



Information Sessions in Regional Policy Regional Policy Dialogue with China

A project of the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy 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 13 – 28 November 2012

**An event prepared for delegates of the
National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)
People's Republic of China**

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1. Summary

The programme was designed for 20 delegates of NDRC supported by 2 GIZ staff members and one interpreter. The information session dealt with the sustainable development of urban regions and integrated approaches to govern urban-rural relations. The topic had been agreed by the European Commission and NDRC. The training included field visits to selected European urban and rural areas, focusing on the relevance of innovative sustainable urban planning approaches. It was also intended to show striking differences on the challenges confronted by different European regions. Polycentric development strategies and the linkages between cities and regions built the red line of the seminar. The case studies were carefully selected according to the diversity of European sustainable urban development experiences. The information session encouraged open discussion and understanding between European and Chinese practitioners and policy-makers.

The course started with three field visits for European experts to Tianjin. The second day consisted of training in Beijing, where Chinese delegates received an overview of territorial development trends in Europe and of sustainable urban development strategies in selected regions. Two European lecturers introduced best practices in their regions (Aachen in Germany and Barcelona in Spain). The event also included an introduction on sustainable urbanisation by one Chinese expert and a presentation of the relevant European Union's programmes in China.

Once in Europe, the information session took participants to three EU member states representing the diversity of approaches to achieving sustainable urban and regional development: Spain, Slovakia and Germany. Including the meetings in Brussels, a total of four countries was visited. Chinese delegates absolved a total of 26 working sessions, including several field visits co-funded through EU cohesion policy instruments.

In Spain, delegates were able to have several meetings in Vitoria-Gasteiz, the European Green Capital 2012 awarded by the European Commission. In Bilbao, Chinese delegates attended meetings with urban development experts and visited best practices in one of Europe's most successful examples of sustainable urban renewal in the last decades. In Slovakia, Chinese delegates met regional development authorities and got first hand experiences on best practices in Bratislava and Nitra. In Germany, delegates held meetings with experts of the City of Bonn, as well as with representatives from international organisations, urban planning and research.

With regard to interactive participation, we scheduled two workshops in the programme: a brief wrap-up session at the end of the first week and a full-day one at the end of the complete session. The brief workshop was designed to debate with delegates about the report to be drafted and to be discussed during the closing workshop. The information session was rounded-up by a half day workshop in Bonn, comprising the key contents of the seminar. At the end of the workshop, participants also assessed the seminar and received participation certificates. European lecturers and Chinese participants were requested to disseminate their insights to a wider community of experts in both regions in order to achieve a multiplier effect.

Press coverage was widely achieved in Spain, where three newspapers reported about the Chinese experts visit to Vitoria-Gasteiz and Bilbao. It should be mentioned that the Spanish City of Vitoria-Gasteiz and the Chinese City of Sanming signed a joint declaration on sustainable urban development cooperation.

2. 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).

3. 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 one-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 of max. 90 min each of which max. 60 min were devoted to presentations and (consecutive) interpretation. The remaining time was used by the project coordinator to promote a vivid 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-funded projects. Interactive participation 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 information session 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.

4. Overview of the programme

Day	General Issues	Cities / Regions
Monday, 12 November 2012	Field visit to Tianjin	Tianjin (CN)
Tuesday, 13 November 2012	Briefing session in Beijing	Beijing (CN)
Wednesday, 14 Nov. 2012	Field visits in Beijing	Beijing (CN)
Thursday, 15 Nov. 2012	Field visits in Beijing	Beijing (CN)
Friday, 16 Nov. 2012	Flight to Europe (11:55 – 22:05) Accommodation in Bonn	Beijing (CN) – Amsterdam (NL) – Bonn (DE)
Saturday, 17 Nov. 2012	Flight to Bilbao (11:15 – 16:30) Accommodation in Vitoria Gasteiz	Bonn (DE) – Vitoria-Gasteiz (ES)
Sunday, 18 Nov. 2012	Free day in Basque Country Accommodation in Vitoria-Gasteiz	Basque Country (ES)
Monday, 19 Nov. 2012	Morning: Field visits Vitoria-Gasteiz Accommodation in Vitoria-Gasteiz	Vitoria-Gasteiz (ES)
Tuesday, 20 Nov. 2012	Field visits in Vitoria-Gasteiz and Bilbao Accommodation in Bilbao	Vitoria-Gasteiz (ES) – Bilbao (ES)
Wednesday, 21 Nov. 2012	Flight to Vienna (17:20 – 23:05) Transfer to Bratislava (SK) – 80 km Accommodation in Bratislava	Bilbao (ES) – Vienna (SK) – Bratislava (SK)
Thursday, 22 Nov. 2012	Field visits in Bratislava (SK) Accommodation in Bratislava	Bratislava (SK)
Friday, 23 Nov. 2012	Field visits in Bratislava or Nitra (SK) Accommodation in Bratislava	Bratislava – Nitra (SK)
Saturday, 24 Nov. 2012	Wrap-up session Cultural programme in Bratislava (SK) Accommodation in Bratislava	Bratislava (SK)
Sunday, 25 Nov. 2012	Flight to Brussels (09:25 – 11:20) Accommodation in Brussels	Bratislava (SK) – Brussels (BE)
Monday, 26 Nov. 2012	Meetings in Brussels Transfer by bus to Bonn (230 km) Accommodation in Bonn	Brussels (BE)
Tuesday, 27 Nov. 2012	Lunch in Bonn at GIZ Workshop and closing session Accommodation in Bonn	Brussels (BE) - Bonn (DE)
Wednesday, 28 November 2012	Departure to Beijing (11:20 – 09:55 arrival on Thursday 29 November)	Bonn (DE) - Amsterdam (NL) Beijing (CN)

5. Detailed programme

Day 1 – Monday, 12 November 2012
Venue: Tianjin

Field Visit

Binhai New Area lies along the southeast coast of Tianjin, a central city in Bohai economic circle. 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. Besides, it includes 27 towns. It is the intersection between the developed city chain in the eastern coast of China, that is, Beijing, Tianjin and those in Hebei province, and Bohai city band. The Binhai New Area is being developed into a gateway for northern China and as a base of modern manufacturing and R&D transformation. Exploration and innovation will give access to strong development vitality and advantages in institutional mechanisms so as to promote its regional comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development.

One of the flagship projects of Binhai New Area is the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City, launched 2007. The Tianjin Eco-City's vision is to be "*a thriving city which is socially harmonious, environmentally-friendly and resource-efficient – a model for sustainable development*"¹. The Master Plan is driven by sustainable land-use, transportation and environmental planning. The Plan attempts to strike a balance between competing needs, including the social, economic and environmental needs of the Eco-City.

