalonia, Barcelona Activa, Port de Barcelona and Caixaban). The meeting was hosted by Casa Asia (<http://www.casaasia.es>).



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The **sixth activity** consisted of a mission from start-up and regional authorities from Lyon mission to Guangzhou and took place from 25 to 27 June 2015. The delegation headed by Ms Karine Dognin-Sauze (Deputy Mayor in charge of international Affairs, City of Lyon) held meetings with Guangzhou City Council as well as with Guangzhou Development District. Lyon also introduced areas for inward investment from China. Moreover, five start-ups from “Lyon French Tech” (innovative start-ups from the digital industry) matched with Chinese counterparts. Involved companies were Bidul & Co, Forcity, Wonooz, Myblueship and the Artefacts Studio. Chinese counterparts and investors were particularly interested in the 3D simulation technologies of Forcity. MoUs were signed on tourism cooperation as well as between the Chambers of Commerce.



World Cities China also supported a **seventh activity** which consisted of the visit of NDRC’s Standing Vice-Chairman, Mr HE Lifeng, to Belgium and Ireland from 21 to 27 June 2015. The programme started with a visit in Leuven to the ERDF Operational Programme Flanders, including meetings at the Technology Transfer Centre of the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL) as well as Bio-Incubators, Innovation Parks and IMEC, the cluster of nano-electronics. Vice-Minister HE then met the Chairman of the European’s Parliament’s Urban Group MEP Jan Olbrycht. Based on his experience as former Mayor of Cieszyn in Poland, Mr Olbrycht explained the urban dimension of cohesion policy in Europe, focusing on the partnership agreements. Mr Olbrycht explained the role of the European Parliament promoting the exchange of experience and best practices between the European Union and China on the theme of territorial development. Mr HE Lifeng explained the harmonised development strategy for the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area as well as the “One Belt One Road” Strategy of NDRC towards developing a new Silk-Road. Both agreed on further cooperation in the issues of avoiding urban sprawl, developing adaptation strategies for shrinking cities, lowering CO2 emissions, improving urban-rural cooperation and strengthening cooperation among cities in Europe and China.



Vice Minister HE then traveled to **Ireland**, where he met representatives of the national and local governments. At the Ministry for Public Expenditure and Reform, Minister Brendan Howlin explained the successful story of Ireland in implementing the European Union’s cohesion policy through structural funds. While chairing the discussions during the negotiations of the 7th financial framework, Ireland made sure that cohesion policy remains at the core of the EU policy. After a meeting with then Lord Mayor of Dublin, Mr Christy Burke, the Chinese delegation visited

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the Digital Hub. Ms Joanne Kearney, Operations Manager of the hub, introduced the key features of the digital content and technology enterprises cluster, which is located on a state-of-the-art campus in the heart of Dublin City. Experts were able to meet the CEO of start-up Pixel Soup Philip Lynch, who introduced an award winning school software and explained the role of the hub in supporting the start-up.

Meetings continued in the afternoon with Minister Richard Bruton responsible for Enterprise and Employment. Minister Bruton and Vice-Minister HE agreed to cooperate within the framework of an Irish SME-mission to China in September 2015. They also exchanged views on outbound investments, urban development and SME promotion. In the afternoon, Chinese delegates met Councillor Paul McAuliffe, Chair of the Economic Strategic Policy Committee, who took them to a site visit to Ballymun, a key urban renewal project in Ireland.



The **eight activity** consisted of a visit of the Chinese pilot cities to their European counterparts and took place from 22 – 30 June 2015. The first Joint Forum of European and Chinese pilot cities and regions took place on 23 June 2015 in Brussels. The activity allowed European representatives from the West Midlands, Lazio, Andalucía, Barcelona and Dublin to interact with their counterparts from Chengdu, Wuhan, Tianjin, Guangzhou and Shantou. The forum created the basis for joint projects to be launched among the twinning cities and regions.



After the event, five Memorandums of Understandings were signed between partners from China and Europe. The signing ceremony was witnessed by EU Commissioner Corina Creţu and Mr HE Lifeng, Executive Vice-Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). Chinese delegates then visited their twinning cities in the UK, Spain, and Ital. Moreover, a delegation from Shantou visited Amsterdam in order to explore cooperation on waste and water management systems.

Chinese and European delegates from the twinning cities then travelled to Brussels to participate at the 10th EU-China High Level Seminar on Regional Policy, the **ninth programme activity** organised between the European Commission (DG REGIO) and NDRC on 29 June 2015 in Brussels. The General Director of DG REGIO, Mr Walter Deffaa, gave the keynote introduction to the seminar, which was a Side Event of the EU-China Summit. The seminar also included a keynote speech and discussions with Mr Lambert van Nistelrooij, Member of the

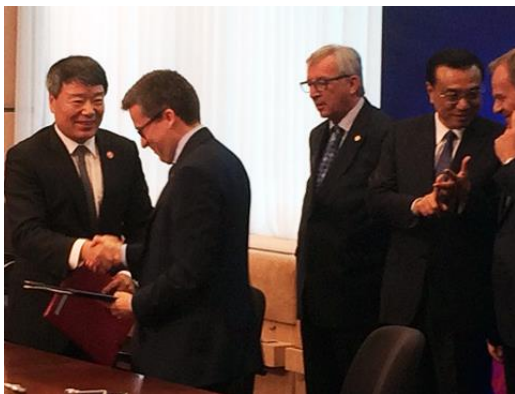
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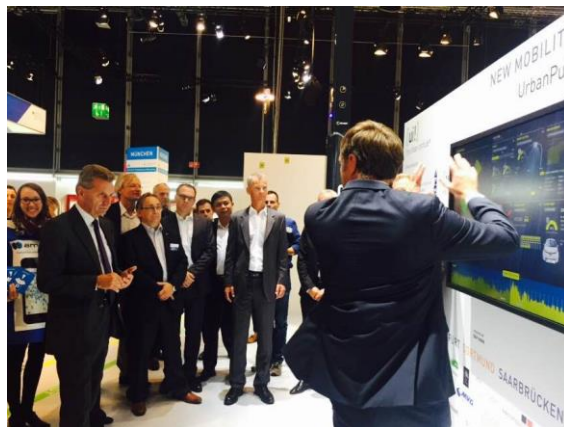
European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development (REGI). Discussions centered on the various concrete cooperation projects between the pilot cities.

Later in the afternoon, the Director General for Regional and Urban Policy spoke on 29 June 2015 at the EU-China Urbanisation Forum Partnership Forum in the afternoon plenary session on 'Cooperation, Innovation and Practices'. The plenary sessions had earlier been opened officially by President Juncker and Premier Li Keqiang.

Later, in the evening, a Joint Statement was signed "On Comprehensively Deepening EU-China Regional Policy Cooperation" by Mr XU Shaoshi, Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission and Commissioner Carlos Moedas (acting on behalf of Commissioner Corina Crețu).



The **tenth activity** consisted of an experts' mission from Tianjin to Frankfurt and Lazio and took place from 21 to 26 September 2015. Five delegates from Tianjin DRC and the business sector held a meeting with the software company SAP on Frankfurt on issues related to smart city development and mobility. The Vice-President for Research and Development, Mr Norbert Koppenhagen, introduced HANA, an open urban platform for smart cities. European representatives of the pilot regions West Midlands (Mark Schneider) and Andalucía Smart City Cluster (Daniel González) discussed with SAP experts and European Chinese colleagues about possible pilot projects in China and Europe in areas like traffic management and energy saving. World Cities delegates were also able to interact with EU Commissioner Günther Oettinger who visited the SAP urban mobility booth at the New Mobility World.



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Chinese delegates then travelled to Italy, where they absolved a three days programme in the Regione Lazio. Meetings in Fiuggi were chaired by the Mayor of Fiuggi, Mr Fabrizio Martini and included a round table with representatives from the R&D sector and the business sector (FIUGGI Water Plant). A letter of intent was signed between the Professional Institute IPSSEOA and the Tianjin Training School for a students' exchange programme. Chinese delegates also visited the Aerosekur plant (www.aerosekur.it) and explored cooperation possibilities in the aerospace & technologies for transportation areas. On the last day, a round table on Science, Technology & Innovation was held at the regional development agency Innova Lazio. The meeting included more than several presentations from divided in three blocks: Aerospace & Transportation; Security & Health; and Partnerships for Technology Transfer.



The **eleventh activity** consisted of the participation of a High Level NDRC delegation at the Open Days on Regional Policy of the European Union. A five-person delegation headed by NDRC's Vice-Secretary General Mr FAN Hengshan attended the World Cities seminar during the event and held bilateral talks with DG REGIO on future cooperation. Delegates then travelled to Croatia to have meetings at the Ministry for Regional Development and EU Funds in order to explore possibilities for future cooperation. Meetings in Croatia included visits to best practices in Zagreb (and Rijeka).



The **twelfth activity** consisted of the participation of four European start-ups at the *International Innovation Forum for start-ups* organised by Zhongguancun Innovation Centre in Beijing. The purpose was to link the good projects and technologies directly with potential investors or industrial partners in China. Moreover, the World Cities team organised a business tour for selected European projects in Beijing, Tianjin and Chengdu from 22 to 26 October. The programme was possible through the strong support from the Chinese NDRC, the local governments of Beijing, Tianjin and Chengdu as well as the World Cities programme. The agenda included attending the *Zhongguancun Innovation Week* on 22 October and making a roadshow of the start-up's technologies for 15 mins (10 mins pitching and 5 mins QA, with attendance of approx. 40-50 people). Including the Chinese start-ups, the activity involved representatives from 15-18 companies from following sectors: smart city, clean technologies & environment protection, internet and mobile internet, bio-med. After presentations, the

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projects/technologies were scored by a panel. The best score got an award of 10.000,00 USD. Although the European start-ups didn't get the first award, they established direct links with counterparts and business angels in China. Website of Zhongguancun: (http://en.zhongguancun.gov.cn/2014-01/03/content_17214021.htm). Press information on the innovation week at http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-10/14/content_22185839.htm. The European companies represented were Ecoglobe (www.ecoglobe.de - water management solutions), Tech4Bio (<http://www.tech4bio.eu> - new technologies for biology and medicine), JJ Bioenergy (<http://www.jjbioenergy.com/> - biogas) and Woonoz (<http://www.woonoz.com/en/> - memory anchoring technologies).

