



中华人民共和国国家发展和改革委员会
National Development and Reform
Commission



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
Sustainable regional and urban development
&
Regional innovation
08 – 15 October 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 delegates of NDRC to be supported by the project coordinator and one interpreter.

This information session dealt with regional innovation strategies and sustainable urban development issues (including cooperation with rural areas). The training included a visit to selected cities and regions in Ireland, focusing on the relevance of best practices for Chinese reality. The Irish case studies were carefully selected in coordination with the local authorities according to their relevance for China as well as to their potentials for cooperation.

The Chinese delegates traveled on Tuesday 08 October 2013 to Brussels, where they participated at the European Open Days on Regional Policy on Wednesday 09 October. They then traveled to Ireland, where they started a two-day trip to the Dublin as well as to the Southern-Eastern Region (Waterford). Delegates then traveled to Paris (France) in order to have several meetings at OECD headquarters regarding regional innovation and territorial development (especially regarding rural-urban cooperation). They returned to China on 14 October 2013.

Based on the preparatory work realised during the visit to Europe, participants prepared a short practical report, reflecting on the contents of the course and on lessons learned for their own regional policy tasks.

2. Programme Overview

Day	General Issues	Cities / Regions
Day 1 - Tuesday, 08 October 2013	Travel Day 00:10 – 05:25 Flight Beijing – Istanbul (TK0021) 07:50 – 10:15 Flight Istanbul – Brussels (TK1937) Cultural Programme in Brussels Accommodation in Brussels	Beijing (CN)
Day 2 - Wednesday, 09 October 2013	Morning Participation at the Open Days Regional Policy Afternoon: Meeting with DG REGIO 21:10 – 21:45 Flight to Dublin (EI0639) Accommodation in Dublin	Brussels (BE) – Dublin
Day 3 - Thursday, 10 October 2013	Morning: Meetings with Department of Public Expenditure & Reform in Dublin and 1 site visit to ERDF project 15:00 Transfer to Waterford (170km) Dinner and Accommodation in Waterford	Dublin (IE) – Waterford (IE)
Day 4 - Friday, 11 October 2013	Morning: Meeting with regional authorities Afternoon: Field visits Dinner and Accommodation in Waterford	Waterford (IE)

Day 5 - Saturday, 12 October 2013	Workshop in Dublin 18:10 – 20:55 Flight Dublin – Paris (EI0528) Accommodation in Paris	Dublin (IE)
Day 6 - Sunday, 13 October 2013	Cultural Programme	Paris (FR)
Day 7 - Monday, 14 October 2013	Morning: Meeting at OECD headquarters 18:15 – 22:45 Flight Paris – Istanbul (TK1828)	Paris (FR)
Day 8 - Tuesday, 15 October 2013	00:35 – 15:05 Flight Istanbul – Peking (TK0020)	Beijing (CN)

3. Programme Detail

Day 1 – Tuesday, 08 October 2013

Cities: Brussels

00:10 – 05:25 Flight Beijing – Istanbul (TK0021)

07:50 – 10:15 Flight Istanbul – Brussels (TK1937)

11:00 – 11:30 Transfer by bus to the Hotel Radisson

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch in the City Centre

14:00 – 18:00 Cultural Programme in Brussels (visit of Atomium or Guided Tour through the city centre)

18:00 – 20:00 Dinner in Restaurant Le Paon (Grand Place)

Accommodation Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Rue du Fossé-aux Loups 47, 1000 Brüssel, Tel.: 0032 2 2273000

Day 2 – Wednesday, 09 October 2013

Cities: Brussels and Dublin



11th European Week of
Regions and Cities
Brussels 7 - 10 October 2013

VIII EU-CHINA HIGH LEVEL SEMINAR ON REGIONAL POLICY
EU-CHINA INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION
TO PROMOTE INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS
BRUSSELS, 9 OCTOBER 2013

