CETREGIO
Chinese - European Training in Regional Policy
Regional Policy Dialogue with China

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

Information Session N°2
Danube Strategy and Regional Innovation Instruments and Practices

04 – 13 November 2013
An event prepared for delegates of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) People’s Republic of China

TECHNICAL REPORT
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1. Programme Description

The programme was designed for 20 Chinese experts from several provinces that were supported by the project coordinator, a project assistant and an interpreter. The training session consisted of ten days of lectures, field visits and a final workshop. It started with a briefing session in Beijing.

On arrival in Europe, participants undertook field visits to Bavaria (Munich and Passau). The Free State of Bavaria is one of 16 German federal states (Bundesländer) located in the southeast of the Federal Republic of Germany. By the end of 2011, its total population was 12.59m, approximately 15.2% of national total. Its capital city is Munich. Bavaria is not only one of the most innovative regions of Europe, but also a key player in the Danube Strategy of the EU.

After the working visits in Germany, participants were transferred to Rome (Italy), capital of the Lazio region. With about 5.7 million residents and a GDP of more than 170 billion euros, Lazio is the third most populated region of Italy, and has the second largest economy of the nation. The regional innovation system is strong especially as regards the public components: universities, national research institutes, government.

Finally, participants were able to visit Linz, the capital of Upper Austria region. With an area of 11,980km² and 1.3m inhabitants, it is the fourth largest Austrian state by area and the third largest by population. The R&D sector in Upper Austria is mostly private. The share of business expenditure on R&D amounts to 89.7% compared to 69.5% on the national average (2009). The Upper Austrian industrial structure is characterised by the presence of many major industrial sectors, concentrated around the cities of Linz, Steyr, and Wels, and high research intensity.

2. Thematic background

This information session focused on two issues: the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the Regional Innovation. The EUDRRC was adopted 2010 and aims at coordinating action by member states, regions, the EU, pan-Danube organisations, financing institutions and non-governmental bodies to promote a more balanced development of the region. The EUSDR is a united response to challenges affecting an area which stretches from the Black Forest to the Black Sea, including over 100 million inhabitants. The countries involved are Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania) plus 6 non-EU countries (Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Ukraine and Moldova). The Strategy focuses on environmental sustainability, economic prosperity, accessibility and attractiveness, energy connections. Several flagship projects have been proposed.

The course also dealt with regional innovation. Innovation policies stand at the core of the wider European development strategy Europe 2020, particularly since implementing the flagship initiative “Innovation Union” (2010). Cohesion policy plays a key role in the innovation field when “helping regions to implement regional innovation strategies and action plans which potentially can have a significant impact on competitiveness, both at regional level and in the Union as a whole”1. Especially through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), regions are empowered to strengthen

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1 Regio Paper 02/2010, DG Regio
regional innovation governance. A recent study commissioned by the DG REGIO\(^2\) notes that the role of the regions as stimulator and co-ordinator of regional innovation systems is crucial, while a good co-ordination between national and regional policies is necessary. However, there seems to be not a one-size-fits-all strategy for setting the best level of decentralisation to support regional innovation in each Member State.

Regional Innovation and Competitiveness in China

Partly different than in Europe, in China innovation is highly concentrated in certain provinces like Beijing, Guangdong, Jiangxi and Shanghai. The factor behind this polarisation and the strong contrasts in innovative capacity between the Chinese provinces within China is fundamentally driven by agglomeration forces, linked to population, industrial specialisation and infrastructure endowment. Innovative areas in China, rather than generate knowledge spill overs, seem to produce strong backwash effects\(^3\).

Chinese regions that are more open to external relations are also more innovative when compared to regions that are less open. The high-income regions in China, often in the coastal area, have both high levels of globalization and innovation. For poorer regions, there is much less evidence that globalization of a region is associated with higher levels of innovation.

In its twelfth Five-Year Plan (2011-2015), China lists the promotion of scientific and technological progress and innovation as a major tool for supporting strategic economic restructuring, while aiming to be the world’s scientific leader by 2050. China’s provinces and cities are keen to contribute to the drive towards innovation and several of China’s companies have emerged as able innovators.