The **thirteen** activity was the contents support to a delegation from DRC Dalian to the Region of Lazio dealing with revitalization of old industry bases, optimization of industrial structure, construction and management of new city areas. The World Cities team supported



DRC Dalian in developing a programme in liaising with the Region of Lazio that arranged all meetings. The programme included the meetings with Roma Ricerche (www.romaricerche.it) as well as with the The Technology Park at the Tecnopolo area (www.tecnopolo.it). Field visits included the Civitavecchia Port Authority and the reconverted former industrial site of Centrale Montemartini, (ex Mattatoio Eataly).

The **fourteen** activity was the support to a mission of the European Parliament (EP) to

Shanghai. The delegation headed by MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij explored cooperation possibilities between China and the EU in the field of Information Communication and Technology (ICT). For this purpose, parliamentarians visited the Chinese Business Network – a direct subsidiary of Shanghai Media Group (SMG) - headquarters and had an open dialogue with the CEO of CBN Mr. Zhou Jiangong. In this context, several subjects were discussed, including broadcasting in



China of content made in Europe related to European policy (especially on regional and urban issues), market and trade opportunities as well tourism so that Chinese audiences may better understand – first hand – current events and possibilities in Europe. Participants also discussed about the importance to highlight innovation capacity of China and Europe as well as of reporting

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on the One Belt One Road policy and the the destinations to which this road leads to, such as Genoa and Rotterdam.

The **fifteen** activity was the support to *China-Italy Innovation Week* that took place in Beijing Chongqing and Tianjin from 16 – 20 November 2015. The event was prepared and coordinated by the Italian Ministry of Education and Research and focused on specific topics like Aerospace, Life Sciences, Technological Transfer Smart Cities, Innovation and Green Economy. The World Cities team arranged a business event for the Lazio enterprises and institutions in cooperation with Zhongguancun Innovation Way in Beijing, a visit to the Exhibition Hall of Zhongguancun science park and a business event at the Airport Economic Zone of Tianjin. Participation of 37 Italian delegates in the activities was not financed by the World Cities programme.

The **sixteenth activity** was organised in Europe and consisted of a visit of the Chinese delegates from Qinghai, Hebei, Wuhan and Chengdu from 16 – 20 November 2015 to Dublin and Barcelona. Preparation meetings in Dublin took place on 4 November 2015, since the Chinese Mayor of Wuhan - who had planned a visit to Dublin outside the World Cities programme - requested support for an economic exchange forum taking place in Dublin on that day. World Cities team leader Pablo Gándara travelled to Dublin to support the meetings and communication with Dublin City Council. He also introduced the programme to a wider audience of the forum and explained the cooperation agenda to multipliers from the business and research community in Dublin. Mr Gándara also met Mr Peter Finnegan, Ms Lisa Joy and Ms Grainne Kelly from the International Relations Department of Dublin City Council in order to finalize the agenda for the Wuhan-Chengdu delegation visiting Dublin two weeks later.



Chinese delegates from these cities started their programme on Monday 16 November 2015 in Dublin, being welcomed by The Lord Mayor of Dublin - Ms Críona Ní Dhálaigh - at the Mansion House. Both sides exchanged views on the cooperation agenda that includes pilot projects on university cooperation, clean-technology and the digital economy. The Director for International Relations of Dublin City Council, Mr Peter Finnegan, introduced the smart city development areas and developed deeper ideas referring to the bilateral cooperation agenda, which centers on ICT urban development solutions and particularly on big data applications. Mr Finnegan introduced the best practice of Dublinked (<http://dublinked.ie/>), a partnership of the four Dublin Local Authorities and Maynooth University, aiming to drive innovation and collaboration in the development of new urban solutions, using open data and with the city region as a test bed. Local authorities made available 239 open datasets in areas including traffic, economy and



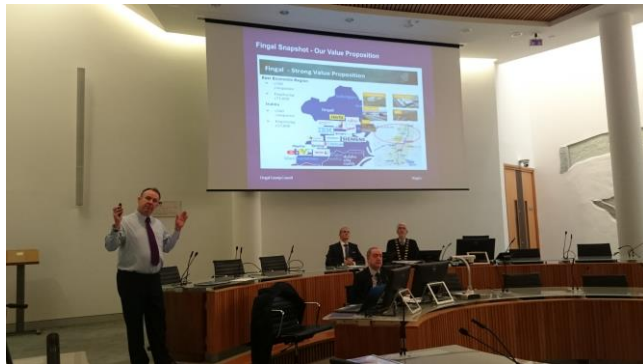
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innovation, environment and energy, planning and land use, etc. Field visits in Dublin included the Digital Hub and Dublin City University (DCU) Innovation Campus. Discussions with Chinese experts centered on the China-Ireland Technology Fund and the possibilities of co-financing pilot projects under the World Cities project. Also synergies with Climate KIC were explored. Delegates agreed to cooperate in the pilot areas of clean technology and digital economy and initiated preparations for the follow-up to China in March 2016.

On the next day, Chinese delegates visited the **Fingal County Council**, where they were welcomed by Mr David O' Connor, Mayor of Fingal County (<http://www.fingal.ie/>).

Mr O' Connor explained the main features of the county with a population of 273.991 inhabitants and an area of 450 km². He introduced the main functions of the Council including waste and water management, economic development, housing and transportation services. Mr



David Pryor from the Economic Development Department explained that Fingal is the second fastest growing region in Ireland and has specialized on food processing, educational services and tourism. A very detailed cooperation proposal involved the tourism sector (*Fingal China Tourism Strategy*), introduced to the Chinese side by Ms Noeleen McHugh from Fingal County Council. The proposal is to establish a concrete cooperation with private tour operator from China as well as with the Tourism Bureaus of pairing Chinese cities (especially Chengdu).

Regarding academic cooperation, Mr Pryor proposed to involve the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown (ITB), which provides full-time and part-time higher education courses in several sectors relevant for cooperation with China including food processing, business and engineering (<http://www.itb.ie/>).

Chinese delegates agreed on the value proposal and established a coordination mechanism through the World Cities project. Delegates were then able to visit the Swords Castle Masterplan, a comprehensive programme of events and projects dealing with the history of Fingal area. Meetings ended with a visit to the area of Howth, a peninsula in which the County has invested in tourism development including the Bull Island Interpretive Centre.

Chinese representatives then flew to **Barcelona** where they absolved a two-day working programme. Meetings started at Fira di Barcelona, the public fair company owned by the City of Barcelona and the Chamber of Commerce (<http://www.firabarcelona.com/en>). Fira di Barcelona has the second largest exhibition capacity in Europe and ranks number one in the mobile and smart city technologies. Discussions between Fira di Barcelona and Chinese delegates from Chengdu focused on the pilot project of organizing the Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC) in Chengdu. This is worldwide leading event for the smart city industry. Through activities, the exceptional congress featuring world renowned speakers, and popular side events,

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the SCEWC attracts thousands each year, making it consistently the top event for exhibitors and visitors alike. The 2014 edition recorded its best-ever figures with 10.838 visitors, 3.661 delegates and 275 exhibitors coming from 92 countries and 440 cities to share the latest thinking on current and future issues related to urban growth.

The idea to make a Chinese edition of the congress is one of the flagship projects of Barcelona-Chengdu cooperation within the World Cities scheme and grounds on regional editions of the Smart City congress held in other countries. The meeting – which was chaired by the General Management of the Fira - was complemented with a video-conference with the Deputy General Director of Sichuan Development and Reform Commission, Mr Deng ChangJin, who couldn't travel to Barcelona due to short-term business commitments assigned by the Chinese Government. Mr Deng and Mr Ricard Zapatero – Director for International Business at Fira – agreed on the roadmap for the project implementation in the second half of 2016.



Delegates then visited the Smart City Expo World Congress (<http://www.smartcityexpo.com/en/>) and met with representatives of Andalucía Smart City Cluster – the pairing city of Shantou within the World Cities programme. They also participated in backstage networking meetings with representatives from India and Japan willing to establish cooperation with China and Europe in this area. Delegates also explored cooperation possibilities with leading companies and regions exhibiting at the expo, including Siemens and SAP, two companies already involved in the World Cities programme activities with China.

During afternoon, Chinese delegates participated at a **B2B meeting** held in **Casa Asia** (<http://www.casaasia.eu/>), a public foundation created in 2001 by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, through its Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), the Government of Catalonia and the Barcelona and Madrid City Councils. Due to its vast experience on cooperation with Asia in relevant issues including social, cultural, economic and environmental technologies, Casa Asia has been given the coordination function by Barcelona City Council. Mr Miquel Mateu from Barcelona City Council and Ms Montserrat Riba from Casa Asia welcomed the Chinese delegation (see picture).



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Meetings at Casa Asia were attended by 14 Spanish representatives from business, R&D and politics and focused on the cooperation areas that had been identified in the first visit to China in May 2015. Meetings in Barcelona continued with a visit to Barcelona Activa and the Innovation District 22@Barcelona. Mr Xavier Tiana, Head of International Relations at Barcelona Metropolitan Area, explained the urban development plan of the region and the multi-level governance schemes in areas like waste management and sewage treatment. The metropolitan area of Barcelona has 4.79 million inhabitants.

The programme in Barcelona ended with a closing session at the City Hall with the Director of the Department of International Relations, Mr Pablo Sánchez. He explained the project based approach of the City Council regarding the World Cities programme. Mr Sánchez mentioned the key priority areas of the urban development plan, including the reduction of traffic congestion through non-motorized solutions, the CO2 neutrality of the city as a mid-term goal, the municipal investments projects towards achieving a higher energy efficiency (public lighting, etc.) and the social economy in an ageing society. Ms Sánchez emphasized the European added-value of cooperating with cities like Dublin within the World Cities project.