VENUE: European Commission, Centre Borschette (Room 3A), Rue Froissart 36, B1040

09:00 – 09:30	Opening Ceremony	
	Chair	Ronald Hall, Director, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
09:00 – 09:15	Keynote address	Mr Walter Deffaa, Director-General, DG Regional and Urban Policy
09:15 – 09:30	Keynote address	Mr Fan Hengshan, Director-General, Department Regional Economy, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), P.R. China
09:30 – 10:30	Session I: Interregional cooperation In the framework of the EU-China regional policy dialogue, several projects and exchanges have been organized on innovation following the signature in 2009 of an addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding on regional policy cooperation to focus cooperation <i>inter alia</i> on regional innovation strategies and promotion of regional clusters. There is huge potential to develop networking and mutual learning initiatives between EU and China to allow their respective regions to improve their innovation capacity or in giving their industrial clusters an innovative impulse. The session will provide insight on tools and experience available on both sides.	
	Chair	Mr Ronald Hall, Director, DG Regional Policy, European Commission
09:30 – 09:50	Speaker	Mr Michel Lamblin, Programme Director, INTERREG IV C Joint Technical Secretariat
09:50 – 10:10	Speaker	Mr Zhou Yiren, Director, Department Regional Economy, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), P.R. China
10:10 – 10:30	Discussion	
10:30 -12:30	Session 2: Regional innovation systems Regional innovation systems are widely recognised as having an important role to play in economic and innovation policy as they highlight the crucial importance of spatial proximity and favourable institutional structures at the regional level for innovation activities. The session will allow representatives from EU and Chinese regions to exchange experiences and good practices on how to improve the capacity of regional economies to change and innovate.	
	Chair	Mr Zhou Yiren, Director, Department Regional Economy, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), P.R. China
10:30 – 10:50	Speaker	Mr Lv Yongzhong, Director, Planning Department of Beijing Development and Reform Commission
10:50 – 11:10	Speaker	Mr Mark Schneider, Manager of the European Service, West Midlands, UK
11:10 – 11:30	Speaker	Mr Li Hongwei, Governor, Luogang District of Guangzhou; Vice Chairman, Guangzhou Development District Administration Committee
11:30 – 11:50	Speaker	Mr Iñigo Bilbao, Head of the Strategic Planning Department, City Council of Vitoria- Gasteiz
11:50 – 12:30	Discussion	
12:30 – 13:00	Closing remarks	
	Chair	Mr Zhou Yiren, Director, Department Regional Economy, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), P.R. China

12:30 – 12:45	Concluding Remarks	Mr Fan Hengshan, Director-General, Department Regional Economy, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), P.R. China
12:45 – 13:00	Concluding Remarks	Mr Ronald Hall, Director, DG Regional Policy, European Commission

13:15 – 14:30 Lunch Break at Restaurant L'Esprit de Sel BrasseriePlace Jourdan 52-54,
Tel.:0032 2 230 60 40

14:30 – 15:00 Transfer of Mr Fan Hengshan, Mr Zhou Yiren and Mr Shi Xin to DG REGIO (30min)

Transfer of the other delegates to the hotel Radisson Blu Royal Hotel,
Rue du Fossé-aux Loups 47, 1000 Brüssel, Tel.: 0032 2 2273000

15:00 – 16:00 Meeting of Mr Fan Hengshan, Mr Zhou Yiren and Mr Shi Xin with DG REGIO General Director Mr Walter Deffaa

16:00 – 16:30 Transfer of Mr Fan Hengshan, Mr Zhou Yiren and Mr Shi Xin to the hotel

18:00 – 18:45 Dinner at the hotel (complete group)

18:45 – 19:15 Transfer to the Airport

19:15 Arrival at the Airport and Check-in

21:10 – 21:45 Flight to Dublin (EI0639)

Accommodation in Best Western Plus Academy Hotel, 10-14 Findlater Place, off Upper O'Connell St.,
Tel: +353 1 878 0666

Day 3 – Thursday, 10 October 2013

Cities: Dublin and Waterford

08:30 Transfer by bus to the Government Buildings

09:00 Meeting with Department of Public Expenditure & Reform in Dublin
Address: Government Buildings, Upper Merrion St. Dublin 2, Ireland.
Contact: Mr Gearoid O'Keeffe, Head of Unit, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform.
Description: European Cohesion Policy in Ireland - Key Issues and the Next Period

11:00 Field Visit to ERDF projects

- 1) Trinity College Dublin.
- 2) CRANN (the Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices)

12:30 Lunch

14:30 Field visit to Smithfield Enhancement Scheme and discussions with Dublin City Council

16:00 Transfer by bus to Waterford (170km)

