



**Information Sessions in Regional Policy  
Regional Policy Dialogue with China**

A pilot project of the European Commission in the framework of their European Parliament pilot project to enhance regional and local co-operation by promoting EU regional policy on a global scale

**Information Session N°1  
Multi-Level Governance in EU Regional Policy  
08 – 21 July 2012**

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

**Technical Report**  
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Implemented by:

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH**

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## 1. Overview

This information session for 20 Chinese government officials was carried out on behalf of the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional Policy (DG REGIO). It took place from 8 to 21 July 2012 within the framework of the European Parliament's pilot project to enhance regional and local cooperation by promoting EU regional policy on a global scale. It was the third in a series of four sessions that are implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Entwicklung (GIZ) GmbH. The services delivered by GIZ draw on a wealth of regional and technical expertise and tried and tested management know-how. As a federal enterprise, GIZ supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development.

This information and training course was part of the EU-China Regional Policy Dialogue and focused on multi-level governance of regional policy. The course aimed at providing insights to European best practices, offering Chinese experts a source of reference for developing own future regional policies. The seminar aimed specifically at delivering European experiences for Chinese experts' during the implementation of 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015).

## 2. Background information on the issues

EU regional policy is a cornerstone of a complex multi-level governance system comprising supranational, national and regional levels. The interests and preferences of diverse stakeholders are shaped by a cooperative institutional setting responsible for regional policy outcome. This innovative multi-level and partnership-based approach has become "*one of the main keys to the success of the process of European integration*"<sup>1</sup>. Within the EU there are about 95.000 local and regional authorities with competences in different areas of regional development. Moreover, as they implement 70% of European Union's legislation, local and regional authorities aim at becoming a stronger role in European regional policy making. In terms of regional economic development policy, multi-level governance lies in the delegation of political and economic power to sub-national levels<sup>2</sup>. This integrated approach of EU cohesion policy ensures cooperation between multiple levels of government. By these means, consistency and synergy between different policies is increased.

Multi-level governance and partnership in EU cohesion policy is currently under reflection within the context of design of the next programming period 2014-2020. There are many issues currently being debated, including territorial cooperation and macro-regional approaches, stronger conditionalities and simplifying the management of financial instruments, making them more complementary and making de-commitment rules (N+2) more flexible.

China is interested in learning from the European Union about their experiences and lessons in multi-level governance, for the establishment of mechanisms and systems applying an integrated approach for regional development, including cross-border cooperation.

## 3. Programme Logistics

Just as the other sessions of the series, the programme contained a relevant mix of lectures and field visits. The programme was designed for 20 delegates of NDRC supported by 2 GIZ staff members

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<sup>1</sup> Committee of the Regions. White Paper on Multi-level Governance. Brussels, June 2009.

<sup>2</sup> See Regional Governance in the EU: A Comparative Assessment. Martin Ferry. EoRPA Paper 03/5. EPRC, Glasgow.

(coordinator and assistant) and one interpreter. The ultimate goal of the course was to reflect about multi-level governance in Europe. The cooperation between the supranational, national, regional and local levels built the red line of the seminar. The case studies were carefully selected according to the diversity of European national and regional governance systems and in coordination with the managing authorities of the operation programmes involved in the activity.

The course started with a briefing session in Beijing. This covered basic logistical issues and background information on the topic. The session was attended by representatives of the EU Delegation to China and by the Director of the Chinese Centre for Urban Development at NDRC, Mr Li Tie. The project coordinator explained the rationale of the information session's design and the results to be obtained in the selected regions. Participants were then transferred to the Beijing international airport.

Once in Europe, the information session started with an introduction to the main issues of multi-level governance and regional policy legislation in Europe. Participants then visited best practices in six European Union countries representing the diversity of multi-level governance systems: Belgium, Netherlands and Germany (all three federal), Italy (decentralised unitary) and Poland and France (regionalised unitary). The cities and regions visited presented different models of cooperation at national, regional and local level, making them particularly interesting for Chinese officials.

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. Here, the project team actively supported the delegates. The information session was rounded-up by a one day workshop in Berlin, comprising the key contents of the seminar. Moreover, participants were requested to develop their own reflection on EU regional policy and its relevance to Chinese challenges.

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.

#### **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 innovation in Europe, including the concept of clustering;
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. This included preparatory information on EU integration and cohesion policy. 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:

1. 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.
2. Field visits allowed participants to see on the spot the diversity and complexity of regional policy in Europe, as well as to understand the implementation and management of EU-funded projects.
3. 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.

## 6. Overview of the programme

Day	General Issues	Cities / Regions
<b>1<sup>st</sup> training week</b>		
Saturday, 07 July 2012	Briefing session in Beijing	Beijing (CN)
Sunday, 08 July 2012	01:20 Flight to Brussels (Hainan airlines) 05:55 Arrival in Brussels Cultural Programme	Beijing – Brussels (BE)
Monday, 09 July 2012	Meetings in Brussels	Brussels (BE)
Tuesday, 10 July 2012	Meetings in Brussels and Venlo	Brussels – Venlo (NL)
Wednesday, 11 July 2012	Meetings in France	Thionville (FR) – Luxemburg
Thursday, 12 July 2012	Free half day in Luxemburg 12:30 – 14:00 Transfer to Saarbrücken Airport (100km) 16:10 – 20:15 Flight to Milan MLP (Air Berlin)	Luxemburg – Milan (IT)
Friday, 13 July 2012	Field visits in and around Milan	Milan
Saturday, 14 July 2012	Morning: Wrap-up workshop in Milan Cultural programme	Milan
Sunday, 15 July 2012	Cultural programme in Milan 19:15 – 23:30 Flight to Wroclaw via Warsaw (LOT)	Milan – Wroclaw (PL)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> training week</b>		
Monday, 16 July 2012	Field visits in Wroclaw area	Wroclaw
Tuesday, 17 July 2012	Field visits in and around Wroclaw	Wroclaw
Wednesday, 18 July 2012	11:59 Train to Berlin 17:06 Arrival in Berlin	Wroclaw – Berlin (DE)
Thursday, 19 July 2012	Meetings in Berlin	Berlin
Friday, 20 July 2012	Full day workshop and closing session	Berlin
Saturday, 21 July 2012	19:30 Flight back to Beijing (arrival next day at 10:20 AM)	Berlin - Beijing

## 7. Detailed programme

### Day 1 (Saturday 07 July 2012) – Beijing

12:30 Lunch (Yiyue Hall, 1st Floor, Guibin Building - 贵宾楼一层谊悦厅)

14:30 Welcoming words by Mr Zhang Jianmin, Deputy Director, Department of Regional Economy, NDRC

14:45 Session 1: Programme introduction

Description: The information session will start with a briefing meeting in Beijing. The first part of the session will be dedicated to a broad introduction of the project, the Chinese delegation and the staff in charge of implementing the session in Europe. Chinese delegates will be able to express their areas of specialisation and their expectations with regard to the study tour. This session will also give an overview of the European regional policy and of the short practical report to be elaborated by Chinese delegates.

Lecturer: Pablo Gándara, Consultant for GIZ

15:30 Session 2: Key note by the European Union's delegation

Description: The China-EU partnership on Sustainable Urbanisation has been recently launched and offers a natural framework for concerted actions, such as a new programme designed to assist Chinese mayors, and the creation of an annual EU-China Urban Forum from 2012 onwards. The political initiative should also constitute a platform for Member States to leverage their existing and future actions in the field of urbanisation in China.