The idea of the field visit is to meet local representatives who deliver presentations about the cooperation mechanisms among different authorities from involved cities and provinces. This visit should also reflect the implementation steps and the coordination/cooperation mechanisms with other departments. The Binhai New Area is to be presented as an example of sustainable urban development in China and to compare it with similar initiatives in Europe.

Day 2 - Tuesday, 13 November 2012

Venue: Hong-Kong Macao Center at the Chinese Academy of Governance (CAG)

No.6 Changchunqiao Road, Haidian District, Beijing

12:30 Joint Working Lunch

14:00 Welcoming words by the Chinese Academy of Governance
Ms Dong Qing, Head of the International Affairs Department

14:15 Key note by NDRC, introduction of the delegates
Mr Zhou Yiren, Director, Department of Regional Economy, NDRC

14:45 Session 1: The China-EU partnership on Sustainable Urbanisation
Mr Laurent Javaudin, Energy and Sustainable Urbanisation, EU Delegation in Beijing

15:15 Session 2: Sustainable Urbanisation in China
Mr Zhang Zhanbing, Director General, Department of Economy, Chinese Academy of Governance

15:45 Tea and Coffee Break

¹ See http://www.tianjinecocity.gov.sg/bg_intro.htm.

- 16:00** **Session 3: Regional and Urban Development in Catalonia**
Mr Joan Prat i Coll, Head of the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the European Union, Brussels
- 17:30** **Session 4: Sustainable Urban Development – experiences from City Region Aachen**
Mr Thomas König, Head of Economic Promotion and Europe, City Region Aachen
- 18:30** **End of training**
- 19:00** **Dinner at CAG**

Day 2 - Wednesday, 14 November 2012 – Beijing Area

- 09:00** **Session 5: Introduction to regional policy and sustainable urban development**
Mr Pablo Gándara, Consultant for GIZ
- 11:00** **Session 6: Chinese session on reporting**
Mr Zhang Dongqiang, Director, Division for Regional Planning, NDRC

Free afternoon

Day 3 (Thursday, 15 November 2012) – Beijing Area

Field visit to selected best practices in Beijing

Arranged by Beijing Municipal Commission of Development & Reform

Area of the visit: Zhong Guan Cun technology hub.

**Day 4 (Friday, 16 November 2012)
Travel Day**

- 07:30 Transfer to Beijing Capital International Airport
- 08:30 Arrival and check-in
- 11:55 Flight to Amsterdam and Cologne (KL 898)
- 22:05 Arrival in Cologne
- Transfer by bus to Hotel (30 min)

Day 5 (Saturday, 17 November 2012) - Travel Day

- 11:15 Departure to Bilbao (one stop in Palma)
- 16:30 Arrival in Bilbao
- 17:30 Transfer by bus to Vitoria-Gasteiz

18:30 Check-in in hotel

Dinner and accommodation in Vitoria-Gasteiz

Day 6 (Sunday, 18 November 2012) – Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basque Country

09:30 Guided visit: Guided visit to the City Historical Centre

13:30 Lunch

Free Afternoon.

Day 7 (Monday, 19 November 2012) – Vitoria-Gasteiz. City Hall, Sala 3.

09:00 Session 7: Cohesion policy in Basque Country – the OP Basque Country
Mr Koldo Hualde, Department for Economy and Planning, Regional Government of the Basque Country

11:00 Official Reception by the Mayor of Vitoria Gasteiz, Mr Javier Maroto

11:30 Session 8: Vitoria-Gasteiz – European Green Capital 2012
Mr. Juan Carlos Escudero, Director, Centre for Environmental Studies, Vitoria-Gasteiz City Council

13:00 Lunch

15:00 Session 9: Field Visit on Managing Water Scarcity. Ataria and Salburua Wetlands
Mr. Angel Llamazares, CEO of AMVISA (Municipal Water Company)

16:30 Session 10: Field visit to a Green Factory
Mr Iñigo Bilbao, General Director of Strategic Projects of the Vitoria-Gasteiz City Council

Day 8 (Tuesday, 20 November 2012) – Vitoria-Gasteiz / Bilbao

09:00 Transfer by bus to Bilbao

11:00 Session 11: Visit of the Guggenheim Museum
Representative of the Basque Country

15:30 Session 12: Urban Development in Bilbao
Mr Alfonso Martinez Cearra, CEO of Bilbao Metropoli 30.

18:00 Session 13: Guided visit to Abandoibarra area

Day 9 (Wednesday, 21 November 2012)

Travel day

Flight from Bilbao to Vienna and transfer by bus to Bratislava (80 km)

Accommodation in Bratislava

Day 10 (Thursday, 22 November 2012) – Bratislava

- 10:00 Session 14: EU cohesion policy in Slovakia**
Mr Emil Pícha, Director of the Director General Office, Agency for the Support of Regional Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, Managing Authority of ROP
- 11:00 Session 15: Field visit on sustainable urban development: municipality of Veľký Biel**
Ms Zuzana Lukáčová, Regional Support Development Agency, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Bratislava.
- 13:00 Lunch**
- 15:00 Session 16: Field visit to a public park and amphitheatre in the surrounding area of Bratislava**
- 16:00 Session 17: Field visit to a SME co-financed with ERDF**
- 19:00 Dinner**

Accommodation in Bratislava

Day 11 (Friday, 23 November 2012) – Nitra

- 08:00 Transfer to the City of Nitra** (95km from Bratislava)
- 10:00 Session 18: Sustainable Development in Nitra and support from the EU**
Mr Štefan Stefek, Vice Mayor City of Nitra.
- 12:00 Session 19: Rural-Urban linkages in the Nitra region**
Mr Štefan Králik, Special Officer at Nitra Self-Governing Region
- 13:30 Lunch**
- 15:00 Session 20: Field Visit to an Elementary School**
Ms Katarina Cepelakova, City of Nitra
- 17:00 Transfer to Bratislava**
- 18:30 Dinner in Bratislava**

Day 12 (Saturday, 24 November 2012) – Nitra - Bratislava

Morning: Wrap-up session

Cultural Programme

Accommodation in Bratislava

Day 13 (Sunday, 25 November 2012) - Brussels

Flight to Brussels (RYA 09:25 – 11:20)

Free day in Brussels

Day 14 (Monday, 26 November 2012) - Brussels

- 09:00 Session 21: Visit of the European Parliament**
Lecturer: Visitors' Centre of the European Parliament
- 11:00 Session 22: EU Regional Policy – An Inspiration for China?**
Lecturer: Mr Ramón López, European Commission, Brussels
- 13:00 Lunch**
- 15:00 Transfer by bus to Bonn (200km)**
- Dinner and Accommodation in Bonn**