The **seventeenth event** organised by the World Cities team was the working visit of Chinese delegates from to the West Midlands and Lyon and took place from 22 – 28 November 2015. A group of 22 government and business officials from the cities Tianjin, Guangzhou and the World Cities Programme visited the **West Midlands** on 22nd – 25th November 2015. They met with over 25 organisations and businesses from Warwickshire, Worcestershire, the Black Country, Staffordshire, Birmingham and Solihull during their stay. They also took in a visit to the Royal Shakespeare Company and Morgan Cars. The mission paved the way for a business fact-finding mission from the West Midlands to China to be implemented in September 2016. The mission will be open to companies from across the WMs and will focus on aerospace, automotive, medical and environmental technologies, although other sectors will be considered.



For a detailed review of all activities, please refer to our website:

http://world-cities.eu/programmes-2/2015-2/china/16_guangzhou-tianjin-in-uk-france/

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From 26 – 28 November 2015, Chinese delegates visited **Lyon**, having a half-day workshop at TUBA, the Urban Test Tube of Lyon. TUBA's mission is to convert big data into new innovative services for areas like mobility, health, energy management, environment, etc. TUBA brings together large companies, start-ups, competitiveness clusters and research laboratories and citizens, ready to test those new services created for them. At TUBA, the general public is considered as an essential link in the creation process since they have a strong say in the experimentation of new services. The 600m² of TUBA are divided into two universes: the ground floor allows the general public to experiment the projects created by start-ups; the first floor is dedicated to innovative small companies and the development of their projects. Meetings were held with innovative start-ups like Evotion (robotics - www.evotion.fr), Navya (autonomous, driverless electric vehicles), Bidul and Co (accessories for smart phones and tablets - www.bidulandco.com), My Blue Ship (smart mobility chips - <http://www.myblue-ship.com/>) and Forcity (3D modelling services for urban development - www.forcity.com/).



Meetings in Lyon also included field visits to Smart Electric Lyon, a project of the French electricity company EDF. The initiative is Europe's biggest experiment on the electric systems of the future and aims to carry out a large scale test of a wide range of solutions to manage electricity consumption, make homes more comfortable and enable companies and local authorities to grow. The solutions include new heating, cooling, lighting and remote-controlled equipment, as well as innovative digital solutions.



On the last day, Chinese experts visited Lyon Confluence, one of Europe's largest urban development projects. The area comprises 150 hectares and the 12th phase involves more than 1,1 billion Euro. The urban development plan involves most renowned urban planners. <http://www.lyon-confluence.fr/en/urban-project/key-figures.html>

The **eighteenth** activity organised with China was the closing conference of World Cities in Shantou that also included a three-day visit to Chengdu. The event took place from 14 – 20

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March 2016 and was attended by 27 European experts of all four pilot cities. The final event in Shantou was attended by more than 100 Chinese representatives from all Chinese pilot cities. The whole event was attended by the Director General of DG REGIO, Dr Walter Deffaa, as well as by the Principal Advisor for International Relations, Dr Ronald Hall.

Highlight of the visit to **Chengdu** was the signature of an MoU between Fira de Barcelona and Tianfu New District for exploring the possible implementation of the Smart City World Congress Project in Tianfu in 2017. The MoU – signed within the China-EU regional economic cooperation mechanism – specifies steps to be undertaken during the next months in order to finalize negotiations during the Smart City World Congress to take place in Barcelona in November 2016. Tianfu New Area is one of the most innovative city development in China and involves a territory of 1.578 km².



The conference in **Shantou** was informed of the progress made under the different pairings between the EU and Chinese cities, respectively. For Barcelona-Chengdu/Wuhan the focus has been on projects in the fields of smart city development, support to SMEs and innovation and academic education and research. For Dublin/Fingal-Chengdu/Wuhan the key themes concern smart city development, university and research and green technology and innovation. In the case of West Midlands-Tianjin/Guangzhou key themes are green technologies, infrastructure and smart cities, health care and bio-tech and the organization of a British Week within the Tianjin International Trade Fair. For Lyon-Guangzhou the exchanges cover cooperation on business start-ups, smart city technologies and cluster promotion. For Andalucía–Shantou, the main themes are ICT solutions, green buildings, renewable energies, urban design, cloud-based HR management and sea port development.



Mr Deffaa concluded his keynote speech by speaking of future prospects for EU-China cooperation. He said, "*The World Cities project is being followed from this year onwards by a larger, more ambitious International Urban Cooperation Programme to bring together city and regional actors, including the private sector. It will include a specific component for EU-China exchange, and will build on the very concrete, project-centred approach that we have developed together over recent years*".

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4.2. EU-INDIA

The first activity with India was the **Kick-off conference** held in Mumbai on 25 May 2015. The day-long conference served to further strengthen the ties between EU and Mumbai institutions, examined the impact of the Mumbai Partnership, and helped develop the way forward for EU-India cooperation on sustainable urbanisation. In the morning session 30-40 representatives from EU and Indian cities focused on the way forward regarding Mumbai's Development Plan, waste management, wastewater management, and the development of business districts. The afternoon session was open to a larger audience of more than 100 persons.



The conference was attended by representatives from the state and local governments, planning agencies, development authorities, private sector, non-governmental organisations, consulates, universities, consulting firms, and other stakeholders. The EU was represented by H.E. the EU Ambassador to India, Dr Joao Cravinho and Dr W Deffaa, Director General of DG REGIO, besides other senior officials and EU experts. **Mr. Deffaa said**, *"In both India and the EU, we realise that that **our policies** for economic and social development will be successful only if they are **successful in our cities**. This is why it is important that we share our knowledge and experience on urban policy, and our examples of good practice in fields such as urban transport, energy efficiency, urban-rural relations and good urban governance. EU regional and urban policy invests over 50 billion euros annually in supporting European regions and cities and we, on our side, are keen to share the results of this experience. Our aim is to build a long-term cooperation platform between the EU and India in an effort to address more effectively the major urbanisation challenges of the 21st century."*



H. E. Dr João Cravinho, Ambassador of the European Union, thanked the Government of Maharashtra and Mumbai First for their support and shared the desire to continue building a genuine partnership on sustainable urbanisation between Indian institutions and the EU. *"Urbanization is emerging as a global issue including India. The challenges on water, waste, energy and mobility need to be addressed with appropriate policies, planning, governance and infrastructure – in that order. These are some of the areas where Europe's strength is undisputed. Europe has a lot to offer for India's Smart City agenda and we are convinced that the European Union can be a unique partner for India. We believe that the World cities project can be a strong showcase of our joint actions,"* he said.

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This conference included a keynote speech by Mr. Pedro Ortiz, Senior Urban Planner on Concepts of Metropolitan Management & Planning Considerations about Mumbai, as well as panel discussions on Mumbai Metropolitan Region & Future Urban Planning and Business Opportunities for Smart Cities & Environmental Projects.

Meetings at Mumbai and Navi-Mumbai

After the conference, working meetings took place in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai for three days. Delegates from Stuttgart and Lazio were divided into two groups in order to learn from hands-on experiences of their Indian colleagues. They were taken to the City & Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra (CIDCO) in Navi-Mumbai as well as to the Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA). Meetings at CIDCO focused on developing the Navi-Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area (NAINA). The idea of developing NAINA pivots on eliciting participation and contribution of private landowners in developing infrastructure. CIDCO intends to play the role of facilitator encouraging land aggregation, planned development and creation of physical infrastructure thro' funds raised from sale of private lands obtained through NAINA Scheme, a voluntary participatory model of development.

On behalf of Mauro Annunziato, who could not attend the meeting, Mr Andrea Romagnoli from the regional innovation agency of Lazio introduced the Joint Programme Smart City of the European Energy Research Alliance (ENEA). The programme is an integrated roadmap from energy efficiency to smart city, aiming at achieving smart cities through smart communities. Mr Romagnoli introduced the map of smart city projects of ENEA in Italy, highlighting the lumiere network, the smart district model "The Casaccia" and the urban networks "Res Novae".

Mr Robert Schulze-Dieckhoff, urban planner at the City of Stuttgart, introduced the experiences of Stuttgart regarding the different levels of spatial planning. After a brief introduction of Stuttgart's regional population (2.7 million inhabitants, ¼ of in Stuttgart City) and urbanization figures (88.9 % urban-rural ratio), he gave an overview of spatial planning in Germany and the European context. Mr Schulze-Dieckhoff gave some examples of the multi-level-governance between national, regional and municipal levels regarding planning issues. The Regional Plan of Stuttgart Region and the Urban Development Strategy at the municipal level were discussed with colleagues from Mumbai and Navi-Mumbai. Moreover, discussions focused on the sustainable management of building areas as well as on environmental aspects of spatial planning.



Mr Carlo Rossi from Regione Lazio introduced some basic facts about the Lazio region, one of the most developed of Italy and Europe. The region accounts for more than 10% of Italian GDP (the country's 2nd largest) and is inhabited by 5.7 million people. Research is a key area of

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development and there are more than 228.000 students. Mr Rossi gave an overview of some key industries including aviation (250 companies employing more than 30.000 people), biotechnology (230 companies employing over 18.000 people) and environmental technologies. One of the Lazio's major strengths is represented by its network of industrial districts and local production systems.

Meetings in Chandigarh

In parallel to the meetings in Mumbai and Navi-Mumbai, meetings in Chandigarh were held between Mr Neelabh Singh from the CLEAN Cluster and representatives of the public administration led by Mr Shri Vijay Dev, IAS Adviser to the Administrator. CLEAN is the strongest cleantech cluster in Denmark and the result of a merger between Lean Energy Cluster and Copenhagen Cleantech Cluster. It is a politically and technologically neutral platform for the development of new cleantech solutions in Denmark. It supports new innovative partnerships between Danish and foreign companies, knowledge institutions, organisations and public authorities. Mr Singh mentioned that CLEAN has over 175 members from the entire cleantech sector cooperating on a triple-helix approach. Regarding India, CLEAN has launched a cooperation towards depolluting the Mithi River in Mumbai, building a consortium of 7 companies in coordination with the Indian specialised agencies (IIT, MMRDA, MPCB, NEERI).



Indian experts introduced Chandigarh, a middle-size city and a union territory in northern part of India that serves as the capital of the states of Haryana and Punjab. As a union territory, the city is ruled directly by the Union Government of India. Chandigarh was the first planned city in India post-independence in 1947 and was known internationally for its architecture and urban design (planned by Le Corbusier). Today, Chandigarh has a population approx. 960.787 inhabitants (Census 2011). Mr Santosh Kumar from the Environmental Department introduced Chandigarh's green city approach, including vast investments on solar energy and waste management.