18:30 Arrival and check-in

19:30 Transfer by bus to Waterford Castle

20:00 Dinner with representatives of the Regional Government in Waterford Castle

22:00 Transfer back to the Faithlegg House Hotel, Faithlegg Co. Waterford, Tel. 00353 51 382000

Day 4 – Friday, 11 October 2013

Cities: Waterford

09.00 Meeting with Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly at Assembly House, Waterford

11.00 Meeting with Deputy Mayor of Waterford, Cllr. Tom Cunningham in City Hall

11.30 Meeting with Waterford City Manager, Mr Michael Walsh

12.30 Visit to Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre, an ERDF co-financed Flagship project

13.30 Lunch

14.30 Transfer by bus to Waterford Institute of Technology

15.00 Meeting with President of College Dr Ruaidhri Neavyn and Head of Research Dr Willie Donnelly
Visit to Research & Innovation Centre

17.00 Transfer by bus back to Hotel

19.40 Transfer by bus to City

20.00 Dinner in La Boheme restaurant in presence of Mayor of Waterford, Cllr. John Cummins.

22.00 Return by bus to hotel.

Accommodation in Faithlegg House Hotel, Faithlegg Co. Waterford, Tel.: 00353 51 382000

Day 5 – Saturday, 12 October 2013

Cities: Waterford – Dublin – Paris

09:30 Transfer by bus to Dublin

13:00 Lunch in Dublin and transfer to Dublin Airport

18:10 Flight Dublin – Paris (EI0528)

20:55 Arrival in Paris

Transfer to the hotel (40km)

Accommodation in Hotel Holiday Inn Paris - Montparnasse Pasteur, 10 Rue Gager Gabillot, Tel.: 0033 1 4412929

Day 6 – Sunday, 13 October 2013**Cities: Paris**

Cultural Programme

Accommodation in Hotel Holiday Inn Paris - Montparnasse Pasteur, 10 Rue Gager Gabillot, Tel.: 0033 1 4412929

Day 7 – Monday, 14 October 2013

08:30 Transfer from the hotel to the OECD Headquarters, 2 rue André Pascal, 75116 Paris

09:00 Arrival at OECD, coffee/pastries

09:30 Workshop at the Regional Development Policy Division, OECD/GOV

Presentations by:

- Introduction by Urban Unit and overview presentation of RDP and Urban Unit's work (reflecting on insights from the National Urban Policy Reviews and Metropolitan Reviews)

- David Bartolini or Betty-Ann Bryce (RDP Rural Unit): Promoting growth in all regions: the case for rural

- Giulia Ajmone Marsan (RDP Regional innovation programme): Innovation for inclusive development: the role of regions and cities

- Paolo Veneri (RDP Rural-urban programme): Rural-urban linkages and possible governance approaches

- Presentations by Chinese delegates

- Roundtable Discussion

12:30 Lunch at OECD

14:00 Transfer by bus to the airport (30km, approx. 60min)

15:00 Arrival at airport

18:15 Flight Paris – Istanbul (TK1828)

22.45 Arrival in Istanbul - Transfer

Day 8 – Tuesday, 15 October 2013

00:35 Flight Istanbul – Beijing (TK0020)

15:05 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. Summary of the working sessions

6.1. Meetings in Brussels within the VIII EU-China High Level Seminar on Regional Policy

Introduction by Mr Walter Deffaa, Director General, DG REGIO

Mr Deffaa started by stocktaking the progress achieved within the EU-China Regional Policy Dialogue. He particularly referred to the Chinese-European Training on Regional and Urban Policy (CETREGIO) programme that since 2010 has facilitated exchange between more than 200 Chinese and European experts in both regions. CETREGIO shows the value and the viability of decentralised cooperation between cities and regions.

Mr Deffaa focussed on innovation and competitiveness as the key factors to tackle the economic crisis in Europe. Both factors are at the core of Europe 2020 strategy, aiming at achieving a smart, inclusive and sustainable growth. According to Mr Deffaa, the regional level is the one where innovative solutions will be delivered, based on a triple-helix-cooperation approach between public institutions, research and business.