According to the Innovation Scoreboard 2013, the EU27 is performing better than China in most indicators\(^4\). Only in new doctorate graduates and R&D expenditure in the business sector China is performing better. China is lagging most in International co-publications, public-private co-publications, PCT patents in societal challenges and License and patent revenues from abroad. China’s lead in R&D expenditure in the business sector has increased and its lead in new doctorate graduates has remained stable. China has decreased its gap most strongly for international co-publications, public-private co-publications, PCT patents and PCT patents in societal challenges. China’s performance gap has only increased for license and patent revenues from abroad.

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\(^2\) Study undertaken by the Danish Technology Institute


\(^4\) This information has been compiled out of the Innovation Union Scoreboard 2013. The Report is available at http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/facts-figures-analysis/innovation-scoreboard/
### 3. Programme Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>General Issues</th>
<th>Cities / Regions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 03 November 2013</td>
<td>Briefing meeting in Beijing</td>
<td>Beijing (CN)</td>
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</table>
| Day 1 - Monday, 04 November 2013 | Flight Beijing > Frankfurt  
Flight Frankfurt > Munich  
Accommodation in Munich       | Beijing (CN) – Munich (DE)       |
| Day 2 – Tuesday, 05 November 2013 | Morning: Meetings in Munich  
Transfer by bus to Passau (200km)  
Afternoon: Meetings in Passau  
Accommodation in Passau | Passau (DE)       |
| Day 3 - Wednesday, 06 November 2013 | Morning: Field visits in Passau  
Afternoon: Field visits in Passau region  
Accommodation in Passau | Passau (DE)       |
| Day 4 - Thursday, 07 November 2013 | Morning: Transfer by bus to Munich (200km)  
Accommodation in Rome       | Rome (IT)        |
| Day 5 - Friday, 08 November 2013 | Morning: Meetings in Rome  
Afternoon: Field Visits in Rome  
Accommodation in Rome       | Rome (IT)        |
| Day 6 - Saturday, 09 November 2013 | Morning: Workshop in Rome  
Afternoon: Free  
Accommodation in Rome        | Rome (IT)        |
| Day 7 – Sunday, 10 November 2013 | 06:30 – 07:15 Transfer to the airport  
09:15 – 10:50 Flight to Munich  
11:30 – 14:30 Transfer by bus to Linz (270km)  
Accommodation in Linz       | Rome (IT) – Munich (DE) - Linz (AT) |
| Day 8 - Monday, 11 November 2013 | Morning: Meetings with regional authorities in Linz  
Afternoon: Field visits  
Accommodation in Linz        | Linz (AT)        |
| Day 9 – Tuesday, 12 November 2013 | Morning: Transfer to Munich by train  
10:50 – 12:00 Linz-Frankfurt  
17:00 Flight Frankfurt-Beijing | Munich (DE) – Beijing (CN) |
| Day 10 - Wednesday, 13 November 2013 | 09:30 Arrival in Beijing            |                  |
4. **Objective of the information session**

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

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

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

5. **Methodology**

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

1. During the preparatory phase, interests and preferences of DG REGIO were actively requested by GIZ. Once the schedule had been approved by DG REGIO, participants received preparatory information 4 weeks before training, including an overview of the programme.

2. The implementation phase started already in Beijing with a half-day briefing session. A particular feature of the implementation was to promote dialogue and reflection among participants through a workshop on the last day. During this session participants were asked to compare acquired knowledge on the European situation with their own realities.

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

With regard to the methods applied during the information sessions, these included class-room sessions with enough time for presentations, (consecutive) interpretation and discussion between participants and speakers. Field visits allowed participants to see on the spot the diversity and complexity of regional policy in Europe, as well as to understand the implementation and management of EU co-funded projects. Interactive participation was ensured through the half-day closing workshop allowing participants to apply the contents of the course to their own regional development challenges.

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

Day 1 - Sunday, 03 November 2013
Briefing Session in Beijing

Venue: Hotel Guoyi (No.1 Wenxing East Street, Xicheng District, Beijing.