Lecturer: Mr Laurent Jauvadin, Energy and Sustainable Urbanisation, EU Delegation in Beijing

16:00 Coffee Break

16:30 Session 3: China's 12th Five-Year Plan, Regional Policy and the challenges of Urbanisation

Description: The China Center for Urban Development (CCUD), established in 1998, is a public institution under the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). CCUD specializes in policy research and decision-making consultancy in the sphere of urbanization and the development of cities and towns. Its major functions include providing policy consultancy on urbanization and the development of cities and towns to the NDRC and relevant departments under the Central Government and the State Council, as well as to local governments.

Lecturer: Mr Li Tie, Director CCUD

17:30 Session 4: Group discussion about the allocation of tasks

Lecturer: NDRC Delegation Leader

18:30 Dinner at Guoyi Hotel (Yiyue Hall, 1st Floor, Guibin Building - 贵宾楼一层谊悦厅)

22:00 Transfer by bus to the Airport

## Day 2 (Sunday 08 July 2012) - Travel day

01:20 Flight to Brussels (Hainan airlines)

05:55 Arrival in Brussels

07:00 Check-in in Hotel (Park Hotel Brussels, Avenue de l'Yser 21-22, B - 1040 Brussels)

09:00 Cultural Programme (complete day)

Accommodation in Brussels

## Day 3 (Monday 09 July 2012) – Brussels

Venue: Best Western Premier Park Hotel Brussels, Avenue de l'Yser 21-22 | B - 1040 Brussels

09:00 Session 5: Regional Policy – An Inspiration for China?

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

Lecturer: Mr Ramón López, European Commission, Brussels

10:30 Coffee Break

10:45 Session 6: Multi-level governance in Europe and China – some reflections

Description: This lecture will deliver some reflections about MLG in both regions, including a) EU Regional Policy as a cornerstone of a complex governance system, b) a differentiated spectrum of local innovation policies in China: a Yangzi Axis Journey, and c) the next EU regional policy within the smart specialisation strategy.

Lecturer: Mr Jean-Marie Rousseau, TAO-ITINeRIS, Brussels

12:15 Lunch

14:00 Session 7: The region's role in EU Multi-Level Governance of Cohesion Policy

Description: The Committee of the Regions (CoR) is the EU's Assembly of Regional and Local Representatives. Its 344 members - regional presidents, mayors or elected representatives of regions and cities - live and work in the regions or cities they come from. The CoR has established a working group on multi-level governance which sets the ground for discussions about the role of regional and local authorities in shaping European regional policy.

Lecturer: Ms Beatrice Taulegne, Committee of the Regions



15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 Session 8: Regional Interests in Europe – the case of Catalonia

Description: Catalonia is an autonomous community of Spain. The self-government (The Generalitat) has 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. The Delegation of Catalonia to the EU represents, defends and promotes the general interests of Catalonia and support to organizations and companies to the Catalan institutions and bodies of the European Union.

Lecturer: Mr Joan Prat i Coll, Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the Autonomy of Catalonia to the EU

Dinner in Brussels

Accommodation in Brussels

**Day 4 (Tuesday 10 July 2012) – Brussels and Limburg NL**

Venue: European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Bruxelles

09:00 Session 9: Visit of the European Parliament

Description: The study tour in Brussels will be continued with a visit of the EU Parliament. The Chinese participants will get a close description of the Regional Development Committee which is in charge of coordinating the European regional development funds as well as of cooperating with other institutions.

Lecturer: Visitors' Centre of the European Parliament

10:30 Transfer by bus to Venlo (187km)

13:00 Lunch with regional authorities at Floriade

14:30 Session 10: Visit of the Floriade 2012 – the World Horticultural Exposition

Description: Floriade aims at promoting the image of the Dutch horticultural sector nationally and internationally and to support the marketing of horticultural products. Floriade 2012 is organised by a joint venture of 7 municipalities and is co-funded with regional development funds.

18:00 Reception at Floriade by the Director of Floriade and by the Regional Ministry for Economy

19:00 Transfer to Hotel in Venlo (HCR Wilhelmina BV, Kaldenkerkerweg 1, 5913 AB Venlo)

19:30 Check-in at the Hotel

Accommodation in Venlo

### Day 5 (Wednesday 11 July 2012) Limburg NL and France

08:30 Transfer by bus to Metz (324km)

13:00 Lunch with regional authorities in Metz

14:00 Session 11: Visit of Conseil Général de la Moselle in Metz. Topic of the presentation: Terralorraine - First European-Chinese Technology and Industrial Park

Description: The TERRALORRAINE project will be the first Sino-European commercial and technological complex and will be located on the Illange-Bertrange Departmental Megazone. The construction of this enormous business complex called ITEC (International Industry Trade Technology and Exhibition Center) will cause profound changes in the regional economy. Construction works will be launched in autumn 2012 and the first unit should be delivered by end 2014 / beginning 2015.

Lecturer: Mr Patrick Weiten, President of the Moselle Department Council

16:00 Cultural Programme

20:00 Transfer to Luxemburg

20:30 Check-in in Luxemburg

Accommodation in Luxemburg City (Novotel Luxemburg Centre, 35 rue du Laboratoire)

### Day 6 (Thursday 12 July 2012) – Luxemburg and Milan

09:00 Guided Tour in Luxemburg

12:30 Transfer to Saarbrücken Airport (100km)

16:10 Flight to Milan

20:45 Shuttle bus to Milan Centre

Accommodation in Milan (Hotel Zurigo, Corso Italia, 11/A - 20122 Milano)

### Day 7 (Friday 13 July 2012) – Region of Lombardy

Venue: Palazzo Lombardia

09:00 Session 12: Strategic programming – the case of Lombardy

Description: Lombardy is one of the "Four Engines" in Europe, being one of the richest regions within the European Union (regional GDP of €318.424 billion in 2009, 1/5 of the total gross domestic product of Italy). The Operational Programme (OP) Lombardia plays a key role in boosting competitiveness through research and innovation; reducing carbon emissions through the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency; Supporting sustainable mobility, and; enhancing the attractiveness of the region with a particular focus on cities, environmental and cultural promotion.

Lecturer: Ms Olivia Postorino, Director, DG Industria, Artigianato, Edilizia e Cooperazione (Managing Authority of the OP)

10:30 Coffee Break

10:45 Session 13: Multi-Level Governance – cooperation with business

Description: This lecture will deliver an insight of the cooperation between the regional economy actors and the regional authorities towards the sustainable development strategy of Lombardy.

Lecturer: Representative of the Chamber of Commerce of Lombardy

12:15 Lunch with regional authorities

15:00 Session 14: Field Visit: ECOLARIUS

Description: The ECOLARIUS project aims at strengthening regional tourism in the Province of Como. The project includes the enhancement and upgrading of the environmental heritage of the Gardens in Lake Como as well as the restoration of several historical buildings. The project has been co-financed through ERDF.

Lecturer: Ms Michela Capitani, Province of Como

Accommodation in Milan

#### **Day 8 (Saturday 14 July 2012) – Region of Lombardy**

09:00 Session 15: Workshop (summing up 1<sup>st</sup> week contents and drafting the final report with support of the project team)

11:00 Cultural programme

Accommodation in Milan

#### **Day 9 (Sunday 15 July 2012) – Travel day**

19:15 Flight to Warsaw

23:30 Arrival in Wroclaw

Accommodation in Wroclaw

#### **Day 10 (Monday 16 July 2012) – Wroclaw**

**Location:** Marshal's Office of the Lower Silesia. Dobrzyńska Street 21, Room 512, 5-th floor

10:00 Session 16: Multi-level governance and regional development in Lower Silesia Voivodeship

Description: Lower Silesia is one of the 16 voivodeships (provinces) of Poland and one of the most prosperous regions of the country. The Marshal's Office of the Lower

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Silesia is a regional public authority realizing regional policy to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. The strategic objective of the Lower Silesia region is to build regional innovation system based on local economy and research institutions.