Day 15 (Tuesday, 27 November 2012) - Bonn

- 10:00 Session 23: Sustainable Urban Development in Bonn**
Mr Michael Isselmann, Director of Urban Planning, City of Bonn
Mr David Baier, Director of Department, Green Areas, City of Bonn
- 11:30 Session 24: Partnership for sustainable rural-urban development**
Dr Rupert Kawka, Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR), Bonn
- 12:30 Lunch**
- 13:30 Session 25: Sustainable urban development in the EU - the role of local authorities**
Mr Gino Van Begin, Deputy Secretary General ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
- 14:30 Session 26: Closing session**
Ms Jeanette Funke, Head of Unit, GIZ
- Dinner and Accommodation in Bonn**

Day 16 (Wednesday, 28 December 2012) – Return to Beijing

- 11:20 – 12:20 Flight Cologne – Amsterdam (KL 1808)
- 17:35 – 09:55 Flight Amsterdam – Beijing (KL 897)
- Arrival on Thursday 29 December 2012 at 09:55 AM (Beijing time)

6. Summary of the working sessions

Sessions in Tianjin

The programme started with one field visit of selected European experts to the Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area (TEDA). The area - founded in 1984 - covers a surface of 40 sq. km and enjoys relevant state preferential policies. TEDA has three industrial parks under direct administration of the TEDA Administrative Commission and provide opportunities to domestic and foreign investors to make investment and choose site locations. The area is one of the fastest growing of China and her gross domestic product accounted over € 20 billion in 2011. European experts were able to visit the TEDA administration centre where they received an introduction of the zone by Mr Hu Jun Sun, Director of the Regional Cooperation Council and of the Bohai Rim Cities' Council. Mr An Limin, Vice-Director General of Tianjin's Development and Reform Commission shown European experts a model of TEDA and explained the key economic and urban development figures. Experts were also able to visit Airbus assembly plant in Tianjin. The seminar included a field visit to the aircraft carrier Kiev, a former Soviet vessel that has been transformed into a museum and hotel as part of Tianjin attempts to boost tourism in the region.

Sessions in Beijing

Ms Dong Qing introduced the Chinese Academy of Governance (CAG), the official training body of the State Council. CAG conducted annual training for about 10,000 Chinese and foreign government officials. CAG has focused efforts in the area of sustainable urban development and has been proposed by the State Council as the main body to train experts within the EU-China partnership on this issue.

Mr Laurent Javaudin, Delegation of the European Union to China, introduced the China-EU Partnership on Sustainable Urbanisation and specified the priority areas of actions, including urban infrastructure, energy supply and smart mobility. Mr Javaudin also introduced the annual EU-China Mayors Forum, a flagship event for the cooperation that took place in Brussels in September 2012. More than 500 participants from Europe and China participated in eight thematic workshops. Key counterparts are the EU Covenant of Mayors and the Chinese Mayors Association. He also mentioned possible projects to be funded by the EU Delegation, including areas like cooperation on social protection reform, eco-urbanisation (LINK), satellite cities and metropolitan governance (EAST Project) and the EU-China sustainable urbanisation park in Shenyang.

Mr Zhou Yiren, Director at the Department of Regional Economy of NDRC, introduced the training cooperation programme CETREGIO as one of the pillars of the EU-China Regional Policy Dialogue. He underlined that since 2010 more than 100 Chinese officials have received training in Europe and China. Mr Zhou explained that although China has achieved a unique economic development, regional disparities remain large. He stated that China has developed an index to more accurately 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 who came from 14 provinces and Beijing.

Mr Zhang Zhanbing, Director General of the Department of Economy at the Chinese Academy of Governance (CAG) delivered a speech on sustainable urbanisation. He underlined the role of urbanisation as a key economic driver for China's economic growth and stated that industrialised countries have gone through the same process in the past. Whereas urbanisation levels in the US accounts 80% and in Europe 70% of population, China passed the 50% benchmark in 2011. However, the Chinese government expects 300-400 million people to move from rural areas to cities within the next 20 years. He stated that this demands more investment in public transportation, housing and public services. Mr Zhang explained that NDRC is preparing a master plan for urbanisation, including measures like providing urban residential permissions for migrant workers (around 160 million workers are currently temporarily allowed). Also the more efficient use of resources through establishing low-carbon emission cities could contribute to increase attractiveness of urbanisation. Mr Zhang finally stated that urbanisation should be promoted especially to small- and middle size cities (mostly third and fourth tier cities).

Mr Joan Prat i Coll, Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the Autonomy of Catalonia to the EU, introduced the issue of multi-level governance in Spain and Catalonia. Catalonia is an autonomous community of Spain with extensive competencies in matters such as industry, urban development, housing, regional politics, transport and the environment. The region – traditionally seen as the industrial core of Spain - has one of the largest regional economies in Spain and belongs to the “The Four Motors for Europe”, an initiative of four highly industrialized regions in Europe. With a population of 7.539.383, similar to Switzerland, Catalonia constitutes 17% of the Spanish population. The regional GDP (23% of the Spanish GDP), is similar to Finland's one and 20% over the European average. Barcelona, the capital city, has maintained its position as the best city in terms of quality of life since 1996, beating other European cities such as Paris, London and Madrid. The ports of Barcelona and Tarragona are among the largest in Europe in terms of goods and passengers. Mr Prat also explained the regional strengths in research and development. He focused his presentation on the urban development of Barcelona in the last 20 years, especially with regard to the port of Barcelona and the smart city concept. He explained the public investments and the integrated approach adopted while preparing the Olympic Games 1992. Mr Prat also stated the importance of Smart City Expo, the world's largest meeting involving the key urban decision-makers and the leading suppliers of real solutions and services for smart cities. The event was held in Barcelona in November 2012.

Mr Thomas König, Head of Economic Promotion and Europe at the City Region Aachen, introduced the region's sustainable urban development experiences. The StädteRegion Aachen comprises 10 cities with 564.000 inhabitants and is a German reference city for research and innovation. Within a wider context, the region is part of what is called the Blue Banana European urbanisation corridor. The region is a part of the European high-speed rail network and the European metropolitan cities are very easy to access. The Technology Region Aachen is very close to the Netherlands and Belgium, and has become a cross-border economic area for Limburg (NL), Vaals (NL), Heerlen (NL) and the German-speaking Community of Belgium. The cross border cooperation Charlemagne comprises about 800.000 inhabitants directly at the border. Mr König introduced some infrastructure and transportation projects at local and cross-regional level, including the euro-regional train line and the electric short distance vehicle streetscooter. He also explained the urban regional retail concept

(STRIKT), which aims at strengthening the city centre by avoiding urban inappropriate sites and enhancing the quality of life and attractiveness. Mr König also introduced the Mobile Region 2020 concept, which fosters multimodal transport, integrative and innovative technologies for the sustainable development of transport.