12:30  Lunch (Yiyue Hall, 1st Floor, Guibin Building - 贵宾楼一层谊悦厅)
14:00 Welcoming words by Department of Regional Economy, NDRC
14:30  Session 1: Programme introduction
       Lecturer: Pablo Gándara, Project Coordinator for GIZ
16:00 Coffee Break
16:30  Session 2: Urbanisation in China and Rural-Urban Linkages in Europe – an Introduction
       Lecturer: Mr Christian Junge, Senior Expert, Urban Logic
17:30  Session 3: Group discussion about the allocation of tasks
       Lecturer: Mr Zhou Yiren, Director, Regional Economy, NDRC
18:30 Dinner (Yiyue Hall, 1st Floor, Guibin Building - 贵宾楼一层谊悦厅)

Accommodation at Guoyi Hotel

Day 2 – Monday, 04 November 2013
Travel Day

11:30 – 15:00  Flight Beijing – Frankfurt (LH0721)
16:00 – 17:05  Flight Frankfurt – Munich (LH0112)
18:00 – 20:00  Check-in and Dinner

Accommodation: InterCityHotel Munich, Steigenberger Hotel Group, Bayerstrasse 10, München, Tel.: +49 89 839329-200

Day 3 – Tuesday, 05 November
Working sessions in Munich and Passau

09:30  Session 3: The EU Danube Strategy and Regional Policy in Bavaria
       Lecturer: Mr Markus Theuersbacher, Deputy Director EU Policy and International Relations, Bavarian State Chancellery (Munich)
11:00  Transfer by bus to Passau
13:00  Lunch with local authorities in Passau (Economic Promotion Agency, Mr Günther Heppner)
14:30  Session 4:  Visit of the newly conceived Roman Museum Kastell Boiotro (ERDF-project)
        Lecturer:  Dr Jörg-Peter Niemeier

15:45  Session 5:  Visit of the Passau Cathedral as a symbol for the Danube region
        Lecturer:  Dr Ludger Trost
        Info:  www.bistum-passau.de/dom-st-stephan

Transfer to the city hall

16:30  Session 6:  The ERDF programme Baroque Art and Culture in the Danube Area
        Lecturer:  Mr Adolf Hofstetter
        Info:  www.barockimdonauraum.ev

17:30  Session 7:  The Europe Region Passau-Moldau
        Lecturer:  Ms Barbara Daferner
        Info:  www.europaregion-donau-moldau.at

18:30  Dinner in Passau

Accommodation: Hotel Residenz, Fritz-Schäffer-Promenade 6, 94032 Passau, Tel.: (+49) 0851-98 90 2-0

Day 4 – Wednesday, 06 November
Working sessions in Passau

09:00  Departure from Hotel Residenz

10:00  Session 8:  Visit of the Energy Technology Centre in Ruhstorf ad Rott
        Lecturer:  Dr. Reinhart Schwaiberger
        Information:  www.haw-landshut.de/die-hochschule/technologiezentrum-energie.htm/

11:00  Return to Hotel Residenz in Passau

13:00  Lunch Break

13:30  Guided tour of Passau (www.tourismus-passau.de)

15:30  Departure to Hutthurm

16:30  Session 9:  Innovative Brewing Technology: Brewery Hutthurm,
        Lecturer:  Mr Markus Kapfenberger, Director
        Information:  www.hutthurer.de
Day 5 – Thursday, 07 November
Travel Day

09:00 – 11:00 Transfer by bus to Munich
11:00 – 12:30 Guided Tour in Munich
12:30 – 13:30 Lunch
13:30 – 15:00 Free
15:00 – 15:45 Transfer to the Airport
21:00 – 22:00 Transfer to the Hotel

Accommodation: Hotel Mercure Roma Corso Trieste, Via Gradisca 29, Rom, Tel.: +39 06 852021