Lecturer: Mr Maciej Zathey, Director, Department of Regional Development, Marshal's Office of the Lower Silesia.

11:00 Session 17: The regional operational programme Lower Silesia (Dolnoslaskie)

Description: The Dolnoslaskie Regional Operational Programme (ROP) is the region's first ever large-scale, coordinated, multi-annual and financially stable programme of development measures. Its strategic goals are to improve the region's competitiveness, social cohesion and accessibility, realise its unique economic and cultural potential and ensure a sustainable use of its environment.

Lecturer: Ms Barbara Kaśnikowska, Department of Regional Development, Marshal's Office of the Lower Silesia.

12:30 Joint Lunch

14:30 Session 18: Field Visit to be agreed with local authorities

Project proposal with a focus on social development: Wrocław: European Capital of Culture 2016

Accommodation in Wrocław

#### **Day 11 (Tuesday 17 July 2012) – Field visits to projects co-financed by the ERDF**

09:00 Session 19: Field Visit with a focus on innovation and business development: Wrocław Technology Park – WTP

Description: WTP is mainly owned by the Municipality of Wrocław and targets its services to companies based on advanced technologies, laboratories, scientific and research and development centres. The objective of WTP is to create conditions for the use of scientific and industrial potential of Wrocław and the region and to stimulate the advanced technologies industry,

11:00 Session 20: Field Visit with a focus on Tourism: Wrocław Congress Center

Description: The Centennial Hall is an architecturally unique historical monument, living up to modern technical and organizational requirements for congress and conference centres. Being one of two such venues in Poland, it can accommodate over 7000 convention guests under one roof. The venue is located a few minutes by car from the city centre in the vicinity of Szczytnicki Park, the Zoo, the Japanese Garden encircled by a Pergola.

13:00 Lunch at the Centennial Hall

Afternoon: Cultural Programme

Accommodation in Wrocław

<b>Day 12 (Wednesday 18 July 2012) – Travel day</b>
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- 11:59 Train to Berlin
- 17:06 Arrival in Berlin
- 19:00 Check in and dinner

Accommodation in Berlin

<b>Day 13 (Thursday 19 July 2012) – Berlin</b>
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Venue: GIZ Representation in Berlin, Reichpietschufer 20, 10785 Berlin
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09:00 Welcoming words by Ms Randa Kourieh-Ranarivelo, Deputy Head, GIZ Representation in Berlin

09:15 Session 21: EU Cohesion Policy in Germany – Multilevel Governance and Reform

Description: The Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi) elaborates, negotiates and monitors the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF). To monitor the NSRF it holds annual meetings of about 80 important players comprising representatives of the authorities who manage OPs (Management Authorities), national ministries and the European Commission. These annual meetings concentrate on special issues.

Lecturer: Ms Karin Scheffel, Head of Unit for coordination of EU Policy, German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (National Coordination Authority)

10:30 Coffee Break

10:45 Session 22: Regional Operational Programme Berlin and Cooperation with Brandenburg

Description: Under the ROP Berlin, the city reinforces the capacity for innovation and adaptability and the productivity of private industry. This lecture will reflect on the regional cooperation, the incipient boundary migration and commuting relations, the convergence of economic and labour market region for parallel structural change and joint activities (innovation strategy, institutional cooperation, joint authorities).

Lecturer: Mr Guido Bockelmann, Administration for Economy, Technology and Research (Managing Authority of ROP Berlin)

12:30 Lunch at GIZ

15:00 Session 23: Field Visit – The Technology Cluster Adlershof

Description: Berlin Adlershof is one of the most successful high-tech locations in Germany. Embedded in an overall urban development concept, this integrated Science, Business and Media location has been growing on an area of 4.2 km<sup>2</sup> since 1991. At the core of the concept is a Science and Technology Park with 425 companies, eleven non-university research institutes and six scientific institutes of the Humboldt University in Berlin. The companies and the non-university scientific institutes focus on: Photonics and Optics; Microsystems and Materials; IT- and Media; Bio Technology and Environment as well as

Photovoltaics (*preliminary quotation of the website*). Adlershof has since been co-financed by the European Funds for Regional Development (ERDF).

Lecturer: Representative of Adlershof Convent, WISTA Management Adlershof

19:00 Dinner (Restaurant Ming Dynastie, Brückenstraße 6, 10179 Berlin)

Accommodation in Berlin

#### **Day 14 (Friday 20 July 2012) – Berlin**

Venue: GIZ Representation in Berlin, Reichpietschufer 20, 10785 Berlin

09:00 Session 24: Workshop

Description: This seminar's workshop will compare similarities and differences between regional policy legislation and multi-level governance in Europe and China. Participants should also be able to exchange experiences with the seminar issues as well as their needs and expectations for future training courses. Therefore, participants will be divided in 4 groups to work on specific questions. Experts will also finalise the guidelines for the report (see session 3).

Moderator: Mr Stefan Unseld, Department for Human Capacity Building in Germany (GIZ) and Mr Pablo Gándara, Consultant for GIZ

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Session 25: Plenary session

Description: During the plenary session the leader of the delegation will present the report that will have been developed by the Chinese participants during the two weeks. Participants will be also able to assess the seminar and to receive participation certificates.

Moderator: Mr Stefan Unseld, Department for Human Capacity Building in Germany (GIZ) and Mr Pablo Gándara, Consultant for GIZ

13:00 Lunch at GIZ

14:30 Visit of the German Parliament upon invitation of the CDU/CSU Fraction

16:00 End of programme

19:00 Dinner and Accommodation in Berlin

#### **Day 15 (Saturday 21 July 2012)**

Morning at free disposal

16:00 Transfer to the airport

19:30 Flight back to Beijing (arrival next day at 10:20 AM)

## 8. Summary of the information session's programme

### Sessions in Beijing

The programme started with one briefing session in Beijing which included an introduction to the European Union's cohesion policy by the project coordinator. 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). Moreover, Mr Gándara also reflected on the multi-level governance structure, including the role of central, regional and local authorities as well as the interaction with civil society.

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

Mr Laurent Javaudin, Delegation of the European Union to China, compared the 12th Five Year Plan and Europe's 2020 Strategy and emphasised the convergence of both blueprints. He also introduced the China-EU Partnership on Sustainable Urbanisation and specified the priority areas of actions, including urban infrastructure, energy supply and smart mobility. 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. Mr Javaudin also introduced the annual EU-China Mayors Forum, a flagship event for the cooperation. Here, the China Association of Mayors and the EU Covenant of Mayors will invite urban planners, architects and representatives of businesses to present their best urban solutions. The meeting will take place in September in Brussels.