CLEAN and Indian counterparts agreed on cooperating in three issues:

- ✓ Waste to Wealth with decentralized waste disposal
- ✓ Non-motorized urban transport with special emphasis on Chandigarh as pedestrian city, bicycle track and non-polluting vehicle like battery operated vehicles
- ✓ Upgrading the existing sewage treatment plant

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The **second activity** of the World Cities project for the cooperation with India was the **follow-up visit** by Indian experts to Europe. The programme was designed for **twenty Indian** representatives of local and regional authorities from the twinning cities of Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune and Chandigarh. Delegates were experts in different issues of regional and urban development including urban planning, transportation and environmental protection. The event consisted of a **one-week visit to Europe** including the European capital Brussels and the corresponding European twinning cities or regions (Copenhagen, Stuttgart and Lazio) and took place from **11 – 17 October 2015** (for delegates from Mumbai, Navi-Mumbai, Pune) and from **25 – 31 October 2015** (for delegates from Chandigarh). This was due to the fact that DG REGIO and GIZ agreed to implement the programme during the Open Days in EU Regional and Urban Policy, the most important annual event of the European Commission on urban and regional development that took place from 12 - 14 October 2015. Delegates from Chandigarh could not join this mission due to an official visit of UNESCO's International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) to assess the city's efforts while bidding to get world heritage status for the Capitol Complex.

Visit 1 – Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Pune in Brussels, Stuttgart and Lazio

The delegation consisted of 15 representatives from the following key organisations:

- ✓ Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) – 3 representatives
- ✓ Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) – 3 representatives
- ✓ Navi Mumbai City & Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) – 3 representatives
- ✓ Mumbai Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport (BEST) – 2 representatives
- ✓ Mumbai Transformation Support Unit (MTSU) – 1 representative
- ✓ Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) – 1 representative
- ✓ Mumbai First (MF) – 1 representative

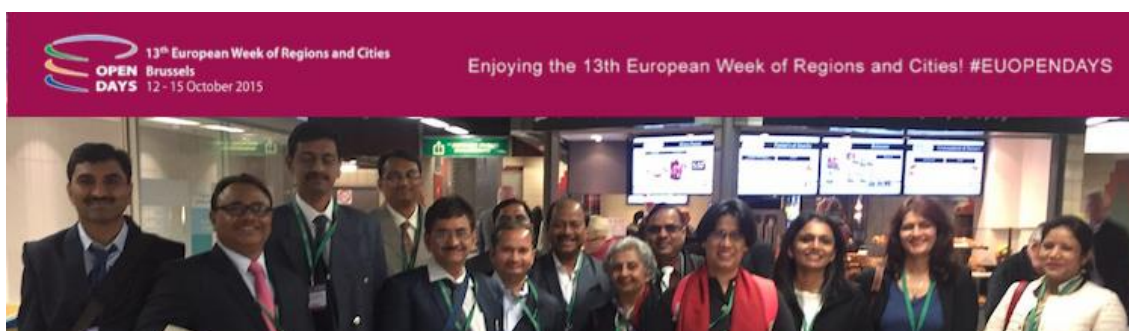
Visit to Brussels

On Monday 12 October participants attended presentations in **Brussels** on the structure of the European Union and discussed the latest developments regarding the World Cities programme. The half-day session started with an introduction by the project coordinator Mr Pablo Gándara to the European Union. The presentation included the basics of the EU (establishment, objectives, policies, programmes, etc.) as well as detailed information on the cohesion policy (including the regional innovation and urban development agenda). This session was co-moderated by Ambassador Juan Prat y Coll, former Director General of DG RELEX and currently Senior Adviser to the World Cities programme, who gave his views on the decision making process of the EU and the cooperation possibilities especially with India. Mr Panagiotis Karamanos – World Cities Senior Advisor in India – contextualized discussions within the broader EU-India urban and environmental cooperation agenda.

In the next two days (13-14 Oct), the delegation attended a number of sessions within the EU Open Days, on issues like smart cities, development, financing, etc.

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The key event that delegates attended was the **World Cities Workshop** that took place on 13 October 2015. The workshop (*“International cooperation in urban and regional development: the experience of the World Cities Project”*) offered a great chance for Indian experts to learn and share experiences on urban and regional development with colleagues from European and non-European countries. Eight city representatives from the EU, India, China, Japan and Canada participated at workshop celebrated that showcased selected experiences in the areas of regional economic cooperation and urban development, giving participants an insight into the actions of local and regional authorities towards supporting the internationalisation of their cities or regions. Experiences were commented by UN HABITAT within the “UN Post-2015 Agenda” framework. The workshop was moderated by DG REGIO’s Principal Advisor for International Relations Dr Ronald Hall.

In his opening remarks, DG REGIO’s Director General Dr Walter Deffaa drew attention to the global urbanisation challenge, mentioning that 95% of the rapid urban population growth will take place in emerging countries outside the EU. He said, *“(...) this new wave of urbanisation brings additional pressure on policymakers at a global level to ensure that it is managed in a sustainable and inclusive way”*. Mr Deffaa emphasised the experience of European cities and regions in delivering rapid growth and balanced territorial development, a key issue in emerging countries.



Ms Uttama Fulzele from the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority focused on the challenge of developing growth centres outside the main city in order to decongest traffic. She stated that the EU has a valuable experience to contribute, especially regarding the role of multi-level-governance within metropolitan areas.

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Mr Neelabh Singh from the CLEAN Cluster in Denmark focused on the core areas identified for cooperation with Chandigarh, including waste to energy, non-motorized transportation and sewage treatment. He emphasized that pilot actions are developed with a self-sustained approach that ensures success beyond the World Cities project's life cycle. Therefore, a triple-helix approach is crucial.

Indian delegates took the opportunity to visit further seminars during the EU Open Days around following themes:

- ✓ *Modernizing Europe: The regions in the Energy Union and the Single Digital Market.* This sub-theme presented an opportunity to discuss how the new programmes and projects can help to make the EU the world number one in renewable energy and energy efficiency and create a vibrant knowledge-based society.
- ✓ *Regions open for business: SME development, innovation and job creation.* This sub-theme provided an opportunity for an exchange of experience in this field covering the best practices in the conception and implementation of SME aid schemes and how to foster innovative capacity in SMEs, including links to Smart Specialization Strategies and how regions can develop more micro enterprises.
- ✓ *Places and spaces: Urban and rural development, urban-rural integration.* This sub-theme focused on how EU regional and urban programs can promote more balanced territorial development, how to promote rural competitiveness and reduce the rural-urban drift of population. C
- ✓ *Cohesion policy and financing opportunities for urban development in two tier cities.* The discussion was mainly on the EU Energy Union agenda and low carbon economy opportunities with ESIF, Europe's general investment framework; opportunities for 2 tier cities, Attractive cities for Active residents; Negotiating approach to local participation and Supporting partnership in urban development
- ✓ *Open Agile Smart Cities.* The discussion gave an insight into the initiatives of the EU to create Smart Cities, with a participation of 61 cities from Europe as well as Asia pacific. The main priorities of the program are providing the participant cities with technical support, network support and fundraising (Angel City Investors).
- ✓ *Bio based products for growth and jobs in the EU: the role of regions in boosting the bio- and circular economy*
- ✓ *How to modernize transport services through a smart combination of Innovation Procurement and ICT.*

Summing-up, the Open Days event provided a platform for the Indian Planners to understand the European Union's Regional and Urban Policy, their development plans for creation of Smart Cities and their models for sustainable urban development.

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b. Meetings with delegates from Lazio

Meetings with representatives from Lazio took place in Bologna and Milan. This was due to the fact that Regione Lazio took the chance to show Indian experts its presence at the World Exhibition in Milan (<http://www.lazioexpo2015.it/?l=eng>). In Bologna, the Indian delegates had meeting with the ENEA (Atomic and Alternative Energy Agency), which is an Italian national agency dealing with the development of new technologies, energy and sustainable economic development. The meeting included presentations from ENEA, Mumbai First, Pune Municipal Corporation and MTSU. Indian delegates were briefed on how specific Italian regions effectively implement smart city initiatives. During the meeting it was discussed that Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) shall examine the possibility of sharing the draft development plan for Pune and the Regional Plan for smart cities with ENEA, so that experts can provide their comments and inputs and to identify the key areas for further collaboration.



The proposed points of collaborations discussed were:

- a) Public Energy and Infrastructure
- b) Platform for Urban Risk Management
- c) Urban Security Framework
- d) Climate Resilience Framework

After concluding the meeting, the Indian delegates had an opportunity to visit the Smart City Exhibition in Bologna and World Expo in Milan. The expo was massive and amazing as glimpses of cities across the globe showcasing regional strength were displayed. A special session was organized introducing the Lazio region.



The three representatives from Pune Municipal Corporation mentioned: *"We thank the organisers very much for the site visits and the informative discussions at Bologna and Milano and exposure to European Commission's work in Brussels. Certainly we look forward to cooperation in our areas."*

Visit to Stuttgart

The meetings in Stuttgart, which also took place during October 15 and 16, were coordinated by the City Council. Mr Peter Pätzold, Deputy Mayor for Urban Development and Environmental Protection, chaired a discussion round with the directors of the departments for Urban Development, Environmental Affairs, Mobility and International Relations. Participants included also the Indian Consulate in Stuttgart as well as the Robert Bosch Foundation and the University of Stuttgart. During three-hour discussion round, nine Indian delegates from Mumbai, Navi-Mumbai and Pune expressed their views on potential cooperation possibilities with Stuttgart. Experts from Stuttgart gave insights into the urban planning process, urban renewal projects, environmental monitoring and sustainable mobility programmes, which are undertaken to streamline the city's future growth.