Day 6 – Friday, 08 November
Working Sessions in Rome

08:30 Transfer by bus to the Tecnopoio area
09:30 Session 10: Field Visit to Roma Ricerche (Polo Tecnologico Industriale Romano).
   Lecturers: Mr Lino Fiorentino (CEO of the Consortium)
             Ms Angela Ciancia, Head of Services and SME Cooperation, Tecnopoio SpA.
10:30 Session 11: Field visit to ITech Regional Incubator (ERDF co-funded)
   Lecturers: Andrea Cosentino, Start-Ups Tutor
             Presentation two companies interested in Chinese market
12:00 Transfer to Rome centre
13:30 Lunch with local authorities
Afternoon: Seminar at the Representation Office of the European Union in Rome
15:00 Session 12: Regional Innovation and EU Policy in Italy: Case Study Lazio Region
   Lecturer: Mr Carlo Rossi, Director Decentralised Cooperation, Region of Lazio
15:30 Session 13: New tools to strengthen collaboration between SMEs
Lecturer: Ms Enrica Bagnolini, International Department Manager (Sviluppo Lazio)
16:00 Session 14: Financial methodologies and tools for territorial innovation development
Lecturer: Mr Andrea Romagnoli (FILAS)
16:30 Session 15: The BIC network: encouraging innovative start-ups
Lecturer: Manuela Giacobbi, Head of Business Department (BIC Lazio)
17:00 Session 16: ARSIAL and the three paths challenges for innovation in agriculture
Lecturer: Mr Claudio Carrano, Rural Systems Service (ARSIAL)
17:30 Discussion & Conclusion
18:00 Conclusions by Mr Pablo Gándara (Project Coordinator CETREGIO)
18:30 Dinner
Accommodation: Hotel Mercure Roma Corso Trieste, Via Gradisca 29, Rom, Tel.: +39 06 852021

Day 7 – Saturday, 09 November

09:00 – 13:00 Mid-Term Workshop
Lecturer: Mr Pablo Gándara
13:00 – 14:00 Working Lunch
14:00 – 17:00 Cultural programme
18:00 Dinner
Accommodation: Hotel Mercure Roma Corso Trieste, Via Gradisca 29, Rom, Tel.: +39 06 852021

Day 8 – Sunday, 10 November

Travel Day
06:30 – 07:15 Transfer to the airport
09.15 – 10:50 Flight Rome - Munich
11:30 – 14:00 Transfer Munich – Linz (270 km)
19:00 Check-in and dinner
Accommodation: City-Hotel Linz, Schillerstr. 52, Linz, Tel. +43 732 778441
Day 9 – Monday, 11 November
Working sessions in Linz

09:00  Session 17: Regional Innovation in Europe – Case Study Upper Austria
       Lecturer: Mr Bruno Lindorfer, Director, Technology Agency Upper Austria (www.tmg.at)

10:00  Session 18: ERDF in Upper Austria and the EU Danube Strategy
       Lecturer: Ms Sigrid Winkler, Programme Manager EU Danube Strategy and Innovation,
                 Technology Agency Upper Austria

12:00  Joint Lunch

13:00  Transfer by Bus to the University of Linz

13:30  Session 19: Field visit to the company RECENDT (www.recendt.at)
       Lecturer: Dr Peter Burgholzer, CEO

14:30  Transfer to Hagenberg

15:00  Session 20: Field visit to the Software Park Hagenberg (www.softwarepark.at)
       Lecturer: Ms Irene Pechböck, Marketing & PR Software Park Hagenberg
                 Mr Thomas Haudum, RISC Software GmbH (www.risk-software.at)
                 Ms Ulrike Wingelhofer, STIWA Group AG (www.stiwa.com)

16:30  Transfer to Linz

18:00  Dinner in Linz

Accommodation: City-Hotel Linz, Schillerstr. 52, Linz, Tel. +43 732 778441

Day 10 – Tuesday, 12 November

08:30 – 09:00  Transfer to the airport Linz

10:50 - 12:00  Flight Linz – Frankfurt

17:00 – 09:30 (+1 day) Flight Frankfurt - Beijing
7. Summary of the working sessions

Sessions in Beijing

The programme started with a briefing session in Beijing. After an introduction to the EU regional and urban policy by the project coordinator, Mr Zhou Yiren, Director at the Department for Regional Economy of NDRC delivered a welcoming speech. He introduced the training cooperation programme CETREGIO as one of the pillars of the EU-China Regional Policy Dialogue and noted that since 2010 more than 120 Chinese officials have received training in Europe and China. Mr Zhu explained that although China has achieved a unique economic development, regional disparities remain large. He stated that China has developed an index to more accurate measure regional disparities. However, the index still needs to be further improved based on European Union’s regional policy experiences. Mr Zhou finally introduced the members of the delegation travelling to Europe.