Mr Li Tie, Director of the China Center for Urban Development (CCUD) at NDRC, presented the key challenges of urbanisation in China and explained similarities and differences with the cities of the European Union. He concentrated on issues including integration of migrant workers, as well as the rights of citizens towards access to the urban social welfare system, and health care and education services. He also explained the cooperation schemes among different provinces in China. Mr Li Tie also focused on the allocation mechanisms of resources in China and Europe, giving examples like water pricing and land ownership. He stated that China faces the challenge of big cities concentrating economic prosperity and underlined the importance of establishing better rural-urban links and of involving towns in the urbanisation concept for China. Mr Li Tie welcomed the lessons of EU decentralised urban development approach based on the principle of free markets and encouraged delegates to learn how to apply European experiences to China.

The presentation was followed by a vivid discussion with Dr Jürgen Steiger (Deputy Director of GIZ China), Mr Christian Weltzien (Senior Expert for Urban Development) and the Chinese delegates. After this session, Mr Xavier Givellet, Head of the International Department at DATAR in France, joined a dinner with the Chinese delegates.



## Sessions in Brussels

The first working day in Europe began with three lectures aiming at introducing Chinese delegates to European Multi-Level Governance mechanisms. Mr Ramón López (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 introduced the key instruments of EU regional policy (ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund) and explained the three objective regions of the measures. About 82% of the total European regional development investment is allocated to 35% of EU population. Mr López explained the working method of cohesion policy and the principles governing it. He also explained the multi-level governance of the funds, an interplay of supranational guidelines, national strategies (NSRFs) and national and regional programmes (OPs – 455 in total for the period 2007-2013). He explained the key areas of investment and the concentration on Europe 2020 Strategy. Mr López also gave an overview of the regional policy dialogue with China and presented key results of the joint study (2008-2010) and of the training programmes. He emphasised the importance of the EU-China Sustainable Urbanisation Initiative for the Regional Policy Dialogue. Discussions centred on the challenges of the EU single market, the conflicts between state-aid prohibition and regional policy, the contribution of regional policy measures to the European budget and principle of co-financing. Chinese delegates also asked about negotiations between EU Member States towards the regional policy budget as well as about the added-value of cohesion policy as a method rather than a mechanism for redistribution of funds.

In the second speech, Mr Jean Marie Rousseau dealt with multi-level governance (MLG) issues in Europe and China. In Europe, MLG emphasises the increasingly shared and interlinked nature of decision-making between EU, national and subnational actors, in contrast to the dominant theories of European integration which emphasised the importance of intergovernmental actors in determining policy outcomes or the course of European integration. MLG is also closely connected to an old debate about the role of European integration in stimulating the rise of a “Europe of the regions”. MLG encompasses both a vertical dimension of governance relations/interaction between levels (EU, national, regional, local) and a horizontal dimension of state-society relations at these different levels. Cohesion policy is delivered through the ‘shared management’ approach enabling spending to be adapted to national/regional conditions and systems, while ensuring sound financial management. In practice, this involves decentralising implementation to the Member States, while the EU Commission exercises a supervisory role in various ways to verify the legality and regularity of the execution of the EU budget. A final dimension of MLG is the requirement for Cohesion policy to be closely aligned with the EU economic development objectives, first under the Lisbon agenda (in 2007-13) and subsequently the so-called Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This is done through the agreement on strategic guidelines for Cohesion policy at EU level which must then be taken into account in programmes by Member States and regions.

Ms Beatrice Taulegne, Deputy Director at the Committee of the Regions (CoR), introduced new dynamics and perspectives of multi-level governance within the context of increasingly ‘globalised’ European regions and cities in an interdependent world. The CoR is the EU's Assembly of Regional and Local Representatives. Its 344 members - regional presidents, mayors or elected representatives



of regions and cities - live and work in the regions or cities they come from. Ms Taulegne centred her speech on new instruments for an integrated policy making including partnership approaches and macro-regional strategies. The five principles underpinning good governance in Europe are openness, participation, responsibility, effectiveness and coherence. Multilevel governance ensures that these principles are implemented, maintained and enhanced. Regional and local play a key role in Europe's regional development: Nearly 92.500 local and 300 regional authorities have significant powers in key sectors such as education, the environment and economic development. Moreover, they do represent 16% of the EU-27 GDP and are responsible for 1/3 of total public expenditure, 2/3 of total public capital expenditure (investments) and 56% of public employment (18 million people employed). 70% of European legislation is implemented by local and regional authorities. The CoR is responsible for ensuring the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and in the evaluation of the territorial impact of European legislation. The CoR adopted a *White Paper* on Multilevel Governance in June 2009 and a scoreboard for *Monitoring Multilevel Governance at the European Union* during 2011. The CoR is currently preparing a *Charter on Multilevel Governance* which could be adopted 2013/2014.

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. Its 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. Ambassador Prat I Coll introduced the key facts of multi-level governance in Catalonia and the role of regional and local authorities in shaping and implementing European regional development funds. In the current programming period (2007-2013), Catalonia has been allocated 1,752 million, of which around the half corresponds to the ERDF (objective 2 and 3) and the rest to the ESF, to the European territorial cooperation, and to the Cohesion Funds. Investments are concentrated in four areas: Innovation research and development; Transport infrastructures and communication networks; Environment; and Local and urban development. Catalonia manages European funds in a decentralized basis. The Ministry of Treasury of Spain (located in Madrid) is the managing, auditing and certification authority responsible for the Operation Programme of Catalonia. The Regional Government of Catalonia performs as the intermediate body and is in charge of the regional coordination. Ambassador Prat I Coll gave some examples of investment projects currently cofounded with European funds in Catalonia.

Delegates also visited the European Parliament, where Ms Ana Antunes delivered a presentation about the institutional setting and decision making process of the European Union. Ms Antunes explained delegates the main tasks of the committees, especially of the Regional Development Committee and invited Chinese delegates to follow all sessions on the web via live streaming.

## Meetings in the Netherlands

On the next day, The Chinese delegation visited the world horticultural exhibition Floriade in Venlo (NL). Delegates were welcomed by Mr Dszingisz Gabor, Commissioner General of Floriade 2012. Mr Gabor explained the multi-level governance of regional development in Netherlands and illustrated it with several experiences including Floriade. With an expected number of two million visitors, the exhibition is the largest event being staged in the Netherlands in 2012. The region around Venlo (Noord-Limburg) ranks as one of the major concentrations of horticulture in West-Europe. Thanks to the important agribusiness and its favourable, central location, Venlo has developed into a logistic hotspot. For these reasons, the Dutch government has designated the Venlo region to be one of the five Greenports in the Netherlands. The Floriade park hosts more than one hundred exhibits from 42 countries in the form of gardens or pavilions representing participants from the horticultural sector, business community and international participants. Mr Gabor stated that China has one of the most beautiful pavilions at the exhibition. He also mentioned that two imposing structures are iconic for the exhibition: The Innovatoren and Villa Flora. During Floriade the towering, 70 metre high Innovatoren will form the gateway for visitors to enter the park. After Floriade closes its gates, the Innovatoren will develop further into an incubator for innovation in the agri-sector.

The delegation also met Mr René Postulart, Managing Director of Greenpark Ltd, who explained the overall regional investment project based on Floriade. The project is a joint venture of municipalities that are collaborating in the Regio Venlo (Venlo, Venray, Horst aan de Maas, Gennep, Beesel, Bergen and Peel en Maas) in close cooperation with the Province of Limburg. Mr Postulart explained the development concept for the area after the exhibition (November 2012), which aims at establishing a horticulture cluster with related services including trade, logistics and research. The Netherlands is currently the second largest exporter of horticultural products. He mentioned that the region is the largest production site of vegetables in Europe and one of the most innovative spots for agro-food worldwide. The Regional Government of Limburg decided a decade ago to strengthen this position by using Floriade as a stepping stone. Mr Postulart explained the triple helix cooperation approach between Government, business and research and gave some examples of the multi-level approach to regional development in the Netherlands.