According to the Indian delegates, it was interesting to note that the city council itself has international relations program, which calls for knowledge share and activity exchange with experts all over the world. The following three presentations gave interesting aspects of Urban Planning in Stuttgart:

✓ *Inner Urban Development and Revitalization Strategies:*

Stuttgart was completely destroyed during World War II and the city was regenerated post war, to today's form. However, to ensure sustainable development and to prepare the city for the future, this programmer of Inner Urban Development and revitalization has been initiated. A new land Use Plan was created in 2010, with 350 potential sites of 500 ha area identified for inner urban development. The Stuttgart Model for Inner Development (SIM) aims at Subsidized Public Housing (minimum 20%), Refinancing and Urban Quality.



✓ *Environmental Aspects in Sustainable Urban Development*

A very interesting aspect of the Stuttgart Urban Planning is the focus given on Environmental issues. Considering the city's lenience towards automotive industries as well as preference for travel by car, a separate Department for Environmental protection is in place, which takes care of the Environmental aspects required for sustainable urban development. The Dept. takes care of Nature conservation, Soil protection, Water Protection, Noise control, Urban Climatology and Energy management.

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✓ *Sustainable Mobility – Strategies and Challenges:*

Stuttgart has a road network of 1400KM, 6 Metro Lines, 16 LRT Lines, 56 Bus Lines and 1 million public transport uses per day. The city has 160 KM of Cycle Paths and has set up a Public bikes rental system with 400 bikes and 100 pedicles. It has also been promoting Car Sharing and has been named as the world's leading car sharing city. The current modal split is Cars 45%, Pedestrian 26%, Public Transport 24 %, Bicycles 5%. The city aims to increase the pedestrian and cycle percentages by recovering space for pedestrians and cyclists by taking public transport underground, thus creating a new mobility culture with short distances and network of cycle routes.

Delegates also visited Stuttgart 21, Germany's largest infrastructure project that aims at increasing railway attractiveness, contributing to an effective modal shift from road to rail. On the environmental side, the project will lead to less CO₂, fewer fine particulates and lower energy consumption. The additional capacities generated by the new railway will also benefit freight traffic. The estimated costs of the project are about € 6 billion.



Ms Geetha Pillai from Navi Mumbai's CIDCO stated *"Stuttgart 21, the ongoing railway and urban development project in Stuttgart is one of the most interesting things happening on urban development front in Stuttgart (...) When I left Stuttgart, it was with a heavy heart, though at the same time I felt thankful to our hosts for selecting this unique city to be twinned with Mumbai and thus giving me the opportunity to visit Stuttgart"*.

Visit 2 – Chandigarh to Brussels and Copenhagen

A high level delegation from Chandigarh visited Brussels and Copenhagen from 26 – 30 October 2015. Delegates were:

- ✓ Mr. Vijay Kumar Dev, Adviser to administrator, UT Chandigarh
- ✓ Mr Vikram Dev Dutt, Secretary (Environment & Forests), UT Chandigarh
- ✓ Mr Santosh Kumar, Director (Environment) & CCF, UT Chandigarh
- ✓ Ms Bhawna Garg, Commissioner, Chandigarh Municipal Corporation
- ✓ Mr Prince Dhawan, Director (IT), UT Chandigarh

Meetings in Brussels included the European Commission (DG REGIO and DG ENER). Dr Ronald Hall, Principal Advisor for International Relations at DG REGIO, explained to Indian experts the basics of EU cohesion policy as well as the key investment areas. He underlined the importance of international cooperation for European cities and regions, especially with strategic

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partner countries like India. Mr Hall mentioned the role of the European Parliament in supporting this venture and gave some insights to possible future cooperation areas.

The leader of the Chandigarh delegation, Mr Vijay Kumar Dev, explained the main challenges of Chandigarh on environmental management (solid waste, sewage treatment) and urban transportation (multimodality with a focus on bicycles and pedestrians, public transportation). He also explained Chandigarh's role in the upcoming Smart City Initiative to be launched by the Indian Government early 2016.



After that meeting, Indian delegates had the chance to meet Mr Pedro Ballesteros, responsible for International Cooperation at DG ENER. Conversations focused on the role of local authorities in India when developing and implementing activities related to climate change mitigation, adaptation and access to energy. Mr Ballesteros explained EU's greenhouse gas reduction goals as well as the negotiations within the COP21. Indian delegates explained the pioneer role of Chandigarh as a model solar city in India. Mr Santosh Kumar from the Environmental Department introduced Chandigarh's green city approach, including vast investments on solar energy and waste management.



Delegates then travelled to Copenhagen where they held talks on Copenhagen Climate Plan 2025 and Adaptation strategies with Ms Monica Magnussen and Mr Ander Edstrand – Technical & Environmental Administration.

Ms Magnussen introduced the growing city's population (570.000 at the core, 1 million in the metropolitan area) that increases at a rate of approx. 1.000 inhabitants per month. Copenhagen, the world fastest city in CO2 emissions reduction, aims to reduce CO2 emissions by an additional 20% between 2015 and 2025 in order to become the world's first carbon neutral capital by 2025. The EU Green Capital 2014 features also a very high cycling share in the total traffic (46% - goal 50% by 2025). Ms Magnussen explained key measures to support this goal, including integrated parking areas and smart city solutions. Regarding climate change, Copenhagen has reduced CO2 emissions by 35% since 2004 and is willing to support other cities to do so within the COP21 meeting. It is crucial to support cities on their urban diplomacy since it is them and not nations who act at the local level. Discussions focused on district heating, district cooling, wind energy, the clean harbour of Copenhagen and the inclusive

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approach to urban life, including business (green procurement and *walk the talk* – prohibition to city officials to drive by their own cars to meetings).

Talks with colleague Anders Edstrand centred on climate change adaptation, since Copenhagen has a 5-year record on implementation of the sectoral strategy. After a cloudburst with extreme rainfall



2011, the city implemented a series of infrastructure measures like building better drainage systems by improving their access to the harbour. Pluvial flooding adaptive measures in Copenhagen must combine solutions which make the city greener and blue by draining off rainwater at ground level. Tunnel solutions will be used in those parts of the city where no opportunities exist for drainage solely at ground level. Mr Edstrand explained the volume of the cloudburst management plan with investments of 1.5 bn. Euros in more than 300 projects. Investment will avoid estimated damages of more than 2 bn. Euro and will be pre-financed through a specific water tax.

Ms Ida Bode focused on the waste management system of Copenhagen that aims to become the waste neutral by 2050. She focused on the economic use of waste as a resource and on the need to make more with less. For example, organic waste is rich in the vital nutrient phosphorus; waste electronics contain increasingly scarce metals such as aluminium and copper. In the incineration or landfilling of waste these valuable resources are lost. Discussions with Indian experts centred on the possible support of Copenhagen Municipality to Chandigarh on waste management, including technology solutions from Danish companies.



In the next days, delegates had the chance to absolve field visits were designed around three areas:

1. Waste to Resource
2. Non-motorized transportation
3. Sewage treatment

The visits included:

1. The world famous urban planning office Gehl Architects (<http://gehlarchitects.com/>)
2. Gamle Mursten, an innovative Danish company recycling bricks (EU awarded)

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<http://www.gamlemursten.dk/uk>

3. Biofos, the largest environmental company within wastewater treatment in Denmark (<http://www.biofos.dk/>)
4. The engineering company Ramboll with discussions on Non-Motorized Transportation, Sewage and Sludge Treatment and Waste treatment (<http://www.ramboll.com/>).
5. Vestforbrænding, Denmark's largest waste management company (www.vestfor.dk).
6. The Cycling Embassy of Denmark (<http://www.cycling-embassy.dk/>)



During the meetings delegates focused on the above mentioned pilot cooperation areas with the aim to achieve concrete projects with cleantech and urban development.

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The **last event** organised with India was a **mission of European delegates** to their pairing cities in India (18-22 January 2016) and the participation at the **final conference** in Mumbai (23 January 2016). The programme of the visit to India was designed for European representatives of local and regional authorities that were accompanied by representatives of relevant business sectors. The event consisted of working visits in Chandigarh, Pune, Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.

European experts delivered lectures based on their practical experiences on sustainable urban and regional development. They also visited relevant projects in order to strengthen their cooperation within the World Cities project and develop an agenda for future collaboration.

Cities involved and programme design

Representatives from the European cities of Rome (Region of Lazio), Stuttgart, Copenhagen and Málaga/Sevilla (Andalucía Samrt City Cluster) debated with colleagues from Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune and Chandigarh about their cooperation projects in the area of smart and green development as well as on innovation and the promotion of mutual economic exchange.

The programme started with a three-day visit to Chandigarh for all European delegates from the 4 pairing cities or city regions (Stuttgart, Copenhagen, Lazio and Andalucía). The pairing city of Chandigarh within the World Cities programme is Copenhagen, but EU representatives from Lazio and Stuttgart were also able to exchange views on their perspectives to the pilot areas of cooperation.

The visit to Chandigarh included **field visits** to following areas:

1. Sewage treatment. Chandigarh city has a well-planned underground network of pipes for the disposal of sewerage generated in the city. The sewerage system of the city has been designed by taking into account the natural slope of the city, which is from north to south. Chandigarh is fully covered with sewerage facility. Out of 87 MGD water being supplied to the residents of the city, 57 MGD sewage effluent is being generated. It is on the way of becoming the only city in India with 100% sewage treatment in the near future.



2. Energy Efficiency. Chandigarh Solar City. A “solar city” is an urban area that aims to: a) reduce dependence on fossil fuels for its energy needs, and b) limit emission levels to sustainable levels even while maintaining the desired socio-economic development growth.

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Delegates were able to visit a solar photovoltaic power generation facility in the roof top at Chandigarh University.



3. Mobility and Smart City: The visit will include the Capital Complex (applying for UNESCO world heritage status) and many projects in that area. Chandigarh Administration has promoted the use of battery operated vehicles by providing subsidies. A multilevel parking at the centre of the city has been at the verge of completion to promote vehicular free zones and control over vehicular density on the roads. Chandigarh is strictly following the smoke free city concept and practicing on the spot challans for the offenders. A concept of Metro transport has been approved for the city to promote public transport and control the vehicular air emissions. The construction of new and connecting the available inter-sector bicycle tracks is proposed to promote emission free, and healthy environment.