Mr Pablo Gándara, coordinator of CETREGIO, delivered a presentation on the EU regional policy, focusing on regional innovation and the Danube Strategy of the European Union.

Mr Christian Junge, a Beijing based architect and urban planning expert, delivered an introduction to the urban-rural linkages and related policies in the European Union. He referred to the territorial agenda of the European Union since the Lisbon Treaty as well as to the striking regional imbalances regarding population, economic growth and unemployment. He referred to inter-regional and inter-city cooperation as well as to the urban-rural and peri-urban cooperation. EU’s policy instruments promote a polycentric territorial development; encourage the integrated development in cities and rural regions, and aim at transforming cross-border regions to functional regions. Mr Junge noted that territorial cohesion does not mean equalisation, but coordination and (coordinated) differentiation. With regard to the urban-rural partnerships, Mr Junge explained soft and strong coordination in areas like transportation, land use, service infrastructure, environmental protection and migration. Focusing on examples of England and Germany, Mr Junge illustrated the success factors for urban-rural partnerships, including political support, common identity, equal representation, a critical mass of projects and funding. He also showed some polycentric city networks in Europe.

Sessions in Germany

Work in Germany started in Munich. Mr Markus Theuersbacher gave an overview of the Bavarian influence in European policy making, especially on regional policy issues. As one of the strongest EU regions, Bavaria advocates for a further EU funding of competitive European regions, rather than concentrating all EU funds on weaker areas. He then referred to the macro-regional EU Danube Strategy as a voluntary agreement of the countries and regions in a definable geographical area (14 countries, 100 million inhabitants) about common strategic objectives. There are huge economic disparities within the region. The strategy aims at strengthening regional identity and to create new levels of governance and cooperation. Regions are committed to cooperate and coordinate actions since they share a number of common issues. The strategy addresses these various topics through 4 pillars organized in 11 priority areas. Mr Theuersbacher explained that for the implementation there...
are has 3 main conditions: no new legislation, no new institutions and no new money. Regions are called to better align existing funding, coordinate more efficiently existing instruments and develop new ideas for cooperation. Discussion with Chinese delegates focused on the selection criteria for projects, the role of regions in defining the priority areas and the action plans and similar mechanisms of cooperation in China (for instance alongside the Yangtze River and Pearl River).

The programme in Passau started with a field visit to the Roman Museum Biotro. Dr. Jörg-Peter Niemeyer explained to the Chinese experts the importance of the museum for the development of tourism and culture and for the attractiveness of the city. The museum presents archaeological finds from the East Bavarian region from the Stone Age through the subsequent Metal Age, the Roman period, the Middle Age until the modern time. The new conception of the exhibition has been co-funded through ERDF within the EU-Danube Strategy (priority cultural heritage and tourism). Chinese delegates were then transferred to City Hall, where they first met Mr Adolf Hofstetter, Director of the project Baroque Art and Culture in the Danube Region. This is a project of the city of Passau in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The project established Bavarian-Austrian cooperation in cultural, scientific and tourism development. By using the cultural heritage of the Danube region of the 17th and 18th Century, both countries aim to deepen and take advantage of tourism opportunities. Discussion with Chinese delegates focused on the Baroque influence in China, the cross-border cooperation programmes in China and the importance of culture as a factor for economic development.