Delegates were also welcomed by Mr Stephan Satijn, member Council of City of Venlo and Dr J.J.P.P. Gilissen, Mayor of the City of Venray. Also Mr Kees van Rooij, Mayor of the City Horst aan de Maas, hold a welcoming speech and joined the delegates for a guided tour through the exhibition. Finally, the delegation was received by the Minister of Economics of the Province of Limburg, Mr Mark Verheijen. He underlined the importance of Chinese-Dutch cooperation and encouraged delegates to foster bilateral cooperation on several economic sectors. Drs Jean Severijns and Drs Robert Lambriks from the Regional Government of the Province of Limburg explained Chinese delegates the chances of Floriade 2012 for regional development in Limburg and the neighbouring regions. Mr. Sven Stimac, Mr Elwin Hulscher and Mr Jos Peeters – all three working at Floriade - explained the key projects of the exhibition, its overall concept and the cooperation with Chinese partners.

## Sessions in France

On the third day, delegates were transferred to Metz where they met Mr Patrick Weiten, President of the Moselle Department Council. Mr Weiten introduced the advantages of the Moselle region, an area with a long industrial tradition, multimodal infrastructure, skilled workforce and more than 450 foreign owned companies employing around 35.000 people. He explained the strategy of establishing megazones since the mid-1990s (Farébersviller-Henriville and Illange-Bertrange). Mr Weiten introduced TERRALORRAINE, the first Sino-European commercial and technological complex, to be located on the Illange-Bertrange Departmental Megazone. The construction of this enormous business complex called ITEC (International Industry Trade Technology and Exhibition Center) will cause profound changes in the regional economy. Construction works will be launched in autumn 2012 and the first unit should be delivered by end 2014 / beginning 2015. The overall target includes operating 500 containers per day by using the Europort Illange, building up to 500,000 m<sup>2</sup> of logistics storage and up to 3,000,000 m<sup>2</sup> of business and 6,400,000 m<sup>2</sup> of industrial space. Mr Weiten explained the overall importance of regional development funds for the implementation of the project and the cooperation between local, regional and national authorities.

## Sessions in Italy

Delegates visited the Region of Lombardy, where they were welcomed by Ms Olivia Postorino (Director of the Operational Programme -ROP- Lombardy), by Mr Mauro Fasano (Director for Renewable Energy and Technology at the Regional Government) and by Mr Sergio Rossi (Chamber of Commerce of Lombardy). Ms Postorino introduced the basics of multi-level governance in Italy. For the current programming period (2007-13), Italy receives € 28,81 bn, most of which is allocated to the lagging behind (convergence) regions (€ 21,5 bn). There are 19 "Convergence ROPs", 10 of which are regionally managed. For the more developed regions, there are 32 regionally managed "Competitiveness ROPs", including the ROP Lombardy. The key objectives of the ROP are strengthening the competitiveness of the regional economy and reducing the socio-economic gap between urban, rural and mountain territories in Lombardy. Lombardy is one of the most prosperous regions in Italy and Europe, accounting 20% of the total gross domestic product of Italy. The Operational Programme (OP) Lombardia plays a key role in boosting competitiveness through four priority axes: research and innovation, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, and; enhancing the protection and exploitation of natural and cultural assets. Ms Postorino gave some examples of projects in areas like innovation (49% of the total ROP funding), sustainable transportation and cultural heritage. She also explained the ExpoMilano 2015, a world exhibition with focus on energy and food.

Mr Mauro Fasano introduced the broadband project to bring high-speed internet coverage to 1 million people living in 707 municipalities of Lombardy within two years (2012-2013). The best practice project will cost a total of around € 95 million, of which € 41 million is being funded by the Lombardy Regional Administration through the ROP. The remainder is financed by Telecom Italia. Mr Fasano explained the significance of European co-funding, as several areas of the Lombardy Region suffer from a lack

of access to broadband services as market players didn't find favourable conditions for profitability. This market failure can only be bridged with the ERDF support without causing unfair competition.

Mr Sergio Rossi introduced the cooperation between the Chamber of Commerce of Milan and the Regional Government. Lombardy has a very strong economic backbone with more than 300.000 small and middle-size companies (SMEs), 90% of the total amount of companies. The Chamber of Commerce of Milan is a public autonomous institution which promotes innovation and economic development. The chamber, which is also part of the national and European systems of chambers of commerce, has special agencies for entrepreneurship training, internationalisation and innovation. It is also a partner of Expo Milan 2015, which aims at attracting more than 90 million visitors to Milan. Mr Rossi gave examples of cooperation with the regional authorities during the implementation of EU co-financed activities.

In the afternoon, Chinese delegates met with representatives from the Province of Como, located 50km north from Milan, covering an area of 1.288 square kilometres and with a population of 535,471 inhabitants. Ms Michela Capitani introduced the ECOLARIUS project, which aims at strengthening regional tourism in the Province of Como. The project includes the enhancement and upgrading of the environmental heritage of the Gardens in Lake Como as well as the restoration of several historical buildings. The project has been co-financed through ERDF.

## Sessions in Poland

The delegation then visited Wroclaw, capital of the Lower Silesia province and one of the most prosperous areas of the country. The meeting was hosted by Mr Maciej Zathey, Director of the Department of Regional Development at Lower Silesia Marshal's Office and Mr Jerzy Tuitaj, Vice Marshal of the Lower Silesia Voivodeship. Mr Tuitaj welcomed the delegation and explained some basic figures of the region, including the regional development facts. The region of Lower Silesia has a strong position in sectors like electro-technic, mining (copper), technology, research and innovation. However, accessibility needs to be improved.

Mr Zathey introduced the Regional Development Strategy 2020, specifying the objectives and priorities to strengthen economic development and to correct imbalances within the region. He explained the role of the local and regional authorities and the coordination mechanism for achieving multi-level governance of regional development policy. Mr Zathey explained that the steering committee is composed of representatives from politics, public administration, economy and research. These have established several working groups and sub-regional forums to discuss with local actors about concrete actions to foster regional development. Among other issues, the strategy centres on the activation of rural areas and on the regeneration of the economic base of the cities. Mr Zathey also introduced the Integrated Provincial Programme and the Provincial Contract. Discussion with delegates focused on the state-province partnership agreements, open consultation procedures with the citizens towards the regional development strategy, special economic zones and management experiences with EU funding.

Ms Barbara Kaśnikowska, Director of the Regional Operational Programme (ROP) Lower Silesia (Dolnośląskie Voivodeship), introduced the basic figures of EU support to convergence regions in Poland and the management structures. The country – which receives nearly € 66 billion for the period 2007-2013 - has 16 Regional Operational Programs (€ 16.556 million) and five national programmes (€ 48.666 million). The Managing Authorities are either the Minister of Regional Development (national OPs) or the respective Voivodship Board (regional OP). The Certifying Authority is either the Minister of Regional Development or the Governors (Voivodes). The Audit Authority is always the General Inspector of Fiscal Control and payments are managed by the Ministry of Finance.