Mr Pablo Gándara introduced the key figures of European integration and briefly explained the regional diversities across the Union. He also described the institutional policy making of European legislation as well as the key instruments of European regional policy (ERDF, ESF, etc). Mr Gándara also introduced the key European documents on sustainable urban development and the specific EU funded programmes (URBACT II, JESSICA, Urban Audit, and promoting Urban-Rural Linkages).

Chinese government delegates were able to introduce themselves and to explain their expectations for the information session.

Sessions in Vitoria-Gasteiz

The first working day in Europe was a Sunday and delegates visited the old city of Vitoria-Gasteiz, the regional capital of the Basque Country. During the visit of the restoration works of Santa María Cathedral, Chinese experts were able to discuss with the project's director Mr Juan Ignacio Lasagabaster, who explained delegates the importance of sustainable development and the support of EU cohesion policy.

Mr Koldo Hualde, Director of the Department for Economy and Planning at the Regional Government of the Basque Country, introduced the regional operational plan (ROP). This ROP is part of the "Regional competitiveness and employment" objective and has a total budget of around €500 million. With this in mind, the programme's strategic objective is focused on convergence, both technological and social, with the most advanced regions in the EU. Despite its small volume (it represents only 0.06% of the region's GDP in annual terms) EU assistance has significant impact on the Basque Country's economy. Mr Hualde explained that the region is among the richest of Europe (135% of average GDP for 2011), it has a strong industrial basis and invests more than the European average in R&D. Mr Hualde explained the evolution of regional policy since 1985 and the decentralised management of funds in Spain. Today, regional policy promotes five priority areas, including sustainable urban development. He also stated that the region is facing the major challenge of an aging society.

Mr Juan Carlos Escudero, Director of the City's Centre of Environmental Studies introduced the City of Vitoria-Gasteiz, the regional capital. The city was awarded as European Green Capital 2012 especially due to her consistent record of high environmental standards and her intelligent mobility concept. Vitoria acts as a role model to inspire other European cities. The municipality comprises the city and an extensive rural-natural area with 63 small population centres and a total population of 240,580 inhabitants. Mr Escudero explained the city's efforts towards promoting green development of Vitoria-Gasteiz (32.67% of the urban area as public green areas). He also introduced the urban pathways, the Green Belt and the intelligent mobility concept, which promotes the use of hybrid and electrical vehicles, in addition to initiatives such as car-sharing. Citizens have several instruments and experiences of participation in environment and sustainable development, including the Environmental

Sector Council, the School Agenda 21 and the Citizens' Forum for Sustainable Mobility. Mr Escudero stated that Vitoria-Gasteiz is a medium-size city and that 84% of the European population lives in cities of this size. Therefore, Vitoria-Gasteiz is a reference for many European cities. He finally concentrated on the new water management model and on the promotion of green economy.

In the afternoon, Chinese delegates were able to visit AMVISA, the public water company of Vitoria-Gasteiz. On the supply side, the company is in charge of collection, storage, purification and distribution of drinking water. Sanitation includes sewers, purification and reuse of waste water plus treatment of slurry and derivate waste. Through awareness campaigns and a more efficient usage, AMVISA has been able to strongly reduce water consumption in the last 10 years. The company has an annual programme of environmental education activities based on water: trips along the Zadorra River, visits to the plants, recreational and participative activities (over 4.000 participants). Moreover, Mr Angel Llamazares described the plan to assess slurry in the waste water purification plant in Crispijana, the use of biogas and energy consumption optimisation studies and the plan to reuse non-drinking water.

The second field visit brought Chinese delegates to the vacuum waste collection system, introduced in Vitoria-Gasteiz in 2002. The pneumatic collection system drags waste through a metal pipe installed in the basement of Vitoria-Gasteiz. The network of underground metal pipes installed comprehends several dozens of kilometers. The project came in response to noise problems that generated the waste collection trucks when passing through the narrow streets of the city centre, as well as the inability to use recycling bins. Currently, the pneumatic collection system has been extended to several districts. Chinese delegates were able to visit one of the central waste collection stations, which also classify different kinds of waste. Representatives of the City of Vitoria-gasteiz explained the used two typos of bins (gray and yellow)

Sessions in Bilbao

On the next day, Chinese visitors were able to visit the City of Bilbao. Mr Alfonso Martínez, General Director of Bilbao Metropoli 30 welcomed the delegation. He started by explaining the work of the agency, a public-private partnership especially created in 1991 to elaborate a long term urban development strategy and to manage related measures in Bilbao. Mr Martínez also gave an overview of Bilbao's economic and urban development in the last three decades, focusing on the industrial decline and the challenges regarding urban infrastructure and transportation. He explained Bilbao's revitalisation project, one of Europe's most successful examples of sustainable urban renewal in the last decades. He referred to the complex process of harmonising interests of 34 municipalities involved in the area. Bilbao made the choice of using culture as a catalyst for achieving greater attractiveness in Europe and the world. Mr Martínez explained the key role of flagship constructions (Guggenheim museum, La Salve bridge, Metro entrances, Airport terminal, etc.) for city branding. He also reflected on the change of land use in Abandoibarra and the environmental regeneration of the Nervión River, the strategic axis of the City. Metropoli 30 is committed to international cooperation and offers continuous training in strategic management of cities, innovation and other related issues.

Chinese participants were then able to visit the Abandoibarra area, the former industrial area of Bilbao that has been transformed for green areas, cultural resources (Guggenheim Museum), commercial

and residential buildings. On the next day, Chinese participants were received at the Guggenheim Museum by a representative of Bilbao City Council, who explained the role of the venture for the regional economic and urban development.

Sessions in Bratislava

Chinese delegates had a two-day training programme in Bratislava and Nitra. The first meeting was held at the Agency for the Support of Regional Development and centred on the role of cohesion policy for the Slovak Republic. The country has a population of 5.4 million inhabitants and its economy faces key challenges of east-west disparities, polarised economic growth and social inclusion. Therefore, Slovakia has been allocated €11.7 billion for the 2007–13 period. Mr Jan Brutzko explained the national strategic framework, the management of funds through 11 ROPs and some priorities for investment, particularly in the infrastructure sector. He also referred to the City of Košice - located in the eastern part of Slovakia - that has been awarded as European Culture Capital 2013. Mr Brutzko explained the key areas of intervention for the ROP Bratislava, namely infrastructure and knowledge economy. The ROP has a total investment volume of €98 million.

Chinese delegates were able to visit a urban revitalization project in the city of Senec. The main goal of the project was to improve quality of life for residents by creating a leisure park, which provides space for free time zone, sport and playground for children. Part of the revitalization of green area was installing an automatic underground irrigation system with rain sensor to stop irrigation during the rain. The project also included the reconstruction of an amphitheatre for cultural activities. The total costs for the urban revitalisation measure were € 620.101. Chinese experts then visited the clothing company Donna Rossi, a small-size enterprise supported by the ROP due to its innovation in reducing energy costs as well as for implementing innovative ICT-based production systems.