Chinese participants also met Ms Barbara Dapfner, manager of the European Region Danube-Moldova. This functional region – formally established in June 2012 - covers a population of 6 million inhabitants in Germany (Bavaria), Czech Republic (Bohemia) and Austria (Upper Austria). A large number of cooperation projects have been launched in the areas like research & development, renewable energy and energy efficiency, industry clusters, tourism, mobility, culture, social development and education. Projects are mostly co-financed with support of the ERDF. Several participating municipalities and sub-regions have established networks across borders, increasing the attractiveness of the whole region. Ms Dapfner explained that though the newly created Regional association, the cross-border interests of municipalities can be better catalyzed at the European level. Chinese delegates asked about the differences of Euroregions with metropolitan and peri-urban regions, the role of the Danube Strategy for the regional association and some concrete projects on building networks of clusters.

On the next day, Chinese delegates were transferred to the Technology Centre Energy (TZE) of the University of Landshut in Ruhstorf, a small town close to Passau. Mr Josef Huber, from the business administration department explained to the Chinese experts the role of TZE for regional innovation and regional development. The TZE is a branch of the University of Landshut. The structure of the research and development facility is financed by the Bavarian State. The market town of Ruhstorf ad Rott and the district of Passau support the active center by providing the necessary technology transfer surfaces. The center was launched 2011 and aims at creating regional added value to the rural area of south-east Bavaria. The TZE provides laboratory capacity for electrical engineering, especially for the development of lithium cell production. It is also a demonstration site for Decentralized Energy Systems and develops energy efficiency services for adjacent municipalities.
and industries. The CEO of the centre, Dr. Reinhardt Schwaiberger took the Chinese participants to a site tour to the laboratories and energy saving devices. Discussions with Chinese experts centred on the incubation role of the TZE for start-ups, the cooperation of municipalities and the provincial government for funding the centre, possible EU-projects to be run by the TZE, cooperation possibilities with universities and research centres in China.

On the afternoon, Chinese participants visited a brewery in Hutthurm, a small village close to Passau. The manager of the site, Mr Markus Kapfenberger, explained to Chinese participants the importance of the middle-sized brewery for the region and shown some innovative products that could be exported to China.

Sessions in Italy

On the next day, Chinese participants started full-day training in Rome. The first meetings took place at the Technology Park Tecnopolo Tiburtino in the north of the city. Rome’s technology park system was conceived with the objective of creating organized areas capable of attracting high-tech companies and projects, in order to increase and improve development and employment rates in the Rome metropolitan area. Dr Angela Ciancia, Head of Services and SME Cooperation, explained that Tecnopolo Tiburtino is situated on a property of about 70 hectares close to the industrial district hosting Italy’s most important aerospace and electronics companies. The area is well connected with the railway and subway systems, and can be reached easily from the international airports of Fiumicino and Ciampino. The Tecnopolo Tiburtino site supports local SMEs through convenient real estate solutions and technology development services. More than 100 companies are located in the park area, especially from the aerospace, energy, ICT and mechanical engineering.

The park is run by the Research Consortium Roma Ricerche (CRR), whose director (Mr Lino Fiorentino) explained the company’s structure and main focuses. The RRC is a non-profit organization made up of private and public entities, in order to achieve institutional linkages between the university and industry and to promote the transfer of innovative technologies and support the competitiveness of the industrial system. With the experience gained over the years, the CRR has well-established partnerships with national and European partners, mainly within the Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development of the European Union. CRR is also involved in the Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS) of the Lazio Region. Professor Carlo Giovanella, Scientific Director of the Creative Industries Cluster of CRR, delivered a presentation about smart-city solutions developed at Roma Ricerche. Ms Manuela Bistolfi, Manager for EU Projects, presented some results of innovative projects developed under within the framework programme already mentioned.

Chinese participants also had the chance to visit the ITech, a regional start-up incubator co-funded by the Regional Government partly through ERDF means. Ms Andrea Cosentino, Start-Ups Tutor, explained that BIC Lazio supports the development of the region through the creation of new businesses and the expansion of existing ones. Due to its extensive experience and presence in the region, is able to listen to the demands of the local economy and transfer them to those who intends to initiate new activities. Chinese participants visited the facilities of the start-ups (offices, common creative areas, etc.) and met two innovative start-up interested in developing commercial and research
ties with China: Overttechnologies (www.overttechnologies.com) for home automation system and SmartEye (www.smart-interaction.com) is the new intelligent system to reduce the energy consumption for public lighting and to provide interactive services for Smart City.