Ms Kaśnikowska explained that the ROP for Dolnośląskie Voivodeship is one of the most important strategic instruments of the Voivodeship's regional policy. It constitutes the basis for implementation of strategic undertakings prepared by territorial self-government units and other public and private entities in the Dolnośląskie Voivodeship. The programme receives € 1.240 million from the ERDF and € 336,5 million from the national budget. The level of co-financing from the EU is 78.66%, but at different rates: micro and small companies up to 60%, medium-sized companies up to 50% and big companies up to 40%. NGOs and local authorities receive up to 85% EU co-financing). Ms Kaśnikowska explained the main management tasks of the regional and local authorities, including the selection of projects (more than 1762 applications until now), and gave several examples of best practices. These include pre-selection procedures, online submission of applications, combining the application and the business plan into one document filled in IT application (application generator), setting advance payments for beneficiaries and the implementation of JEREMIE (Lower Silesia Trust Fund), setting partnership as regards environmental issues, identifying project supervisors (individual persons devoted to a project) and establishing Information Points in the region. Discussion with Chinese delegates focused on some project examples, the implications of the UEFA football championship for the regional economy and the functioning of the selection procedure for projects applications.

On the afternoon Chinese delegates visited the Wrocław Technology Park – WTP. The park is mainly owned by the Municipality of Wrocław and targets its services to companies based on advanced technologies, laboratories, scientific and research and development centres. The objective of WTP is to create conditions for the use of scientific and industrial potential of Wrocław and the region and to stimulate the advanced technologies industry. Ms Malgorzata Dynowska and Ms Sylwia Wojtovicz introduced the development of the centre since its establishment 1998. The "Incubator – Technology Centre" investment, the construction of BETA building including its infrastructure and the purchase of equipment for the WTP laboratories have been co-financed from EU funds - the European Regional Development Fund. The Innopolis Wrocław comprises six laboratories including a Diagnostic Laboratory for Physical, Mechanical and Electrical Properties; a Laboratory and Prototype Workshop for Biotechnology Processes; a Laboratory for Production and Diagnostics of PCBs and Electronic Circuits; a Low Temperature, High Pressure, and Vacuum Laboratory; a Photo Optics Laboratory, and a Prototype Workshop of Mechanical Working. More than 70 SMEs have left the incubator establishing achieving a successful market entrance.



The second best practice visited was the *Wroclaw Congress Centre* established at the Centennial Hall. This unique historical monument was built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and part of it has been equipped with modern technical and organizational requirements for congress and conferences. Being one of two such venues in Poland, it can accommodate over 7000 convention guests under one roof. Mr Jeczrey Nawara, Project Manager, explained the co-financing operations for the congress centre through the regional operational programme amounting approximately € 5 million (40% of the total costs). The second part of the project was the renovation of the historical building *Centennial Hall* as an auditory hall for large events. The construction works were supported with approx. € 7 million from the ROP.

### Sessions in Berlin

Chinese delegates came together in Berlin for the last part of the programme. There were two days of meetings at GIZ representation in Berlin. Ms Randa Kourieh-Ranarivelo, deputy director of the representation, welcomed delegates and introduced the work of GIZ, which operates in 130 countries and has 70% of local staff. She also explained the long standing GIZ-cooperation with China and introduced the tasks of the representation in Berlin.

Delegates attended a presentation by Ms Karin Scheffel, Head of Unit for Coordination of EU Policy at the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (National Coordination Authority). Ms Scheffel introduced the role of European regulations, financial resources and strategic guidelines agreed at the European level as the basis for drafting the national strategic priorities and planning for 2007-2013 (set out in the National Strategic Reference Framework - NSRF). The starting point for each Member State is an analysis of national strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) and the adoption of a set of investment priorities. One technique deployed to focus action on key objectives is the “ear-marking” of finance for important investments and innovations – for example 60 per cent of EU finance for Convergence Regions should be targeted directly on actions to improve their competitiveness. Germany has decentralised approach to the management of EU cohesion funds: The lead Ministry (Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology - BMWi) is responsible for policy-making; elaboration and negotiation of the NSRF; co-ordination; and monitoring. In all of these tasks it coordinates with the European Commission (at the centre) and Federal States Regional Governments (FRGs).

To monitor the NSRF, the BMWi holds annual meetings of about 80 important players comprising representatives of the authorities who manage OPs (Management Authorities), national ministries and the European Commission. These annual meetings concentrate on special issues. Ms Scheffel stated that Germany’s national strategy is prepared in a way which incorporates both top-down and bottom-up experience. Some decisions are reserved for the FRG’s higher levels of government and, when disputes occur, there are fixed procedures for seeking agreement from these higher levels. In Germany, there are there are 36 Operational Programmes (OPs) covering different regions or the country as a whole. Some are sectoral, some are multi-sectoral and they all involve co-ordination between different ministries and levels of government. EU Cohesion Policy, therefore, involves the

establishment of government structures which define the roles and responsibilities of different levels of government. They also incorporate a range of socioeconomic actors in the private sector and civil society. Discussion with Chinese delegates focused on conditionalities; monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and the prospects for the next cohesion policy period (2014-2020).

The second working meeting was hosted by Mr Guido Bockelmann, representing Berlin's Administration for Economy, Technology and Research (Managing Authority of the ROP Berlin). Mr Bockelmann introduced the economic situation of Berlin and the cooperation with Brandenburg. The German capital has 3,5 million inhabitants and a per capita GDP of € 27.500 (2010), below the German average (€ 30.600). Mr Bockelmann introduced the economic development of Berlin since the last century in order to explain the current situation. Contrary as other German cities, Berlin was not able to establish networks with its surrounding area during the cold war, causing an enormous disadvantage for the regional economy. The Federal States of Berlin and Brandenburg have therefore strengthened their cooperation including key infrastructure measures. Mr Bockelmann explained the operation of European Cohesion policy in Berlin, a regional competitiveness and employment (objective 2) region. He explained the role of single institutions and the complexity of implementation. For example, projects have to be audited by the Courts of Berlin, Brandenburg, Germany and Europe, but they often have different regulations to cope with. Mr Bockelmann explained the structural challenges of economic consolidation in Berlin, where public administration staff has been reduced significantly due to the German reunification process. He also introduced some best practices of coordination between Berlin and Brandenburg in order to avoid competition on large investment projects. Mr Bockelmann also introduced the regional innovation strategy and debated with Chinese experts about the future cohesion policy package, including the simplification of EU-funds regulations.

Mr Thomas Walczak, from the East-West Economic Cooperation Department at Berlin Economics Authority, introduced the *Oder Partnership*, an informal cross-border cooperation scheme along the Oder River. The cooperation between four western regions of Poland and four eastern regions of Germany was launched 2006 with the goal to achieving synergies in smart specialisation areas and avoiding negative competition among the regions. The aim of this cross-border initiative is the development of an efficient regional alliance. The urban centres play a key function in this context. Mr Walczak explained that all projects to be implemented within the framework of the partnership are co-financed by the ERDF. Without the European Regional Policy, the partnership would not have achieved the practical results needed to establish a permanent cooperation mechanism. Mr Walczak presented best practices in key sectors including transportation, logistics, tourism, design, optics, and energy. Discussions centered on the institutional backbone of the Oder Partnership; the flexible management of European regional funds; the cooperation with further regions and the central governments, and the comparison of this cross-border area with similar initiatives (SarLorLux, etc).

On the next day, the delegation visited Berlin Adlershof, one of the most successful technology and business parks in Germany. A representative of the Adlershof management agency Wista, explained the urban development concept, which has led to an impressive development of this integrated science, business and media location since 1991. At the core of the concept is a *Science and Technology Park* with 425 companies, eleven non-university research institutes and six scientific institutes of the Humboldt University in Berlin. The companies and the non-university scientific

institutes cooperate in several areas including photonics and optics; microsystems and materials; IT- and media; biotechnology and environment as well as photovoltaic. Adlershof is co-financed by the European Funds for Regional Development (ERDF).