After the field visits, delegates attended a workshop headed by Mr Vikram Dev Dutt, Secretary for Transport and Environment at UT Chandigarh. The meeting also involved high level experts, including the Commissioner of Chandigarh's Municipal Corporation, Mr B Purushartha, as well as the Chief Engineer, the Chief Architect, the Chief Conservator Forests & Director Environment, the Project Director for Intelligent Transportation Systems and the Director for Solar City developments. Delegates discussed about urban development (smart city, non-motorised transportation), environmental technologies (sewage and waste treatment) and climate change (mitigation, adaptation, energy saving).

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After meetings in Chandigarh, delegates travelled to Mumbai, the capital city of the Indian state of Maharashtra. Mumbai is the most populous city in India and the eighth most populous city in the world, with an estimated city population of 18.4 million. The pairing city for Mumbai within the World Cities project is Stuttgart, one of the key engines of European economic and green development.

The Director General of DG REGIO, Dr Walter Deffaa – who then joined the mission for the last 3 days -, and the Deputy Major of Stuttgart, Dr Martin Schairer, met with the Metropolitan Commissioner of Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) Shri. Urvinder Pal Singh Madan, IAS. Talks focused on potential cooperation in areas including urban design, environmental technologies for sewage and waste treatment, traffic and mobility solutions as well as cooperation on economic development (start-ups, innovation). Mr Deffaa then met with Mr Pratap Padode, Founder & Director of the Smart City Council of India (<http://india.smartcitiescouncil.com/>). Mr Padode informed about the potentials of wider smart city cooperation between India and Europe and the smart city area. As an example, he explained the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai (<https://mmrda.maharashtra.gov.in/smart-bkc>).



Mr Deffaa – who was supported through the entire mission by DG REGIO's Principal Advisor Dr Ronald Hall – then met with Ms. Ashwini Bhide, Managing Director of Mumbai Metropolitan Rail Corporation. During the meeting, Ms Bhide explained the construction works of the metro line in Mumbai. She expressed her gratitude to the EU Commission for inviting two experts of the rail corporation to learn from best practices in Europe in October 2015.



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EU Commission experts then met with Mr. Sanjay Bhatia, Vice Chairman & Managing Director of CIDCO (Navi Mumbai's urban planning agency). After a bilateral meeting in which he informed DG REGIO about cooperation with Lazio and further cities, Mr Bhatia explained to a wider audience of representatives from consulates and chambers of commerce the smart city plan of Navi Mumbai as well as the potentials for cooperation with European cities and companies.

Working meetings in Mumbai also included a workshop at MMRDA with Mr. Sanjay Sethi, Additional Metropolitan Commissioner. The objective of the meeting – that was attended by 7 experts from the Stuttgart delegation including Deputy Major Dr. Martin Schairer – was to discuss cooperation in the pilot areas identified so far between Stuttgart and Mumbai, namely environmental database and urban development.



At the same time, delegates from **Lazio** also visited their pairing city of Navi Mumbai, developed in 1972 as a new urban township of Mumbai. Delegates from **Andalucía Smart City Cluster** were conducting a visit to Pune, having meetings with experts from the Pune Municipal Corporation as well as with companies involved in smart city development activities. They also interacted with a delegation of Karlsruhe that was having a bilateral smart city event with Pune authorities. Delegates from **Copenhagen** stayed in Chandigarh until one day before the closing conference.

The programme ended with the **closing conference** of the World Cities project that took place in cooperation with the Stuttgart-Meets-Mumbai event. Representatives from the European cities of Rome, Stuttgart, Copenhagen and Andalucía Smart City Cluster debated with colleagues from Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune and Chandigarh about their cooperation projects in the area of smart and green development.

During the conference, experts agreed that India and EU cities have to focus their future urban development on strengthening attractiveness by putting people at the centre of any smart city development. According to the Director General of the EU Commission's DG REGIO, Dr Walter Deffaa, *"The EU model is well suited for India's structure because the relationship between the EU and its Member States is in many ways similar to that between the Indian Government and the Indian states. The frameworks are being established at the European level, but the implementation is done by each Member State in the way that best suit their individual situation"*.



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Dr Deffa stated that the European Union can facilitate the involvement of all the European companies who are well-known for their technological strength. And also on the policy level Europe has a lot to contribute to the Indian urbanisation process. He also mentioned that the World Cities project will followed from mid-2016 by a larger programme on International Urban Cooperation, a platform to bring together city/regional stakeholders including the private sector from the EU and India to exchange experience and know-how. The conference was attended by around **100 participants** from the pilot European and Indian cities as well as by representatives from public administration, the business and research communities from Mumbai. The conference took place in cooperation with the *Stuttgart meets Mumbai* event.



Dr Martin Schairer, Deputy Mayor City of Stuttgart, mentioned that his city – an industrial hub in Europe – is doing great efforts to become carbon neutral by 2050. He also pointed out that talks conducted with several institutions in Mumbai during the last few days have further strengthened concrete cooperation projects between both cities. He also expressed his gratitude to the Indian Honorary Consul in Stuttgart Mr Andreas Lapp for inviting Stuttgart and the EU World Cities project to participate at the Stuttgart-meets-Mumbai event held on 22 and 23 January 2016 in Mumbai.

Dr Ronald Hall, Principal Advisor for International Relations at DG REGIO, mentioned that the project has provided Indian and European participants with valuable first-hand experience in regional development and sustainable urban development issues in both regions. It has also set the scene for sustainable future cooperation. Concrete projects have been introduced in the areas of non-motorised transportation, sewage treatment, waste management, smart cities development, environmental protection and climate change mitigation / adaptation. The World Cities project represents a significant contribution to the 'Mumbai Partnership'– which was established between the European Union (EU), Mumbai First, government agencies and other stakeholders in order to address the challenges of urbanisation in Mumbai.

During the panel discussion on green city development, participants exchanged views regarding low carbon development and renewable energies. The head of Stuttgart Environmental Department, Dr Hans-Wolf Zirkwitz, mentioned that his city reached a pic renewables share of 83% in August 2015. He also focused on the role of public awareness measures to communicate to citizens the positive results of green city development. Mr Soren Hanson from the engineering company Ramboll



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referred to importance of a long term strategy for larger environmental and urban development projects. He stated that the city of Copenhagen has made huge efforts to attract private investment in green development projects. Ms Uttama Fulzele from MMRDA gave some examples of environmental investments planned by her institution in the coming years. The city of Chandigarh was represented at the meeting by Mr Singh, who explained the progress of the pilot projects identified in the bilateral cooperation with Copenhagen in the areas of sewage and waste management as well as in non-motorised transportation.

During the panel discussion on the smart city, Mr Riccardo Marini from Gehl Architects stated that successful urban development projects focus on the people, rather than on high-end technologies. He also recognised the efforts made by the city of Chandigarh in involving its citizens in deliberations on urban development and emphasised that smart city is about people and for people. The director of urban planning at Stuttgart city, Dr Detlef Kron, explained the city efforts on sustainable urban mobility and the integrated traffic management system. Stuttgart is making considerable efforts in retrofitting building stock from the 1950s and 1960s in order to cope with the CO2 emissions' reduction goals. Ms Geetha Pillai from CIDCO in Navi Mumbai mentioned is currently constructing more than 30 km of exclusive cycling roads in order to promote non-motorised transportation. Mr Daniel González from Andalucía Smart City cluster focused on the well-being of citizens through concrete smart city initiatives and mentioned some best practices on future urban transportation from Málaga (ZEM2ALL and VICTORIA). Ms Rachele Nocera from ENEA Italy explained some smart-city projects in Rome to protect critical infrastructure as well as to improve energy efficiency in public lightning.



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5. MEDIA COVERAGE

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. Therefore, the working team ensured extensive coverage of the training activities in Europe and China, including newspapers as well as appearances on TV. This coverage was a key to give visibility to the programme as well as raise local awareness in the cities and regions involved. Press coverage can be accessed at the project website: <http://world-cities.eu/sample-page/press-coverage/>. Here we present some pictures and screenshots of this coverage:

India: Coverage of the visit to Chandigarh (January 2016)



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TV appearances in Shantou News on 19 and 20 March 2016 (EU-China Meetings)

汕头将与欧盟开展多领域深层次合作 2016-03-19

2016-03-19 20:56



中欧区域政策高层研讨会在我市举行 2016-03-19

2016-03-19 20:57



汕头新闻 今日视线 唐边头尾 生活帮 消费一线 潮汕风 美食潮 双

中欧区域政策高层研讨会在我市举行 2016-03-19

2016-03-19 20:57



携手西班牙 建设智慧城市 2016-03-20

2016-03-20 21:20



TV appearances in Wuhan News on 15 April 2016 (Catalonia automotive cluster)

发布时间：2016年04月15日 19:06 | 进入复兴论坛 | 来源：央视网 | 手机看新闻 | 手机看视频



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6. DISSEMINATION, METHODOLOGY, WEBSITE AND DOCUMENTATION

GIZ aimed at achieving further value added of the information sessions by granting access of their results to a broad audience. The explicit aim of the project was to spur public discussion and to establish cooperation networks between the regions involved in the sessions and the respective partner country. In order to achieve these goals, GIZ involved the local press. Some examples of press coverage can be seen in this report in section four.

GIZ was always committed to ensuring visibility of the European Commission's regional policy dialogue with China. Moreover, it made clear to the Chinese delegates that they had to play a key role in the design of further training activities and that GIZ would made contents' proposals depending on the experiences and expectations of the dialogue partners. GIZ was also keen to explain the role of the European Parliament in providing relevant funding and political support. After each information session, GIZ delivered a technical report comprising the key contents of the sessions and evaluating the implementation.

With regard to methodology, the twinning sessions were based on a mix of lectures, dialogue and study visits which was particularly welcomed by the participants due to their relevance for their future work. The approach included three phases. During the preparatory phase, contents interests and preferences of DG REGIO and the dialogue partners were actively requested by GIZ. Once the schedule had been approved by DG REGIO, participants received preparatory information at least four weeks before training, including an overview of the programme. In all work meetings, participants received an overview of EU regional and urban policy essentials (disparity background, relevant European strategies, funding mechanisms, multi-level governance). Activities in China, India and Europe aimed at showcasing progress in the urban or regional innovation, especially in the areas of green and smart city development. Exchange of experiences among European, Chinese and Indian delegates created an added value and network of knowledge that can be used for future decentralised cooperation.