In the afternoon, participants had a half-day seminar at the Representation of the European Union in Rome. Mr Carlo Rossi, Director for Decentralised Cooperation at the Region of Lazio, introduced some basic facts about the region, one of the most developed of Italy and Europe. With regard to innovation, Lazio is home to most of Italy’s public research institutes (23% of the country’s researchers work here). One of the Lazio Region’s major strengths is represented by its network of industrial districts and local production systems. Lazio Region manages EU structural funds and is directly and indirectly involved in numerous European projects. The Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013 has a budget of €743.5 million and is mainly focused on research, innovation and strengthening the productive base.

Ms Enrica Bagnolini, International Department Manager at the regional development agency Sviluppo Lazio, explained some new tools to strengthen collaboration between SMEs. Sviluppo Lazio is the in-house company of the Lazio Region for the implementation and management of the development policies for local actors like entreprises, local authorities and citizens. It was founded in 1999 and today it has 137 employees with an annual turnover of 20 Million of euro. 80% of the company shares belong to Lazio Region, and the remaining 20% to the Chamber of Commerce of Rome. Ms Bagnolini explained that Sviluppo Lazio is working on a new and innovative concept of productive cluster. He stated that, in fact, the old definition of industrial cluster is not more valid and useful to describe the regional productive system. Nowadays territorial company networks are transversal and extremely flexible. He stated that a peculiarity of the Italian and regional productive systems is the presence of small and micro companies with 4/5 employees that represent the majority. These companies require support by the regional actors in order to develop common projects and prosper. Financial support is provided through calls for proposals at the agency’s website (www.sviluppo.lazio.it)

Mr Andrea Romagnoli, Project Manager at the Financial Investment Agency of the Regione Lazio (FILAS), explained its mission in assisting the Regional Government in innovation policy programming and providing tools for the modernization of regional SMEs. Filas manages tools related to innovation, new technologies and the net economy in order to strengthen the competitiveness of regional SMEs both in terms of regional product growth and external investment incentives. Mr Romagnoli explained the management of European funds within the framework programme, the ERDF’s ROP for Lazio and the cooperation in the smart specialisation forum. He also gave some examples of projects in the so called DTC district (culture, tourism and technology).

Ms Manuela Giacobbi, Head of Business Department at BIC Lazio, explained the innovative support for start-ups in the region. Business Innovation Centres were created almost 20 years ago by the European Commission to support innovation, entrepreneurial development and employment in local economies. BIC Lazio was created in 1990 by the Lazio Region and is the regional agency responsible to encourage local development through the promotion of an entrepreneurial culture and support the creation and development of business initiatives. BIC Lazio is one of the 7 Italian incubators certified to support innovative start-ups in areas including food chains; high tech industry and space applications; culture and creative industries; energy efficiency and alternative energy. BIC
Lazio is part of the European BIC Network (EBN) and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN). Ms Giacobbi explained the focus on training activities for start-ups and the incubation support centres for start-ups (one of which had been visited by the Chinese participants in the morning).

The seminar's last presentation dealt with innovation in the agriculture. Mr Stefano Carrano, manager at the Regional Agency for Agriculture Innovation (ARSIAL), explained some support policies to improve the performances of small, not very integrated farms. He also explained some European Trends on farming innovation, including the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) launched 2012.