### **Closing session in Berlin**

The seminar ended with a half-day workshop in Berlin. The workshop was moderated by Mr Stefan Unseld, representing the department for capacity development of GIZ, and Mr Pablo Gándara, the project coordinator. Participants were requested to develop their own reflection on EU regional policy and its usefulness for Chinese challenges.

Mr An Limin, leader of the delegation, and his colleagues expressed their gratitude to the European Commission and to GIZ - as implementing agency - for the two week information session. They mentioned that the activity has been extremely useful for understanding the multi-level governance concept of the European Regional Policy. Mr underlined the high level of speakers and the deep discussions after every presentation. He acknowledged the role of regional and national authorities visited in the Netherlands, France, Italy, Poland and Germany and reiterated his invitation to this authorities to visit China in due date.

Mr He Zhongkai from the State Council's Legislative Affairs Office underlined the importance of having objective rules and transparent management systems for EU structural funds. He specified that China could take this as a blueprint for reshaping its regional development model, which is currently based in regions rather than in cross-cutting sectors. He acknowledged the role that free markets play when implementing regional development projects, for example in Poland, where 20% of the ROP Lower Silesia is devoted to SMEs. He also underlined the importance of having one regional policy for all regions of Europe, including the economically stronger ones.

Ms Deng Rui from Hainan especially referred to the best practices shown during the study visit and analysed the different approaches to multi-level governance in the Member States. Her colleague from the Yunnan Province, Mr Peng Xingtian, focused his comments on the innovation strategies of the EU and the regions visited. Mr Cheng Weinguang (Guanxi Province) referred to the industrial transition of several Chinese regions and the need to develop a better regional development law.

NDRC representatives also mentioned the important role of capacity building investments for the public administration at the local and regional level. They also mentioned that in China the state should interfere less in the market and that local governments should receive more decision making power and financial support. Also the monitoring tools for specific projects should be improved and the environmental protection should receive a greater attention as a cornerstone of sustainable regional development. The underlined the importance of the rule of law and expressed their will to strengthen the legislative tools in China.

To obtain a deeper insight into the opinions and recommendations of the Chinese experts, please refer to the document "Report by the Chinese Delegates July 2012" attached to this report.



## 9. Composition of the Chinese delegation

Jiang Hong	Male	Department of Regional Economy, NDRC
Li Chungen	Male	Department of Regional Economy, NDRC
Li Tai	Male	Department of Regional Economy, NDRC
An Limin	Male	Tianjin Development and Reform Commission
Yang Hui	Female	Tianjin Government Financial Project Appraisal Center
Liu Jisen	Male	Heilongjiang Province Development and Reform Commission
Wang Jinwen	Male	Jiangsu Province Development and Reform Commission
Zhu Lei	Male	Zhejiang Province Development and Reform Commission
Wang Lili	Female	Fujian Province Development and Reform Commission
Wang Haodong	Male	Qingdao Development and Reform Commission
Ma Weixing	Male	Henan Province Development and Reform Commission
Tian Shaohua	Male	Hubei Province Development and Reform Commission
Huang Suxiang	Female	Guangdong Province Development and Reform Commission
Cheng Weiguang	Male	Guangxi Development and Reform Commission
Deng Rui	Male	Hainan Province Development and Reform Commission
Peng Xingtian	Male	Yunnan Province Development and Reform Commission
Yang Yali	Female	Qinghai Province Development and Reform Commission
Ren Huiqing	Female	Jilin Provincial Bureau of economic and technical cooperation
Tao Jun	Female	Authority of Qianhai Shenzhen-HongKong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone
He Zhongkai	Male	Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, P.R.C

## 10. Documentation provided to the participants

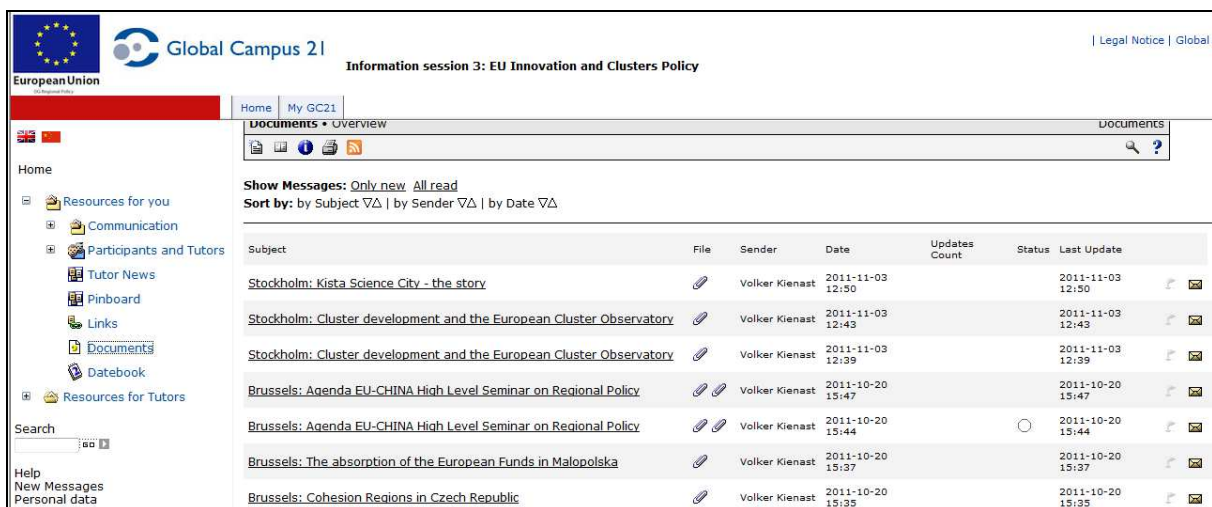
Detailed documentation folders were handed out to the participants in their introductory session in Trier. The prepared folders included:

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

## 11. 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. It also provides other relevant information on technical aspects, cultural background and general information on the diverse EU destinations that were visited