Sessions in Nitra

On the next day, the delegation was transferred to Nitra, the fifth largest city in Slovakia (83.000 inhabitants) located 80km northeast from Bratislava. Mr Štefan Štefek, Vice Mayor of the city, outlined the key functions of the city as a middle-size centre for western Slovakia. He also explained some social and economic challenges including the improvement of education infrastructure and health services. Mr Štefek outlined the main support instruments for investors, including special tax reduction schemes and support of training activities. He invited Chinese experts to cooperate towards the economic development of the city.

Mr Miroslav Ondrejčka, director of Nitra's public investment agency, explained the regional strengths and focused on the chances for reusing the former rendering plant in Horne Krškany. The city's plan is to build residential houses, an Aquapark and additional industrial production. Mr Ondrejčka invited Chinese delegates to promote cooperation in this and further projects.

Mr Štefan Králik, Special Officer at Nitra self-governing region, explained the integrated rural development strategy of Nitra that is supported by the LEADER instrument of the European Commission. The strategy aims at increasing the living standards of rural areas and protecting the

environment. He also introduced the partnership for urban-rural linkages 2020 and gave some examples of local action groups and public-private partnerships in the Nitra Self-governing Region. These included branding of regional products as well as the reconstruction of a horse-riding ring - creating the conditions for educational and psychological riding for children with handicaps.

In the afternoon, Chinese delegates visited an elementary school that has been renovated with support of ERDF. The measure, which has been co-financed with € 1.3 million, is part of Nitra's attempts to increase attractiveness in order to increase energy saving and avoid brain drain. The director of the school showed the renovation works that are being implemented by using energy saving solutions. Chinese delegates were able to meet pupils and to discuss with the director of the school, who gave an overview of the works realized and of the quality of the education services.

Sessions in Brussels

Mr Ramón López (EU Commission, DG REGIO) introduced the context of territorial imbalances in Europe and China. In the EU only 7% of population lives in agglomerations over 5 million, significantly less than in China (14,4%). With regard to regional GDP, convergence regions in Europe are mostly located in the Eastern part of the continent, whereas in China, the west, north-east and south central part are lagging behind. Mr López also explained the progress of the regional policy dialogue with China and requested input from Chinese delegates. They proposed several measures and explained the key lessons learnt during the seminar and their relevance for sustainable urban and rural development in China.

Delegates also visited the European Parliament, where they attended a presentation on the institutional setting and decision making process of the European Union. The presentation centred on the main tasks of the committees, especially of the Regional Development Committee (REGI).

The last meeting in Brussels consisted of a visit to the Permanent Representation of Catalonia to the European Union. Ambassador Joan Prat i Coll – who had met delegates in China – explained best practices of Catalonia in sustainable urban development.

Sessions in Bonn

Work in Bonn started with a meeting at the City Hall with representatives of the city. Mr Stefan Wagner, Deputy Director of the Department for International Relations, welcomed the delegation and explained some basic facts about Bonn's international activities. Mr Michael Isselmann, Director of the City Planning Department, delivered an overview of Bonn's urban development, especially since the relocation of the German federal capital to Berlin. Although the city was compensated with a special plan, this relocation caused a net loss of 15.000 jobs. Therefore, Bonn developed a new strategy putting the region at its centre. Through a decentralised concentration scheme in cooperation with the counties of Rhine-Sieg and Ahrweiler, Bonn has been able to strengthen areas like sciences, research and development. Moreover, Bonn has become one of the main centres for European and international cooperation, hosting several UN bodies. Also the cultural development and leisure activities play a key role in the regional development strategy. Chinese delegates were particularly

interested in the compensation mechanisms for Bonn as well as on the city strategy to attract enterprises.

Mr David Baier, Director of the Bonn's Green Areas Department, introduced the project "Grünes C" (Green C), an inter-municipal cooperation that has been co-financed via ERDF (€12 million). The project "Green C" deals with the landscape area and aims at harmonising settlement expansion, economic growth, agricultural use, recreation planning and nature and landscape protection. Mr Baier reported about the participation of experts, stakeholders and citizens during the development of the Green C master plan process. He introduced the "Link", a green belt with pedestrian and cycling roads that is marked with harmonised gates and information stations in order to increase connectivity and local identity. Discussion focused on inter-municipal cooperation to increase employments, multi-level governance schemes and the public awareness campaigns.

Chinese delegates were then transferred to GIZ headquarters in Bonn, where they first had a meeting with Mr Gino van Begin, Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. ICLEI is an international association of over 1.220 local governments who are committed to sustainable development. It has members from 70 different countries, representing more than 500 million inhabitants. Mr van Begin delivered a speech on the key role of local governments and cities in fostering global sustainable development. He stated that cities have to start a rapid and radical transformation process to become eco-cities, characterised by eco-efficiency, low-carbon emissions, climate- and disaster resilience and green urban economy. Mr van Begin introduced some best practices like re-using brownfield-land and integrating agriculture and forestry into urban areas. He also explained the key elements of sustainable urban design and gave examples of transportation, energy and water measures to be adopted. Discussions centred on ecological compensation mechanisms, incentives to promote e-mobility, Chinese experiences of eco-cities (Tianjin), and energy saving measures.

Chinese delegates also attended a presentation by Mr Rupert Kawka from the German Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR). Mr Kawka introduced the rural-urban (*rurban*) partnerships, an issue that has become one of Europe's key regional development issues throughout the last 10 - 15 years. Although the idea is widely accepted, the experience has shown that rural-urban partnerships sometimes lack content, and sometimes expectations about their outcome are exaggerated. Mr Kawka explained the eight model regions in Germany, which have developed over 40 projects covering 57% of Germany with 53% of the population. Some examples are the regional chains of value added in the Nurnberg region and the joint spatial planning in the Stuttgart region. He explained key factors for success including motivation, concrete projects, time dedication and equal level cooperation. He also discussed with Chinese delegates about rural-urban partnerships in China and experiences in other European countries. Discussions centred on the fast growth of Chinese cities and its consequences for rural areas.

The seminar ended with a half-day workshop in Bonn. The workshop was moderated by Ms Jeanette Funke, Head of Department at GIZ. Participants were requested to develop their own reflection on EU regional policy and its usefulness for Chinese challenges. To see deeper insight into the opinions and recommendations of the Chinese experts, please refer to the document "Report by the Chinese Delegates December 2012" attached to this report as well as to section 11 of this report.