With regard to the way forward, the next financial period 2014-2020 concentrates European public investment to specific topics. 50% of funds will be allocated to the less developed European regions focussing on innovation, small and middle size business, key enabling technologies for new industries and energy efficiency. Regions will have to design smart specialisation strategies as a prerequisite for receiving European funds. The ex-ante conditionality will be based on the comparative advantages of regions. Mr Deffa stated that cohesion policy is very much about cooperation and that this is the reason why the EU supports building clusters. 90% of clusters in Europe have received European support through the ERDF. However, internationalisation of clusters is still insufficient since only 10% of them have partners overseas. Sharing information between China and Europe within this seminar will support companies in both regions. Mr Deffaa also expressed his gratitude to the European Parliament that has made possible the deep cooperation between China and Europe on regional and urban development issues.

Welcoming words by Mr Fang Hengshan, Director General, Department of Regional Economy, NDRC

Mr Fang referred to the long track of regional policy dialogue between the European Union and China. He mentioned the training and research programmes implemented within the dialogue have involved the vast majority of European Union member states and all Chinese provinces. Mr Fan stated that the activities have had an important impact in the elaboration and implementation of the 11th and 12th Five-Years-Plans.

China's regional development policy has contributed to developing the western and central area as well as to revitalising old industrial areas. Also poverty alleviation has been at the centre of the efforts: since 2012, there is special support to 11 poverty areas. Mr Fan stated that this is also a result of EU-China cooperation. Mr Fan stated that China is currently at a transition stage upgrading industrial development. However, the complex local and international context has had negative impact on the economic development, leading to an unbalanced development. The Chinese government is trying to support efficiency by strengthening innovation. The key challenges to be tackled include:

1. Equalising public services by using the market economy as the key driver

2. Improving the regional policy system developing tailor-made strategies for specific areas
3. Promoting better coordination and management through a better governance and legal framework
4. Promoting urbanisation in a coordinated way with new types of city clusters with Chinese characteristics

Mr Fan explained that NDRC learns from the European Union while developing its regional policy.

Session 1: Interregional Cooperation

Chairman: Mr Ronald Hall, Principle Advisor of DG REGIO

Mr Michel Lamblin, Programme Director, INTERREG IV C Joint Technical Secretariat

Mr Lamblin introduced the Interreg IVC programme that aims at fostering interregional cooperation. The programme contributes to improving the effectiveness of regional development policies and instruments through large-scale information exchange and sharing of experience (networks). It promotes exchange between regional and other public authorities across the entire EU territory and neighbouring countries, allowing regions without joint borders to work together in common projects and develop networks of co-operation.

In the current period (2007-2013) there have been more than 1350 applications and 204 projects have been funded. 90% of European Union's regions have been included, with a focus on innovation (55%) and environmental protection (45%). Since 2003, INTERREG has compiled a large database of best practices in Europe that can be used for the exchange with China. In the next financial framework (2014-2020), the programme will concentrate in two pillars: innovation and knowledge economy.

Mr Lamblin referred to the cooperation potential with China, especially through disseminating the regional policy dialogue results across Europe. He also proposed to make INTERREG's system of indicators, tools and databases available to Chinese policy makers in order to contribute to a sustainable development in China.

Mr Zhou Yiren, Director, Regional Economy Department, National Development and Reform Commission

Mr Zhou focused on the special functional areas with regard to industry clusters and innovation development. Although China has made remarkable progress in coordinated regional development, regional development disparities still prominent, improper competition and duplications between regions still serious; mechanisms and systems still incomplete for coordinated regional development. Although special economic zones have boosted economic growth and regional innovation capacity, regional development imbalances have increased. Also the extensive land use has caused serious environmental pollution.

Therefore, the Chinese government aims at establishing principal function areas, defined according to resources and environmental capacity. Also the current development intensity and consequences for population distribution, land use and urbanization will play a key role on this. The idea is to determine the direction of development, improve development policies, control development intensity, regulate development order and gradually shape a landscape of land space development with harmony among population, economy and resource/environment.

This new special functional areas are comparable to the EU's smart specialisation strategies, since they aim at taking the natural specific conditions as a key driver for development. This allows differentiation of principal functions and an environmentally friendly economic development.

Session 2: Regional Innovation

Chairman: Mr. Zhou Yiren, Director, Regional Economy Department, National Development and Reform Commission

Mr Lv Yongzhong, Director, Planning Department of Beijing Development and Reform Commission

Mr Lv explained that since 2012, Beijing has been developing with the slogan "Innovation driven city", with a focus on research and development. Beijing is a centre of R&D with more than 300 research centres (30% of the country's total). Since 2013, a new cooperation mechanism ("6+1") has been put in place to improve inter-ministerial cooperation.