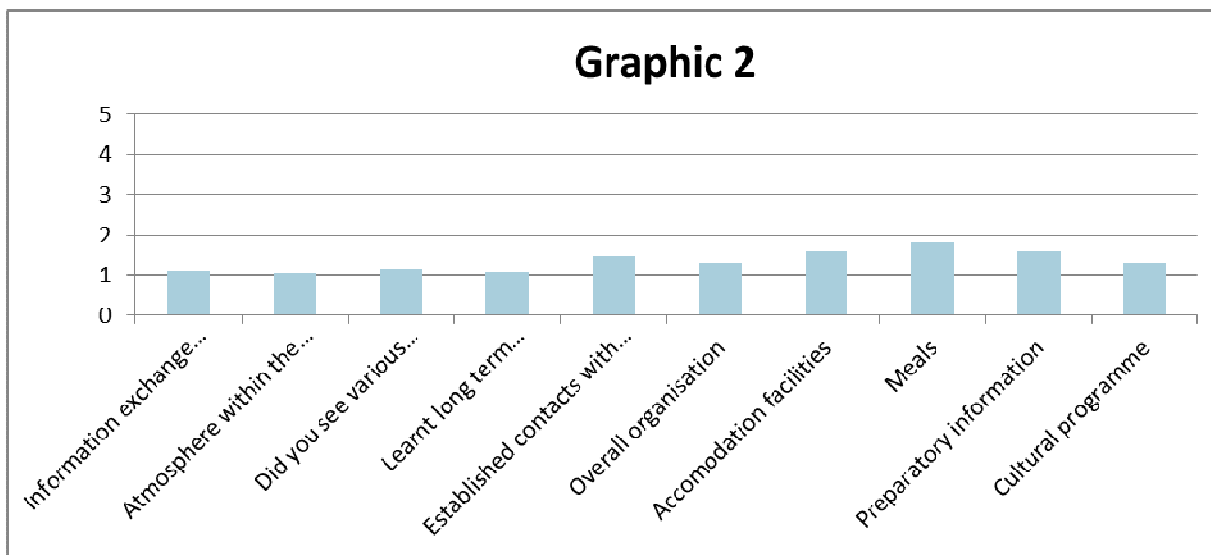
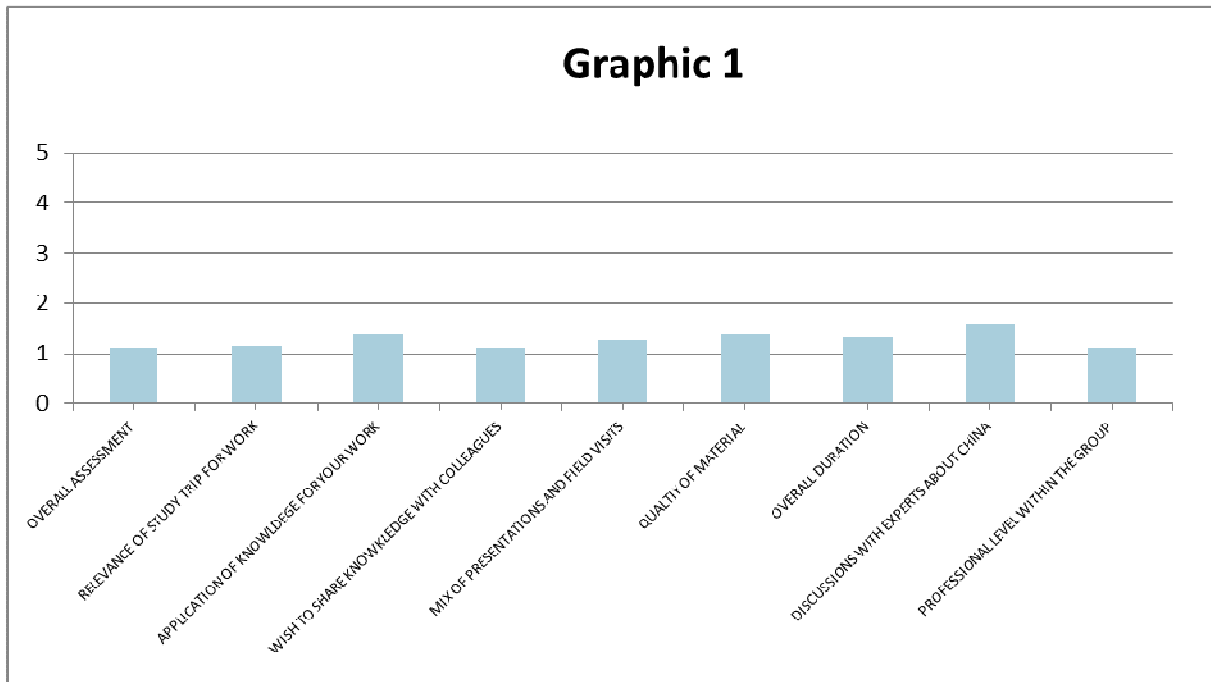
The screenshot shows the 'Documents' overview page in the Global Campus 21 system. The page title is 'Information session 3: EU Innovation and Clusters Policy'. The interface includes a navigation menu on the left with options like 'Home', 'Resources for you', 'Communication', 'Participants and Tutors', 'Tutor News', 'Pinboard', 'Links', 'Documents', 'Datebook', and 'Resources for Tutors'. The main content area displays a table of documents with columns for Subject, File, Sender, Date, Updates Count, Status, and Last Update. The table contains seven entries, all sent by 'Volker Kienast'.

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

These documents are available for Chinese participants in a restricted area of Global Campus 21®.

## 12. Results of the written evaluation by the participants

Each participant received an evaluation form to be filled in after the seminar. The form contained several categories including contents, logistics and assistance. Participants were also able to enter additional remarks on different aspects of the seminar. The quantitative results of the anonymous assessments carried out by Chinese delegates are presented in this page. The scale goes from 1 (excellent) to 5 (poor).



### 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 Coordinator 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.

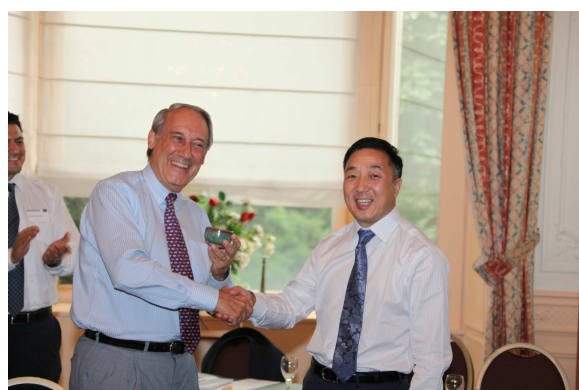
## 14. Pictures Gallery



Speech by Mr Laurent Jauvadin, EU Delegation to China, Beijing



Working session in Brussels



Ambassador Joan Prat i Coll and Mr An Limin, NDRC Tianjin after the meeting in Brussels



Visit of the European Parliament



Speech by Major C.H.C. van Rooij, City Horst aan de Maas, and by Mr J.D. Gabor, Commissioner General of Floriade



Reception at Floriade by Mr Mark Verheijen, Minister of Economics at the Province of Limburg North





Visit of the Dutch Pavillion at Floriade



Presentation of TerraLorraine by Mr Patrick Weiten, President of the Regional Council



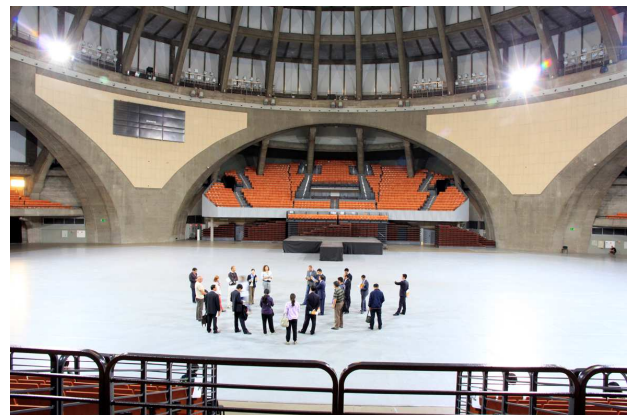
Speech by Ms Olivia Postorino, Regional Government of Lombardy, Milan



Visit of best practice project Ecolarius (Como)



Meeting with Representatives of the Lower Silesia Regional Government



Field visit of the Centennial Hall





Field visit of the Wroclaw Technology Center



Presentation by Ms Katrin Scheffel, German Ministry of Economics



Presentation by Mr Guido Bockelmann, Representatives of Berlin



Field visit of the Technology Park Adlershof in Berlin



Closing workshop in Berlin



Closing workshop in Berlin