7. Composition of the Chinese delegation

Name	Position	Employer
Zhang Dongqiang	Director Division for Regional Planning	Department of Regional Economy, NDRC
Liu Yang	Programme Officer	Department of Regional Economy, NDRC
Liu Chunlin	Programme Officer	Tianjin Development and Reform Commission
Li Zulin	Deputy Director Division Regional Economy	Sichuan Development and Reform Commission
Li Hanxin	Deputy Director Division	Liaoning Development and Reform Commission
Zhang Lijun	Director Division	Guizhou Development and Reform Commission
Li Qizhen	Deputy Counsel	Hubei Economical Technological Cooperation Office
Lei Zhuning	Assistant Director(DDD-Level)	Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences
Yu Xuefeng	Deputy Director Division	Jiangxi Development and Reform Commission
Zhu Yanli	Section Chief	Hebei Chengde Development and Reform Commission
Huang Lanchun	Director(DD-Level)	Fujian Sanming Representative Office in Beijing
Liang Xiaohong	Director Division	Chongqing Development and Reform Commission
Yan Liqiang	Director General of Financial Bureau(DD-Level)	Jiangsu Xuwei New Area Financial Bureau
Zeng Xiaoying	Deputy Adviser (DDD-level)	Guangxi Development and Reform Commission
Guo Pei	Deputy Director Division	Shandong Development and Reform Commission
Yin Junbo	Deputy Director General	Anhui Development and Reform Commission
Min Fei	Director Department Development Planning	Guangzhou Development and Reform Commission
Sun Zhian	Director Division	Hebei Development and Reform Commission
Xia Mingjun	Programme Officer	Beijing Development and Reform Commission
Xu Huiping	Director Division	State Development Bank

8. Documentation provided to the participants

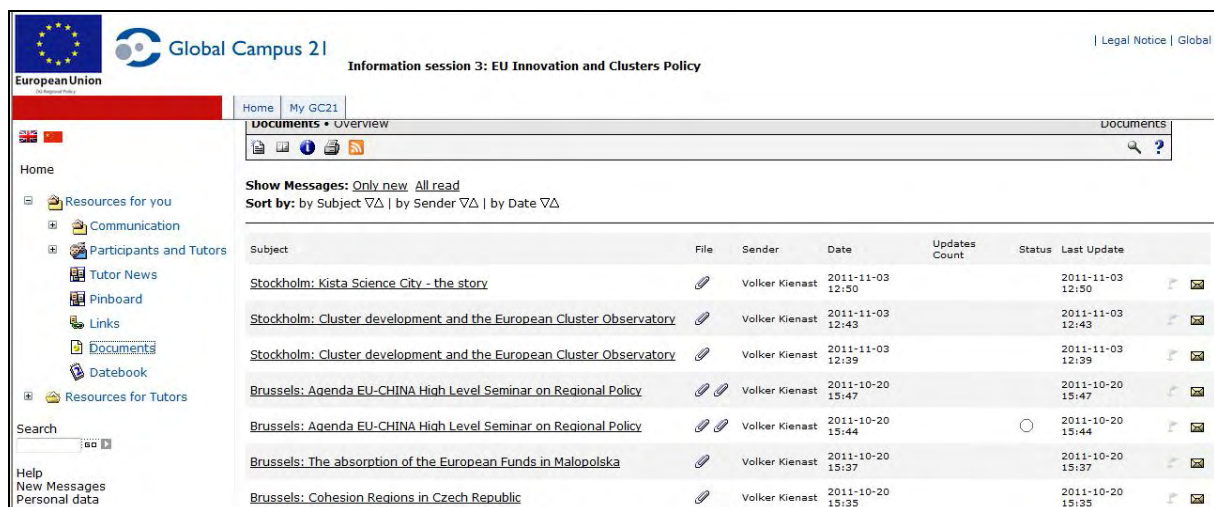
Detailed documentation folders were handed out to the participants in their introductory session in Beijing. The folders included:

- Programme
- Background material on EU-China Regional Policy Dialogue, EU Cohesion Policy 2007-2013.
- Background material on the relevant Operation Programmes (OPs) to be visited
- Background material on lectures and presentations

9. 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.



The screenshot shows the Global Campus 21 interface. At the top, there is a header with the European Union logo, the text 'Global Campus 21', and 'Information session 3: EU Innovation and Clusters Policy'. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with 'Home' and 'My GC21'. The main content area is titled 'Documents • Overview' and displays a table of documents. The table has columns for Subject, File, Sender, Date, Updates Count, Status, and Last Update. The documents listed are:

Subject	File	Sender	Date	Updates Count	Status	Last Update
Stockholm: Kista Science City - the story		Volker Kienast	2011-11-03 12:50			2011-11-03 12:50
Stockholm: Cluster development and the European Cluster Observatory		Volker Kienast	2011-11-03 12:43			2011-11-03 12:43
Stockholm: Cluster development and the European Cluster Observatory		Volker Kienast	2011-11-03 12:39			2011-11-03 12:39
Brussels: Agenda EU-CHINA High Level Seminar on Regional Policy		Volker Kienast	2011-10-20 15:47			2011-10-20 15:47
Brussels: Agenda EU-CHINA High Level Seminar on Regional Policy		Volker Kienast	2011-10-20 15:44			2011-10-20 15:44
Brussels: The absorption of the European Funds in Malopolska		Volker Kienast	2011-10-20 15:37			2011-10-20 15:37
Brussels: Cohesion Regions in Czech Republic		Volker Kienast	2011-10-20 15:35			2011-10-20 15:35

10. Press and media coverage



Title page of newspaper El Correo, explaining Vitoria-Gasteiz's green development model, 20.11.12. © El Correo.



Online Edition of Spanish Newspaper El Mundo, reporting about signature of bilateral agreement Vitoria-Sanming, 21.11.2012. © El Mundo.es