Beijing has made huge progress on regional innovation, including the Zhongguancun district, also known as the Silicon Valley of China. The site encompassed 48 research centres and science parks and is responsible for 1/7 of the total innovation output in China. Endogenous innovation will be further improved by reforming the institutional structures. Also more public resources will be allocated to innovation driven companies. Beijing's Municipal Development and Reform Commission aims at further improving cooperation between universities and companies. Also the evaluation system of economic development management should be further improved based on European experiences.

With regard to clusters, there are more than 150 clusters in Beijing, many of which are implementing more than 1.000 R&D based projects. Since 2012, Beijing has strongly developed electric vehicles and nanotechnologies. These and other areas give a large base for cooperation with European business, cities and regions.

Mr Li Hongwei, Governor of Luogang District (Guangzhou)

Mr Li introduced the Guangzhou Development District (GDD), one of the first group state-level economic and technological development districts set up in China. With a total planned area of 78.92 square kilometers, GDD has the unique "four-in-one" administration system consisting of national Economic and Technological Development District, High-tech Industrial Development District, Free Trade Zone and Export Processing Zone. There are over 6000 companies from more than 60 countries and regions investing in GDD, among which over 2900 are foreign-invested projects and 112 are invested by Fortune 500 companies. GDD is a state-level innovative science-tech area, attracting 1258 companies and 386 R&D institutes. In 2012, the R&D investment volume accounted for 3.85% of GDP.

Mr Hongwei mentioned that more than 2000 overseas talents and students set up their business in GDD with over 700 newly established enterprises. In 2012, the Guangzhou Science Park reached the total business revenue of 29 billion Euros and a total industrial output of 16.2 billion Euros. He also stated that the Guangzhou International Biotech Island will cover an area of 1.8 square kilometers with functional clusters of industrial incubation area, R&D area and industrial service area, etc.

Mr Li Hongwei also referred to the GDD Innovation Relay Center, aiming at facilitating the knowledge flow and technology transfer. He also explained the Innovation Alliance of New High-tech Industry,

focusing at establishing an industry-university-research cooperation system. He also mentioned that Local government's investment in science and technology grows constantly. Mr Hongwei also shown some examples of innovation centres at GDD, including the South China New Medicine Innovation Center and the Knowledge City that covers a planned area of 123 square kilometers with a 10-square-kilometer Start-up Area. The goal is to build a new highland for internationalized knowledge economy. Regarding GDD innovation with Europe, he mentioned the Sino-UK Biotech Bridge for international biotechnology and the cooperation with Sophia Antipolis in France.

With regard to the urban-rural cooperation, Mr Li stated that in 2005, In 2005, to fully utilize the radiation effect of GDD, Guangzhou Municipal Government set up a new administrative district (Luogang District) by integrating the surrounding rural areas of GDD with a total area of 393 square kilometers and a population of 370 thousand. The rural areas cover 80% of GDD with a rural population of 130 thousand. The infrastructure of roads, water supply and public services like culture, education and health are gravely insufficient. However, there are several measures undertaken to change the underdevelopment of rural areas.

Mr Mark Schneider

Mr Schneider focused on the Structural & Investment Funds (2014-2020) in the West Midlands (WM) and their potential to support the development of international markets. The West Midlands A region of contrasts: 2 large conurbations (Birmingham/Black Country & Stoke) and Rural areas to the West, North and South. It has been historically centre of manufacturing (industrial revolution). Although manufacturing is still important, it is been largely reduced (1996 22%, 2012 11%), but it is still above the UK average (13.1%). High value manufacturing areas include transport technologies, intelligent mobility, high performance engineering, automotive and aerospace. Also environmental and green technology, including low carbon vehicles have production sites in the West Midlands. Other areas of technological innovation include food production, horticulture, medical technologies and gaming.