Field visits in European cities allowed Chinese and Indian delegates to see on the spot the diversity and complexity of regional policy-making in Europe. These field visits also exposed participants to a broad variety of EU funded projects offering them first-hand possibilities to understand their preparation, financing, implementation, management and evaluation. Interactive participation through closing workshops allowed participants to apply the contents of the meetings to their own regional or urban development challenges.

A project's website www.world-cities.eu was launched in January 2015 offering open access to all documentation of the targeted twinning sessions.

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← → ↻ world-cities.eu/countries/china/



World Cities
EU – Third Countries Cooperation on
Urban and Regional Development



A Project of the European Union
Managed by the European Commission (DG REGIO)

PROJECT	中文	COUNTRIES	CITIES	ACTIVITIES	TOPICS	PILOT PROJECTS
				2015 – 2016	EU Open Days	
				2014 – CETREGIO	China	01_Tianjin in Lazio
				2013 – CETREGIO	India	02_EU in China
				2012 – CETREGIO	Canada	03_UK in China
				2011 – CETREGIO	Japan	04_Barcelona & Dublin in China
						05_Italian Week Tianjin
						06_Tianjin in Lyon & Barcelona

China

China, a country more than twice in size and population than the European Union, has undergone an unparalleled development boom in the last decades. Thanks to China's economic

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Walter Deffaa addresses World Cities closing conference in Shantou, China

23/03/2016

On Saturday 19 March 2016, Director General Walter Deffaa addressed the closing conference in Shantou of the EU's highly successful *World Cities* cooperation project. The project, which originates in a proposal of the European Parliament, provides for the pairing of city authorities and actors in Europe with their counterparts in, respectively, China, India, Canada and Japan with the aim of encouraging exchanges of experience and best practices, and the development of joint projects. Participating in the Shantou event were the Chinese cities of Chengdu, Shantou, Tianjin, Guangzhou and Wuhan and their EU counterparts, respectively, Dublin/Fingal (Ireland), Andalucía Smart City (Spain), West Midlands (UK), Lyon (France) and Barcelona (Spain). The project is implemented in China in partnership with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

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7. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Following positive experiences of activities implemented without strong EU financial support are reasons for activities after the project's lifecycle:

- Italian Week in Tianjin 2015 (more than 25 delegates with strong business and R&D presence)
- Guangzhou mission to the West Midlands in June 2015
- Tianjin mission to West Midlands in December 2015
- Barcelona Automotive Cluster visit to Wuhan in April 2016

Several activities have been scheduled for 2016 without financial support of the EU, including:

- West Midlands mission to Tianjin & Guangzhou (Sept 2016)
- Mission of Shantou authorities to Andalucía (July 2016)
- Visit of Chengdu Tianfu authorities to Barcelona for preparing the Smart City Congress in Chengdu in 2017 (October 2016)

8. VISIBILITY AT EU LEVEL

Participation at several EU events including:

- FP7's Dragon-Star event in Brussels aiming to support the Chinese participation in Horizon 2020 (Brussels, April 2015)
- Chinese Cities Seminar on Post-Carbon Cities for a Sustainable and Integrated Urbanisation (Brussels, CoR, April 2015) - speech
- College of Europe conference on European Perspectives on China's New Silk Road – (Brussels, Sept 2015) – speech
- EU Open Days on Regional Policy (Brussels, October 2015)

Meetings with EU Parliamentarians (REGI Committee)

Meetings in Brussels with Mission of China and India to the EU

Visibility through EU website and project website

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9. RESULTS

In this chapter we give an overview on the *state of the art* of cooperation between the involved cities and regions from the European Union, India and China. Whereas the chapters before have reflected about the management part of the project (number of events, quality of events, number of participants, media coverage, dissemination, etc.), success of the World Cities project has to be measured regarding the potential impact that has been achieved. This impact has been channeled through pilot projects that have been identified by the cooperating cities and regions with strong support of the World Cities team.

China: Currently there are **24 Pilot projects between European and Chinese cities** in a wide range of areas including environmental technologies, urban development (smart-city), university & research cooperation, aerospace, health care, agribusiness, food certification, energy efficiency/low carbon development, etc. As of today, 14 MoUs signed (additionally to the more than 20 from the CETREGIO cooperation). Many of them are B2B (e.g. Fira de Barcelona – Tianfu New District for Chengdu Smart City Congress).

India: Currently there are **12 Pilot projects between European and Indian cities** in areas including waste management, sewage treatment, urban development and smart-city development. Although no MoU has been signed so far, there is an established working relation between the pairing cities and a MoU between Chandigarh and Copenhagen (CLEAN Cluster) is currently under preparation. Business cooperation is especially promising in the cooperation between Copenhagen and Chandigarh. The international urban developer GEHL Architects had made a business proposal to the Chandigarh administration. During the meetings early 2016, all relevant stakeholders were involved and are very interested in rapid implementation. The Chandigarh authority is currently discussing the tendering procedure in order to offer a transparent and open approach.

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Overview of the pilot projects

Part 1: EU – China Cooperation

1. Pilot Projects Barcelona – Chengdu / Wuhan

- Issue 1: Smart City Cooperation
 - Fira de Barcelona cooperation with Tianfu New City of Chengdu towards the establishment of Smart City Expo World Congress in China
 - Issue 2: Support to SMEs and Innovation
 - Cooperation between the Catalonian Regional Agency ACCIO and the DRC Sichuan and DRC Wuhan on green city, smart city and industry 4.0.
 - Cooperation between the Association of Small and Middle Size Companies in Catalonia, the Barcelona Design Center and Wuhan and Shantou.
- Issue 3: Academic Education & Research
 - Cooperation between ESCI-UPF School of International Studies, the University of Blanquerna and Wuhan University.
- Issue 4: Automotive sector
 - Mission of Catalonia to Wuhan (April 2016)

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2. Pilot Projects Dublin / Fingal – Chengdu / Wuhan

- Issue 1: Smart City Development
 - Exchange of Dublin smart-city strategy with Chengdu and Wuhan
 - IT SMEs from *The Digital Hub*; software companies *Maithu* and *Pixel Soup*
 - ICT solutions, big-data cooperation: Exchange of best practices (apps, etc) from Dublin, Chengdu and Wuhan
- Issue 2: University and R&D cooperation
 - Dublin City University cooperation with Sichuan and Shantou Universities
 - Institute of Technology Blanchardstown cooperation with Shantou professional training institutions
- Issue 3: Green Technology & Innovation cooperation
 - DCU Cleantech Innovation Campus cooperation with Chengdu Economic & Technology Development Zone (CETDZ)
 - The Green Way cluster with clusters in Wuhan and Chendgu
- Issue 4: Tourism cooperation between Fingal and Chengdu
 - Discussions with Sichuan Province Private Association of Travel Service (SAPTS) and with Chengdu Tourism Bureau towards establishing special tourism routes for Chinese travelers to Europe.

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3. Pilot Projects West Midlands – Tianjin / Guangzhou

- Issue 1: Green (Environmental) Technology Cooperation
 - SMEs missions to Tianjin. Cooperation with the UK-China Biotech Fund
 - Energy Efficiency and Low Carbon Development through District Heating (Keele Univ)
 - Possible support by British Embassy through the UK-China Research and Innovation Partnership Fund (also Newton Fund). Contact with UK Embassy in China
- Issue 2: Infrastructure and Smart City Cooperation
 - Cooperation with Tianjin Airport Economic Area with Wolverhampton Aerospace Cluster & Tianjin Port Free Trade Zone towards
- Issue 3: Health Care and BioTech – the Bridge model
 - Cooperation between WM universities and businesses to access biotech sector in China (includes medical research & technology). -Cooperation of Medilink (UK Medical Association) and Chinese companies
- Issue 4: British Week in Tianjin
 - Tianjin DRC wants to run a this British Week within the Tianjin International Trade fair. Event to include, B2B matching events, cultural activities, lectures & seminars
 - **Next Step: West Midlands Mission to China (Sept 2016):**
<http://www.wmeuropeanservice.eu/china/missions/mission-to-tianjin-guangzhou-24th-september-1st-october-2016>

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4. Pilot Projects Lyon – Guangzhou

- Issue 1: Cooperation of Start-Ups / Clusters
 - Support to start-ups of cluster *LyonFrenchTech* by Guangzhou Development District (GDD) – networking, matching Chinese market
 - Mission to China in June 2015. Following innovative start-ups from Lyon travelled to China:
 - Evotion (robotics - www.evotion.fr),
 - Navya (autonomous, driverless electric vehicles),
 - Bidul and Co (accessories for smart phones and tablets - www.bidulandco.com),
 - My Blue Ship (smart mobility chips - <http://www.myblue-ship.com/>)
 - and Forcity (3D modelling services for urban development - www.forcity.com/).
 - 2 companies involved in follow-mission to China in March 2016
- Issue 2: Smart City Technologies
 - Bringing smart city companies from Lyon to China. Involving Lyon smart-city in the development of the Sino-Singapore Knowledge City in GDD
- Update:
 - The robots company EVOTION (<http://www.evotion.com/fr/>) started a cooperation with the Chinese company ARTIGENT ROBOTICS from Chengdu during the March mission to China.
 - MoUs were signed on tourism cooperation as well as between the Chambers of Commerce of Lyon and Guangzhou.
 - Cooperation envisaged on smart city technologies with Smart Electric Lyon

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5. Pilot Projects Andalucía – Shantou

- Issue 1 – Smart City to Shantou
 - Elaboration of concrete projects for the new coastal city of Zhugang New Town (Huaqiao Xinjin Section of East Coast New Town - the reclamation area).
 - Areas include design of energy-saving buildings, waste and water treatment and waste treatment and smart transportation system
 - 4 Companies from Andalucía visited Shantou:
 - Grupo Desarrolla - Renewable Energy Consultancy www.desarrollaconsultores.com
 - Batch - Bioclimatic Building Architecture – <http://www.batc-h.com/>
 - HRCS - Cloud-based HR Management - www.hracs.es

- Issue 2 – Port Cooperation
 - Visit of Shantou representatives to Málaga in June 2015
 - Promising exchange of ideas and experiences on cruise and cargo
 - Andalucía Smart City Cluster represented the Port of Málaga in Shantou in March 2016 and renewed the interest for this bilateral cooperation

- Next Step: Visit of Shantou delegation to Málaga in June/July 2016. Preparation of report for EU-China Summit in July 2016

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6. Pilot Projects Region of Lazio – Tianjin

- Issue 1 – Port Cooperation
 - Fira di Roma and Tianjin Free Trade Zone are preparing participation of Tianjin at the Italian ports fair.