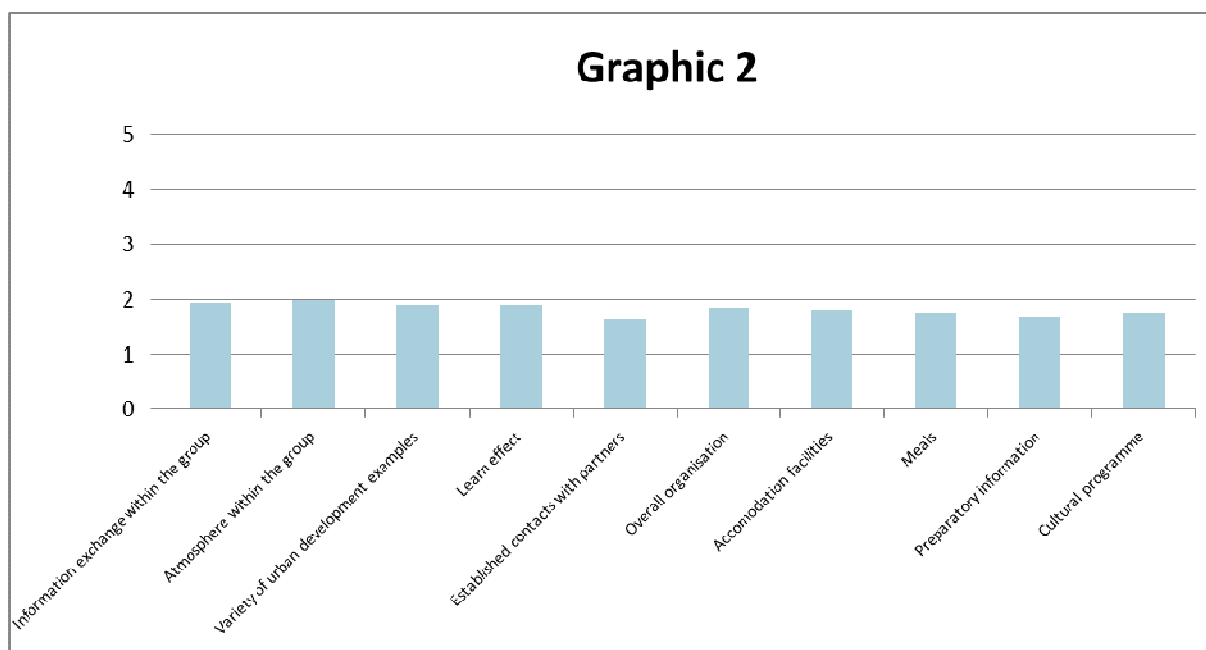
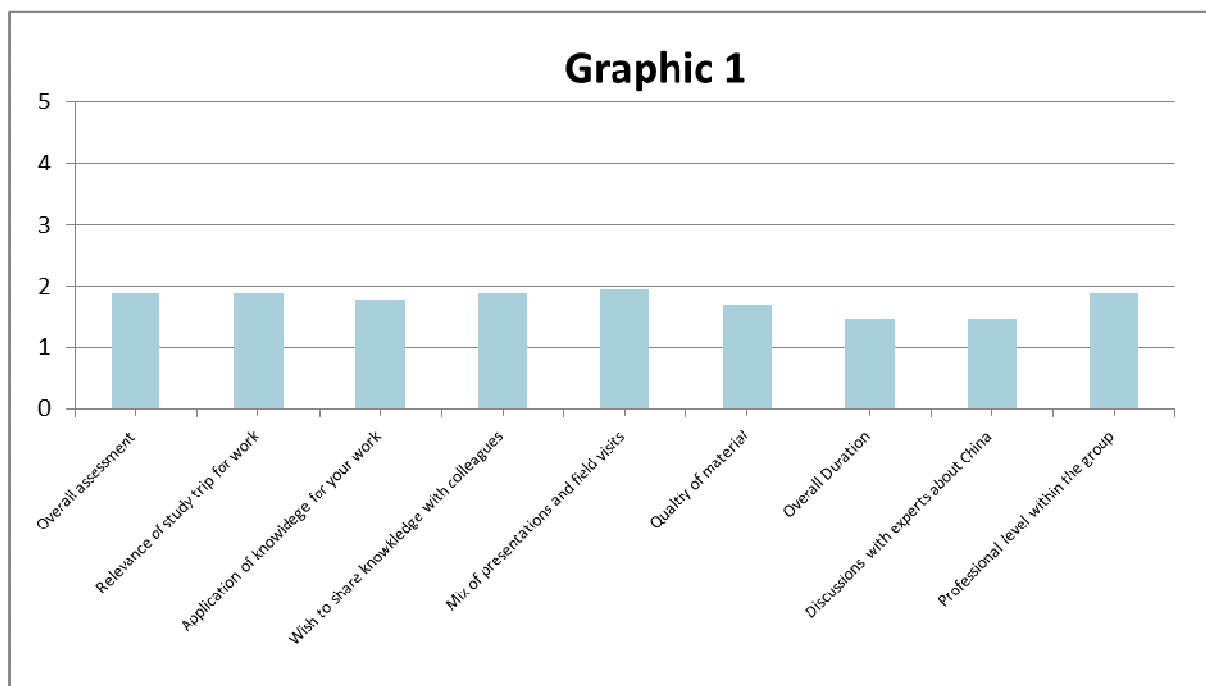
Report of newspaper El Correo about Chinese visit to Vitoria-Gasteiz, 20.11.12 © El Correo.



Story of newspaper *Diario de Noticias de Álava* about Chinese visit to Vitoria-Gasteiz, 19.11.12. © Diario de Noticias de Álava.

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).



12. Comments by Chinese participants

Question 1: Which topics of the information session or which additional topics should be discussed as part of possible follow-up process?

- The formulation and implementation of sustainable regional and urban development plan
- Planning, construction and management of cities
- Urban transformation development
- Urban rural relations and reasonable layout of urban functions
- Integrated development of human beings and supporting system establishment in urbanization
- Sustainable regional and urban development
- Rural special industry development
- Equal basic public service in rural areas
- European regional policy implementation procedure and results evaluation
- Introduce and analyse European regional problems
- Cross-river basin and water environment issues
- How to gather money for regional development against the backdrop of European debt crisis.
- Urban sustainable development
- Reasonable use of structural fund
- Reasonable layout of districts within cities
- Overall urban-rural development
- In urban sustainable development, how to inherit and protect city's historical and cultural tradition and identity, meanwhile absorbing new development elements and modern concepts; and how to combine these two in an appropriate way.
- Detailed measures about China participating in EU policy making.
- Experience and practice in urban function optimisation and adjustment.
- Influence to farmers while promoting overall rural urban development, analyse whether farmers' social welfare is improved.
- Further explanations about distribution of cohesion funds to different countries. Could you have minor adjustments of that amount during the implementation?

Question 2: Are there any concrete approaches or projects you would like to develop further – in Europe or China - with European partners?

- Cross-border environmental protection schemes
- Cooperation in new energy and new technology (electric vehicle)
- Have more visits and exchange of ideas between people from Europe and China.
- Introduce European city's urban waste automatic collecting system to Chinese cities.
- Come up with urban-rural plan for China
- Increase the frequency of trainings within China-Europe regional policy dialogue, emphasize on "dialogue" and have deeper understanding and further cooperation
- Establish industrial parks together and realize industry exchange
- Establish friendly cities and strengthen cooperation in economy, trade and culture.
- Develop new energy together, for instance: solar power, photovoltaic power generation and electric vehicle
- Explore ways for Guiyang, capital of Guizhou province, to cooperate with successfully developed small and medium cities in EU
- Develop urban waste classification system
- Cooperate on urban public transportation systems
- Support urban waste management system and water management system in China
- Strengthen exchange and cooperation between China and EU, besides this kind of trainings; we can push a batch of cooperating projects, through information exchange, guiding major market players to actively participate in those cooperating projects.
- Have research study, for instance, with the background of financial crisis, how to increase city's competitiveness and drive for development.
- Planning and layout of basic supporting facilities in urban development and overall rural-urban development; integrated design and implementation of public management.
- Hope that China and EU can explore and co-establish regional and urban rural development fund in 2014-2020 period, for discussions and trainings on regional development and urban-rural development. Also for pilot projects and demonstration projects on regional development and urban-rural development in China.