Mr Schneider focused on the key areas of investment of the European Structural & Investment Funds (SIF). Particularly the ERDF priorities for 2014-2020 are research, technological development & innovation. Also the enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs and supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors is a key area of investment. Moreover, promoting climate change adaptation, protecting the environment and resource efficiency and promoting sustainable transport are further fields of action. For the next financial period, SIF in the UK will be delivered through 39 LEPs (Local Enterprise Partnerships) instead of 9 Regional Development Agencies for the last period. LEPs are partnerships between public and private sectors to drive economic development. West Midlands' LEP will concentrate inter alia on increasing the numbers of 'growth firms', the numbers of businesses investing in innovation and developing new markets (internationalisation).

In this context, in May 2013 an inward mission from China to WM through the CETREGIO programme focused on urban-rural dynamics, visiting Shropshire (Flax Mill & Food Technology Centre) and Staffordshire (JLR I54 site). As a follow-up, in June 2013 a member of Shropshire County Council visited China (Guangxi) to explore new business possibilities. In November 2013 two representatives of the West Midlands will participate at the regional innovation workshops planned in China (Wuhan and Tianjin) as well as at the EU-China Urbanisation Forum in Beijing. In the 1st half of 2014, the West Midlands are targeting a pilot Business to Business mission on high value manufacturing

(Ceramics, Agri-Food) to China. These steps are being coordinated with UKTI and supported through SME Internationalisation (ERDF project).

Mr Iñigo Bilbao, Head of the Strategic Planning Department, City Council of Vitoria- Gasteiz

With 240.000 citizens, Vitoria-Gasteiz is a medium size city in European scale. However, approx.80 per cent of Europeans live in cities of this size. Vitoria-Gasteiz referred to the rapid urbanisation during the 1970s (population was doubled within only ten years). Mr Bilbao stated that the city is very compact (only three kilometres from the centre to the border), allowing population to walk and cycle. The city is surrounded by a green belt and is an area of great biodiversity.

With regard to land use, one third is the city is urban area, one third is rural area and one third is forest. Vitoria's goal is to interconnect all the green areas within and outside the city. One of the main objectives in the near future is to close the green belt around the city.

Mr Bilbao explained Vitoria's strategy against the climate change based on modal split and lower energy consumption. The goal is to become a carbon neutral city by 2050. With regard to traffic, Mr Bilbao stated that the use of private cars has decreased dramatically, whereas cycling and walking have increased. In 2006, the traffic share of private cars was 75 per cent, but since then it has been largely reduced towards public transportation. Car parking pricing policy played here a key role.

Mr Bilbao also referred to the cooperation with China since his city's involvement in the CETREGIO programme. Vitoria-Gasteiz is preparing twinning activities with cities in Fujian province as well as in Tianjin city. Mr Bilbao expressed his gratitude to the European Commission since the CETREGIO programme has been the key driver of this cooperation.

Discussion and closing remarks

Ms Yiu Limiao, a student in the UK, asked about the decentralised cooperation mechanism at the local level in China. Mr Li Hongwei answered that the new focus is to give more power to local authorities. Mr Fan complemented that tax exemption is no longer an instrument for attracting innovative companies, but that the vision is rather providing a platform for innovation.

Ms Sigrid Winker from Austrian TMG in Linz gave some examples of best practices in Upper Austria and invited Chinese delegates to establish links with her region. She also mentioned that the EU-Danube Strategy is a good practice for China since it contributes to creating innovation chains. China has similar cross-regional cooperation mechanisms that offer good experiences for Europe.

Mr Tin Pajil from the Internationalization Board at Zagreb' City Council explained the longstanding cooperation with Shanghai city but aimed at boosting exchange in areas like tourism and innovation.

Discussions further centred on creating a joint investment platform for the EU and China and involving more business representatives in the CETREGIO programme. The sectors will depend on the comparative advantages and special features of the regions involved, including green development

Mr Fan Hengshan expressed his gratitude to the European Commission for a productive workshop. He referred to the contents discussed about innovation and its value in overcoming the financial crisis.

Mr Hall referred to the future focus of the dialogue on urban areas, since DG REGIO is concentrating on new priorities. DG REGIO will not be able to involve all themes and areas, but will involve business representatives in the activities scheduled for 2014.