**Sessions in Austria**

The working sessions in Linz included meetings at the Technology Agency of Upper Austria (TMG) and visits to innovative companies in Linz and Hagenberg. Mr Bruno Lindorfer, CEO at the TMG explained some basic facts about the region. Upper Austria is one of the wealthiest regions of Europe and has an unemployment rate of 4.7%. The region has highly qualified and motivated personnel, a strong industrial base (it is the leading Austrian region regarding technological export and patents), well balanced economic structure (mix branches & sizes). It is also a leading innovation region in Europe and its geographic position (In the heart of Europe) allows for efficient transport infrastructure. The region is also deeply integrated with Central and Eastern Europe. Mr Lindorfer explained the regional innovation strategy that concentrates resources on six focus areas: mechatronics, information and communications technology, life sciences, innovative materials, logistics and energy. The TMG is a think tank and coordinator of activities of the region of Upper Austria regarding economic growth, prosperity and the creation of new jobs. As such, it is in charge of developing the strategic economic and research programme INNOVATIVE UPPER AUSTRIA 2020, with more than 50 Mio € annually regional investments on innovation projects. Mr Lindorfer also referred to the Horizon 2020 programme and the great opportunities for collaboration on innovation with China.

Chinese participants asked about the governance system of regional innovation in Upper Austria, the cooperation between companies and public bodies in defining the regional innovation strategies, the selection criteria for projects to be promoted through the regional agency, the internationalisation of clusters and overall effect of public investment in the regional economy.

Mr Lindorfer's presentation was followed by a speech by Dr Sigrid Winkler about the role of Upper Austria in the EU Danube Strategy. The region is charge of creating networks between clusters in the Danube area. DanuClus is the response of the Working Group “Clusters of Excellence” to the new EU funding period 2014-2020. It will coordinate projects for a wide target audience of clusters in the Danube Region. Ms Winkler also explained the overall impact of ERDF on regional innovation activities in Upper Austria. On the afternoon, Chinese participants visited the RECENDT (Research Center for Non Destructive Testing GmbH). The innovative company has on-the-edge technologies non-destructive testing of materials, contactless material characterization, quality control and quality assurance for products & processes as well as prototype construction for contactless sensors. Participants also visited the Hagenberg Softwarepark, a spin-off of the University Linz. It has 12 research facilities, 60 IT companies, 1,560 students and 1,000 employees.
8. Composition of the Chinese delegation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wang Xinhuai</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)</td>
<td>Director-General</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Yang Yinkai</td>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gao Wei</td>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>Officer</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Pang Hong</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Guizhou Development and Reform Commission</td>
<td>Vice-Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Zheng Liping</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Heilongjiang Development and Reform Commission</td>
<td>Director-General</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Wang Jingyou</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Jilin Development and Reform Commission</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Liu Guoxiang</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Pang Huang</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Wei Hanquan</td>
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<td>Zhong Guilian</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Wang Hui</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Chibi City Development and Reform Commission, Hubei</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Li Qinggong</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Ma Zhongxing</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Tao Jianfeng</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Dai Kunhong</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>An Limin</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Tianjin Development and Reform Commission</td>
<td>Vice-Chairman</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
9. Documentation provided to the participants

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

- Programme
- Background material on the relevant Operation Programmes (OPs) to be visited
- Background material on lectures and presentations

10. E-Learning platform Global Campus 21

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

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

Participants received an evaluation form to be filled anonymously during the seminar’s closing session. The form contained several categories including contents, logistics and assistance. Participants were also able to comment on the seminar. The quantitative results of the assessments are presented in this page. The scale goes from 1 (excellent) to 5 (poor).

![Graphic 1]

![Graphic 2]
12. Pictures Gallery

Meeting at the Bavarian State Chancellery

Museum’s visit in Passau (ERDF project)

Speech by Ms Barbara Daferner, Europe Region Danube Moldova, Passau

 Discussions at the City Hall of Passau

Visit of the innovative at brewery processed at Hutthurm

Visit at the Energy Technology Centre, Technical University Landshut
Information Session N°2 – Danube Strategy and Regional Innovation Instruments and Practices
04 – 13 November 2013

Dr Schwaiberger and Chinese delegates at the Energy Technology Centre, Bavaria

Speech by Ms Manuela Bistolfi, Innovation Department, Roma Richerche

Group picture with Italian workshop's experts at the EU representation in Rome

The Innovation Centre ITech at BIC Lazio

Speech by Mr Bruno Lindorfer, CEO of TMG Upper Austria, Linz

Visit of research laboratory of the company RECENDT at the University of Linz