Question 3: Do you have any further comments and suggestions for improvements

- Longer time in Europe and visit different projects
- Very good arrangement of food
- Participants should make a longer self-introduction before the training to know more about each other and have better communication during the programme.
- Have more training materials and questionnaire in both Chinese and English
- Have more discussions in the future.
- Besides understanding measures and results of EU cohesion policy and regional development, we want to have more vivid and successful cases in urban sustainable development and regional development that we can learn from.
- Have similar training programmes in the future
- Introduce some failed projects for us to learn from.
- Have more communication between people from China and Europe. Chinese participants can talk more about their local measures and practices and share their experience with people from EU.
- Maybe arrange some Chinese participants to deliver speech about best practices in China, share our experience and have good interaction
- Provide us with more detailed schedule like training time, contents and requirements
- After understanding EU policy and measures, we want to see more vivid and typical examples, for instance, on urban construction and environmental governance, also examples related with China's sustainable development.
- Emphasize on one European country and have deeper discussion on one particular issue.
- Arrange more visits to historic sites for us to understand European culture.
- This is a very meaningful training, help us to broaden our horizon, update our concepts, have further cooperation between China and EU, and achieve mutual benefits and win-win situation.
- With current communication between EU and China, have visits between senior officials, have more trainings and discussions.
- Experts should consider and compare current economic development stage between China and European countries, analyse their neighbouring countries' economic, social and political environment.

13. Staff engaged in the implementation of the programme

Mr Stefan Unseld, Project Manager, Capacity Building in Europe, Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Mr Unseld holds an M.A in Latin American Regional Studies (Cologne) and has been involved in several bilateral and multilateral programs financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Commission. He currently manages the EU programme "AL-Invest IV – Horizontal Issues", where he has organised several international trade missions to Latin America and Europe.

Pablo Gándara, Project Consultant for GIZ, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Mr Gándara studied political science with a focus on economics in Chile (Santiago) and Germany (Berlin). Mr. Gándara has a long track record in leading public communication agencies, economic associations as well as academic and training institutions. He has also published several articles on EU foreign policy and regional integration issues. Mr. Gándara has developed and managed large scale research and training projects co-funded by the European Commission.

Volker Kienast, Project Assistant for GIZ, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Mr. Kienast studied geography and sinology in Germany and Taiwan. He is experienced in planning, implementing and evaluating of capacity building activities for executives of different Asian countries. He has provided capacity building and advisory services, especially of public urban transport and logistics and urban planning.

14. Pictures Gallery



Mr An Limin (DRC Tianjin) explains the TEDA area to the European Experts in Tianjin



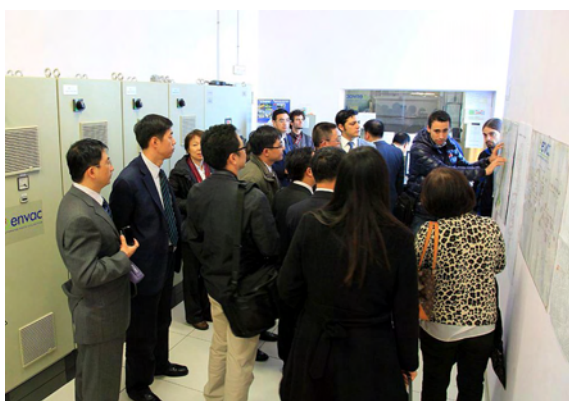
European experts visit the Sino-Singapore EcoCity in Tianjin



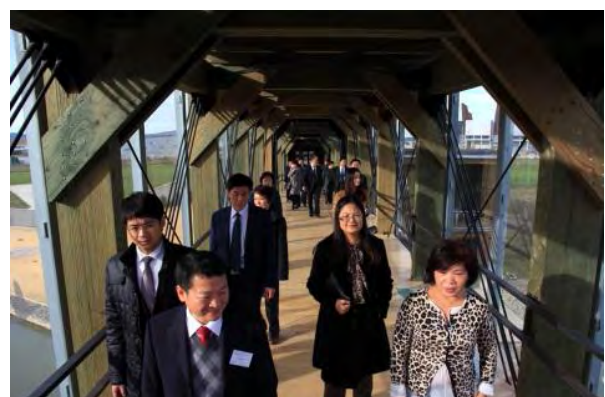
Catalonia's Ambassador Mr Joan Prat i Coll delivers a speech in Beijing



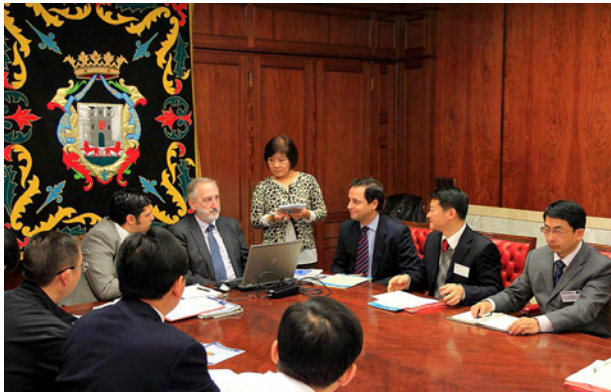
Chinese delegates visit the Church Santa María in Vitoria-Gasteiz



A representative of Vitoria-Gasteiz City Council explains the waste collection system



Field visit of water treatment plant at AMAVISA, Vitoria-Gasteiz



Meeting with Mr Koldo Hualde, Vitoria-Gasteiz



Press conference with Mayor Javier Maroto, Vitoria-Gasteiz



Mr Adolfo Martinez, CEO of Bilbao Metropoli 30, during discussions with Chinese experts



Meeting with Jan Brutzko and Zuzana Lukacova, Agency for Regional Development in Bratislava



Field visit to a small-size clothing enterprise co-funded with ERDF, Bratislava.



Field visit in Senec – revitalization of urban leisure zone, Slovak Republic



Mr Štefan Štefek, Deputy Mayor of Nitra, introduces the region to Chinese delegates



Field visit to an elementary school in Nitra



Discussions with Mr Ramón López, EU Commission (DG REGIO), Brussels



Catalonia's Ambassador Mr Joan Prat i Coll welcomes Chinese experts in Brussels



Speech by Mr Gino van Begin, General Secretary of ICLEI, Bonn



Mr Rupert Kawka, BBSR, explaining rural-urban partnerships in Bonn