6.2. Working sessions in Ireland

Meetings in Ireland started at the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform in Dublin. Mr Gearoid O'Keeffe, Head of Unit, explained the European Cohesion Policy work in Ireland and the key issues the next period (2014-2020). Since joining the EU in 1973, Ireland has received 20 billion Euros from the structural funds. At that time, it was the poorest country of then 12 member states – nowadays Ireland is the ranks at place 11 out of 28 EU countries. Mr O'Keeffe referred to the decision making process between the European and the national level regarding cohesion policy funds. He explained the importance of cooperation with the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. For Ireland, not only cohesion policy, but also agricultural policy is particularly relevant (even more funds available for the country). Mr O'Keeffe also referred to the deep recession that began in 2008, that forced the public sector to inject money into the Irish banking system. As a consequence, national debt increased from 20 per cent of GDP in 2007 to 84 per cent of GDP in 2012, and the general government debt increased from 25 per cent of GDP in 2007 to 117 per cent of GDP in 2012.

Discussions centred on the main areas of investment with EU money (ICT, energy efficiency, labour training), the top-down and bottom-up approaches for the design and implementation of the ERDF in the country as well as about similarities of regional policy between China and Ireland.

Participants then visited the Trinity College in Dublin, especially the *Trinity Long Room Hub*. The institute is one of five flagship research centres of the University, and the one dedicated to promoting and facilitating innovative research across its seven Arts and Humanities member Schools. The director of the centre, Professor Jürgen Barkhoff, explained the features of the new building that has been built with the support of the ERDF. On the afternoon, participants visited the Smithfield Quarter, which has been enhanced with the support of the ERDF. The project was delivered by Dublin City Council at a cost of €4.8m (ERDF, national and Dublin City Council funds). A visit to the Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN) had to be cancelled due to logistic problems of Chinese delegates (later arrival from Brussels due to flight cancellation).

After arrival in Waterford, Chinese participants met Mr Stephen Blair, Director of the Southern & Eastern (S&E) Regional Assembly. Mr Blair delivered a speech about ERDF in Ireland. The country has a total population of 4.4 million inhabitants and covers an area of 70,000 sq km. The country's GDP is 30% higher than the EU average. Mr Blair explained that Ireland became one of the models states for the use of European funding for catching-up with the economic level of more developed EU countries. He explained the main priorities of investments in different programming periods, focusing on the current one (2007-2013). The EU structural funds have made a modest but important contribution, supporting (but not driving) economic convergence. Other factors that explain the "Celtic Tiger" are favourable demographics, wider effects of EU membership (macroeconomic policy, FDI, political stability).

Mr Blair mentioned that the estimated long-run impact of EU Funds has added about 3 per cent to GDP. He also summarised some key features of the Irish implementation system for ERDF, including a centralised approach, the key role of Finance Ministry, an implementation dominated by government bodies and agencies under a strong partnership approach with the private sector. The Regional

Assemblies manage the Regional Operational Programmes (ROPs), monitor and make proposals in relation to the general impact of all EU programmes in the regions. The current S&E ROP (2007-13) acts under changed circumstances since no Irish Regions qualify under EU's Objective 1 (Convergence Regions). This has meant a drastic reduction in Structural Funds coming to Ireland and the S&E ROP now has total budget of €680m. Mr Blair stated that the scope is much more restricted regarding the type of activities that are eligible for co-financing (emphasis on Innovation & Knowledge Economy).

Mr Blair also explained some key lessons learned, including 1) concentration of spending on human resources (different to other EU countries that focused on infrastructure); 2) FDI have played a key role in the adaptation of the regional development strategies; 3) the catch-up process takes decades (Ireland needed 20 years since EU membership) but you have to keep in the right track and develop long term strategies; and 4) financial commitment by the central government (pre-financing) plays a key role in achieving certainty that is crucial for attracting private capital. Discussion with Chinese experts focused on the leverage caused by public investment, the role of local authorities in shaping priorities and developing projects.

Chinese participants then met Mr Michael Walsh, City Manager. Mr Walsh explained the tasks of the city in the areas of infrastructure, planning and regulatory control. The Council decides about the expending of an annual budget of € 59 Mio. The fund is financed through the national government (1/3) and locally generated income (2/3), especially through taxation. Mr Walsh explained that the municipality cannot generate substantial debt since the budget needs to be approved by the central government. The local taxation level is decided by the City Council (within a certain range). Discussions with Chinese experts centred on the management of projects on the spot (senior management teams for 4 areas) and the establishment of direct channels of cooperation between Chinese cities and Waterford. Delegates agreed that the Director of Economic Development of Waterford could act as liaison officer and establish a work programme with an NDRC expert. The focus would be on support to SMEs of both countries in order to boost bilateral trade.