- Issue 2 – SMEs and Exhibitions
 - In May of 2015, Regione Lazio organized 30 Italian SMEs to participate at the Italian Week of Tianjin International Trade fair. Plans for 2016 include cooperation in ther Tianjin Design Week (also involved 2015).
 - Organisation of side event for Regione Lazio within the China-Italy Innovation Week (November 2015)
 - MoUs signed between Tianjin DRC and Ministry of Economy of Lazio

- Issue 3 – Aeronautic / Aerospace
 - Italian companies (Finmeccanica, Thales, etc.) and Tianjin NDRC and Airport Economic Area officials are preparing a conference in China.

- Issue 4 – Education
 - MoU of Tianjin School of Commerce and Fuiggi School of Hospitality for students' exchange.

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Part 2: EU – China Cooperation

1. Pilot Projects Navi Mumbai (CIDCO) – Lazio

- Issue 1: Review of Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area (NAINA) Interim Development Plan
 - Focus area: Review of economic/social/environmental aspects, urban planning, public participation, regulatory issues, etc.
 - Action: Lazio region to review the NAINA plan and comment on the above focus areas

- Update: In December 2015, Lazio was shortlisted by CIDCO to bid for a Study for Economic Development Planning and Implementation Strategy for City of NAINA. Result not known so far.

- Issue 2: Terms of Reference of the Transportation Study for NAINA
 - Focus area: Review of the Terms of Reference of the Transportation Study of NAINA
 - Action: Lazio has reviewed the TORs and has provided comments

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2. Pilot Projects Navi Mumbai (CIDCO) – Lazio

- Issue 1: MMRDA's Environmental Database
 - Focus Area: Preparation of report on identification of indicators, methodology for set up of the database; software issues, best practices in other regions/countries, etc.
 - Action: Stuttgart to support the development of database.
- Issue 2: Climate Change
 - Focus Area: Preparation of a climate partnership
 - Action: After talks held in January in Mumbai, both sides are still preparing the contents.
- Next step: Participation of Mumbai at the 8th International Congress "Cities for Mobility" from 19–21 June 2016 in Stuttgart

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3. Pilot Projects Chandigarh – Copenhagen

- Issue 1: Sewage treatment
 - Focus area: Upgradation of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and conception of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs): Experts from Copenhagen and Stuttgart presented technical solutions for the upcoming programmes to be launched by the Chandigarh Municipal Commission CMP (workshop with CMP in Chandigarh on 20 January 2016).
 - Action: The Municipal Commissioner travelled to Copenhagen in February 2016 to further discuss concrete tendering procedures. Waiting for approval of Indian national authorities for the new tendering scheme.

- Issue 2: Waste Management and Energy Efficiency:
 - Focus area: The Regional Government of Lazio offered a bilateral cooperation between the municipal corporation AMA - the biggest Italian operator in environmental services and integrated waste management - and the CMP.
 - Regarding energy efficiency, the Italian Energy Efficiency Agency ENEA offered support regarding smart street lighting.

- Issue 3: Urban Development – non motorized transportation
 - Focus Area: Development of pedestrian and cycling areas as pilot projects in sector 35 and/or 17.
 - Action: The international urban developer GEHL Architects (DK) had made a business proposal to the Chandigarh administration (CMP and to the UT Administrator).
 - Update: During the meetings in Chandigarh in January 2016, all relevant stakeholders were involved and are very interested in rapid implementation. The Chandigarh authority is currently discussing the tendering procedure in order to offer a transparent and open approach.
 - Update: MoU between Chandigarh and Copenhagen represented through the CLEAN cluster currently under preparation

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4. Pilot Projects Pune - Andalucía Smart City

Issue 1: Smart city cooperation

- Background: Pune is the only Indian pilot city within the World Cities project that has been selected by the Indian Government in the first 20 cities group for the Smart City programme.
- Focus Area: During talks in Pune, both sides discussed on cooperating in different sectors of the Aundh-Baner-Balewadi (ABB) area, a planned model neighborhood of livability and sustainability. Areas could include:
 - Public infrastructure: Electric buses, ICT solutions for congestion, Smart Parking, etc.
 - Environment: Waste water recycling.
 - Energy: Smart street lights, smart grids, solar roof tops.
- Update: Andalucía Smart City has made several efforts to receive feedback from the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), but during March-April 2016 no response from PMC has been received. The World Cities team is currently in communication with both sides to improve exchange.

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ANNEX – EXTERNAL EVALUATION

Here we present the summary of the external evaluation to the last project activity in China held in Chengdu and Shantou in March 2016.

OBJETIVES:

This exchange visit has consisted on two "on field" visits to Chengdu (Province) and Shantou (Province) from 14th to 19th, March. At the same time the 11th EU-China High Level Seminar on Regional and Urban Development was celebrated in Shantou on 19th. It was very interesting to visit two so different cities: from Chengdu an inner first level city, modern, big and vibrant to Shantou a coastal second level city, medium-sized and less developed.

In this case, the European cities have been: Fingal-Dublin (Ireland), Birmingham-West Midlands (UK), Lyon (France), Barcelona (Spain) and the Andalusian Smart City Cluster (Spain).

The delegation was formed by local representatives, experts and SMEs companies trying to involve the business sector in this kind of exchanges. The main objective of this trip was to share best practices in urban development and to exchange research and innovation experiences in order to future collaborations.

MAIN UNDERLINED ELEMENTS:

- ✓ Better comprehension

In relation to previous experiences I have seen a growing interest to facilitate the dialogue between both sides. In this sense, it is relevant to thank the efforts that European and Chinese representatives have done in order to achieve a better understanding. Some of the European delegations (Barcelona- Feria de Barcelona and Casa Asia- and Lyon) have included in their teams Chinese speakers and also the GIZ team in Beijing with Mr. Shi Xin and Mr. Oscar Prat. Some of the presentations, slides, business cards and documents have been done in both languages helping for a better understanding.

On the other side, some of the Chinese representatives have done their presentations in English. They have English speakers in their staffs and they have also translated their documents into English. So, this evolution on communicative skills has provided a better comprehension between both delegations.

- ✓ Business to business (B2B)

The idea to invite SMEs companies to participate in the project through this exchange visit has been very successful. With the idea of improving a more decentralized cooperation, it has been proposed a business to business dialogue. European and Chinese medium or small companies have had the opportunity to share their experiences and to talk of future collaborations. Often private companies are more agile and flexible than governmental or local authorities, so it is very interesting to include these in this program.

- ✓ Signed agreements

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It should be observed that different agreements or memorandum of understanding have been signed during the visit:

World Smart Cities Congress (Barcelona)- Chengdu: This agreement can open many opportunities to European companies for introducing their products on smart cities in the enormous Chinese market and also to consolidate Barcelona international brand.

Andalusian Smart Cities Cluster-Shantou: This agreement can facilitate to share experiences about smart cities and to increase the relationship between the ports of Malaga and Shantou.

Medilink-Chengdu: In this case Chengdu can be inspired by the Medilink model and also it can give opportunities for British researchers and companies.

Lyon robots-Robits Shantou: Both companies are complementaries, so they can collaborate giving and added value to their products.

✓ EU-EU Cooperation

I would like to highlight another positive result of the programme as it is the cooperation among the European delegates themselves. Obviously this is not the main objective of the programme but it builds a fruitful network of European cities, experts and companies and, without forgetting, helps to build the idea of Europe. There have been invitations and start talk for future collaborations.

✓ Communication impact

The different activities developed during the six days' visit have had a great impact on the local Chinese social media: Interviews, reports, newspapers news, TV news, LinkedIn, etc. showing the importance that the Chinese government is giving to this programme. This media coverage was particularly intense in Shantou. Herein below the link to see it:

<http://world-cities.eu/sample-page/news-2015/china-working-visit-of-european-delegates-14-19-march-2016/>

✓ Lessons learned

Chinese government wants to open their country and to increase the political, economic, cultural and social cooperation. Many Chinese cities are developing new pilot economic areas and they are very interested in attracting European investments, especially those that can offer an added value from the point of view of the knowledge or research. They are offering tax advantages, facilities and infrastructures to be more attractive for foreign investors.

Chinese people are aware of the environmental problems that their fast development is generating. So, they are looking for the European best practices in sustainable and smart cities. The EU-China Partnership on Sustainable Urbanization, signed on 2012, could be a good tool for collaborating in this issue. The Sister Cities initiative can also be a good method to share the environmental challenges from one city to another.

Some of the Chinese representatives demand a more formal and continuous cooperation, building a kind of EU-China platform that can manage these relationships. For example, Mr.

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Zhao Guosheng, from Guangzhou Development District, talked about how to improve mechanisms and institutions and to explore new EU-China cooperation mechanisms and he proposed to establish an EU-China Cooperation Fund. Also, the representative of the Changchun Jingyue High-Tech Industrial Development Zone talked about "to build a communication platform for some organizations such a scientific research, education, culture and social public management institutions in both areas".

It has been a good idea to include some clusters (Andalucía Smart Cities or Medilinks) or associations (Casa Asia) or fairs (Smart Cities World Congress) because they can multiply the results among their many members.

In order to be as efficient as possible, before the exchange visit it is necessary to analyze delegates profiles carefully, especially those coming from the business sector in order to know its interests and promoting exchanges with our local partners. Thus they may better fulfill their objectives.

It has been a great pleasure to participate in this interesting exchange visit and I would like to thank to Pablo Gandara and all the GIZ and EU staff for their kind attention and the perfect organization of the whole visit.

Vitoria-Gasteiz, 10th April 2016

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