On the afternoon Chinese delegates visited the Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre, an ERDF co-financed Flagship project. They also visited the Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT), meeting Dr Ruaidhri Neavyn (President) and Dr Willie Donnelly (Head of Research and Innovation). Mr Neavyn explained that Waterford has only 100.000 inhabitants, but is at the centre of a 500.000 people south-eastern region of Ireland. WIT designs courses based on the industry needs, hereby achieving a high employment rate of graduates (95%). WIT aims at strengthening the regional value by optimising agricultural output and further developing agribusiness in general. The WIT has strong ties with China and NDRC delegates could actually meet 4 Chinese students currently at WIT. European and Chinese experts agreed to establish a pilot project between WIT and the Guangzhou Development District.

Chinese delegates were taken to the Telecommunication Software and Systems Group (TSSG), a international centre of excellence for ICT innovation (<http://www.tssg.org/2012/02/research-innovation-at-wit/>). TSSG strongly cooperates with EU programmes. Dr Willie Donnelly introduced several cooperation projects with leading telecommunication companies including Nokia and Ericsson. He stated that TSSG has positioned as regional hub for research and innovation. Through arclabs, the TSSG has supported 84 start-ups that today employ 250 people with an annual turnover of approx. €30 Mio. Dr Donnelly also explained major research areas including biotech and advanced materials. TSSG cooperates with China in monitoring the quality of milk – a key issue for China since a few years. He also showcased Feedhenry, a ground-breaking mobile cloud platform company.

7. Composition of the Chinese delegation

Delegates from NDRC to participate at the China-EU Training in Regional Policy (CETREGIO) – Field visits in various EU countries from 09 to 14 October 2013			
N°	Name	Gender	Position
1	Mr Fan Hengshan	NDRC Regional Development Division	Director General
2	Mr Zhou Yiren	NDRC Regional Development Division	Director
3	Ms Wang Mingli	NDRC Regional Development Division	Vice-Director
4	Mr Lv Yongzhong	Beijing Development & Reform Commission, Planning Department	Director
5	Mr Li Hongwei	Luogang District, Guangzhou	Governor
6	Mr Zhou Chengjiu	Industry Division of Development and Reform Bureau in Guangzhou Development District.	Director
7	Ms Liu Lifeng	Luogang District of Guangzhou, Price Supervision Office, Guangzhou Development District	Deputy Director
8	Mr Li Yuanfeng	Guangzhou Valuda Group Corp.	Chairman

Chinese experts were supported by Mr Pablo Gándara (CETREGIO coordinator) and Mr Shi Xin (CETREGIO assistant) as well as by local interpreters.

8. Documentation and E-Learning

Most presentations held during the training were uploaded to Global Campus 21® (GC21), GIZ's virtual learning platform on the Internet. For this information session, a shared workspace was established in English and Chinese. This provides various online tools, such as discussion forums, pin board, document pools, link collections, and mailing features. The platform also provides relevant information on technical aspects and general information on the destinations that were visited.



The screenshot shows the Global Campus 21® web interface. The browser address bar displays the URL: <https://gc21.giz.de/ibt/1/>. The page title is "Information Session 7: Regional Development and Innovation". The interface includes a navigation menu on the left with options like "学员的资源" (Learner Resources), "Tutor News", "学员名单" (Learner List), "文档" (Documents), "留言" (Messages), "白板" (Whiteboard), "聊天" (Chat), "链接集" (Link Collection), and "辅导员的资源" (Tutor Resources). The main content area shows a list of forum posts with columns for "标题" (Title), "文件" (File), "发送人" (Sender), "日期" (Date), "更新次数" (Update Count), "Status", and "最后升级" (Last Upgrade). The posts are sorted by date and show messages from Volker Kienast dated 2013-10-28 and 2013-10-27.

9. Pictures Gallery



Speech by Mr Geraoid O'Keeffe, Dublin



Prof Jürgen Barkhoff, Director of the Trinity Long Room Hub, ERDF-funded, Dublin



Visit of the Smithfield area, Dublin



Speech by Mr Stephen Blair, Waterford



Visit to the TSSG at the Waterford Institute of Technology (picture is property of WIT)



Meeting at the Mayor's Office in Waterford