



European Union

"EU-China Cooperation on Regional and Urban Innovation Policy"

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Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy

European Commission

Chengdu, 11 June 2019



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EU-China cooperation agreed in the form of an MoU in 2006

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON REGIONAL POLICY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM COMMISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Directorate General for Regional Policy of the European Commission and the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China have decided to **set up a Structured Dialogue on Regional Policy** with the following principles, objectives, content and organisation:

1. PRINCIPLES

The structured dialogue on regional policy between the Directorate General for Regional Policy of the European Commission and the National Development and Reform Commission is the forum where all related regional policy issues can be discussed.

2. OBJECTIVES

- (1) Promote mutual understanding and bilateral co-operation in the field of regional policy;
- (2) Establish communication channels so as to strengthen the exchange of information.

3. CONTENT

- (1) Exchange information on policies contributing to growth, competitiveness and employment and to achieve a better territorial balance.
- (2) Exchange information of our experiences in setting up and implementing regional policy
- (3) Exchange views on governance and partnership issues.
- (4) Any other topics of mutual interest relating to regional policy

4. ORGANISATION

- (1) Both sides nominate senior officials as co-chairperson for the dialogue and establish contact points in the Directorate General for Regional Policy of the European Commission and the National Development and Reform Commission. Both sides will be responsible for the co-ordination of the dialogue. According to the needs, both sides may decide to set up ad-hoc technical working groups to work together on specific issues and to facilitate discussions at expert level.

- (2) The level and composition of the delegations in the meetings will be decided by each side in consultation with the other. It is understood that both sides will call upon relevant stakeholders to participate in the dialogue. At least one meeting will take place each year. The precise agenda for each meeting will be decided beforehand between both sides. Both sides may invite other Ministries and Directorates Generals to take part in the meetings subject to need and agreement by both sides. There should be mutually agreed minutes in English and Chinese after every meeting.
- (3) The venue for the meetings will alternate between the European Union and China unless otherwise decided.
- (4) Specific events can be jointly organised as appropriate.
- (5) Both sides bear their own delegation's cost of the participation in the dialogue. One side will provide active support and assistance to the other. The cost of the agreed specific events will be decided in consultation between both sides.

This Memorandum of Understanding records political intent alone and provides for no legal commitment.

Done in Beijing on the 15th May 2006 in two original copies, each of them in English and Chinese.

Commissioner Danuta Hübner
Member of the European
Commission
Responsible for Regional Policy

Mr. Zhu Zhixin
Vice Chairman of
National Development and Reform
Commission



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Sustainable and innovative urban development: a major priority as part of EU regional policy

12 PRIORITY THEMES

PARTNERSHIPS WHICH ALREADY STARTED



INTEGRATION OF
MIGRANTS & REFUGEES



AIR QUALITY



HOUSING



URBAN POVERTY



CIRCULAR
ECONOMY



CLIMATE
ADAPTATION



ENERGY TRANSITION



URBAN
MOBILITY



DIGITAL TRANSITION



PUBLIC
PROCUREMENT



JOBES & SKILLS
IN LOCAL ECONOMY



SUTAINABLE USE
OF LAND AND
NATURE-BASED

2 NEW PRIORITY THEMES



Culture/Cultural Heritage



Security in Public Spaces



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In a framework of innovation: WEF evidence

Global Competitiveness Index 4.0, 2018

1. **United States**
2. **Singapore**
3. *Germany*
4. **Switzerland**
5. **Japan**
6. *Netherlands*
7. **Hong Kong SAR**
8. *United Kingdom*
9. *Sweden*
10. *Denmark*
-
15. **Korea Rep**
25. **Malaysia**
28. **China**

A situation of equals:

→ 8 EU MS in the top 20

→ 4 Asian countries in top 20

86. *Croatia*

Source: Global Competitiveness Report 2018

Innovation Capacity Pillar Index, 2018

1. *Germany*
2. **United States**
3. **Switzerland**
5. *Sweden*
6. **Japan**
7. *United Kingdom*
8. **Korea Rep**
9. *Netherlands*
10. *Finland*
-
14. **Singapore**
24. **China**
26. **Hong Kong SAR**
30. **Malaysia**

63. *Croatia*

→ 10 EU MS in the top 20

→ 3 Asian countries in the top 20



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A key international dimension: cooperation EU-China under the IUC programme



Component 1 (city-to-city)

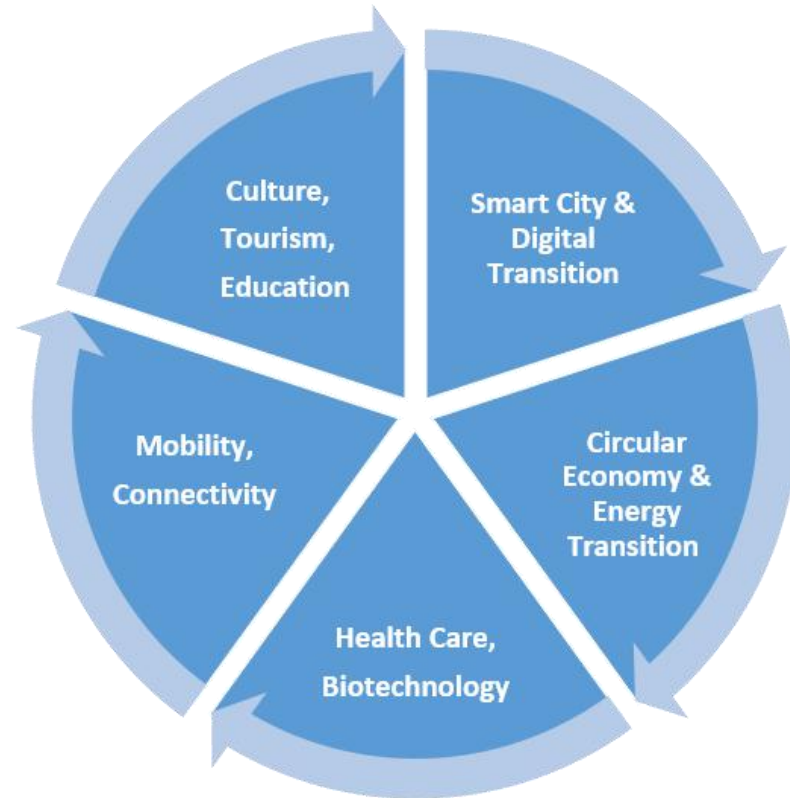
Participating cities:

- Establish city-to-city and multi-city cluster agreements for sustainable urban development
- Prepare Local Action Plans for integrated urban development
- Give priority to the sectors of the EU Urban Agenda and the New Urban Agenda (Habitat 3)
- Develop the multi-stakeholder approach, with emphasis on creating joint business and research opportunities



Cluster Approach in Five Thematic Clusters

1. Five clusters are focal points for CN and EU cities for real cooperation projects
2. Thematic NKEs help cities to conduct mapping regarding the specific cluster, including main stakeholders, major events or platforms, examples of pilot projects and funding opportunities.
3. Design the cooperation projects by detailed action plan with help of NKEs
4. Different cities working on same cluster and achieve the best synergies
5. Competitive Fund for Pilot Actions 2019



IUC: CREATING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY



149 cities already involved (end-May 2019)

Still upcoming in 2019, five more pairings to be finalised:

- +1 **Chinese** city
- +1 **Japanese** city
- +1 **Argentinean** city
- +1 **Chilean** city
- +1 **Peruvian** city

CITY PAIRINGS



WWW.IUC.EU

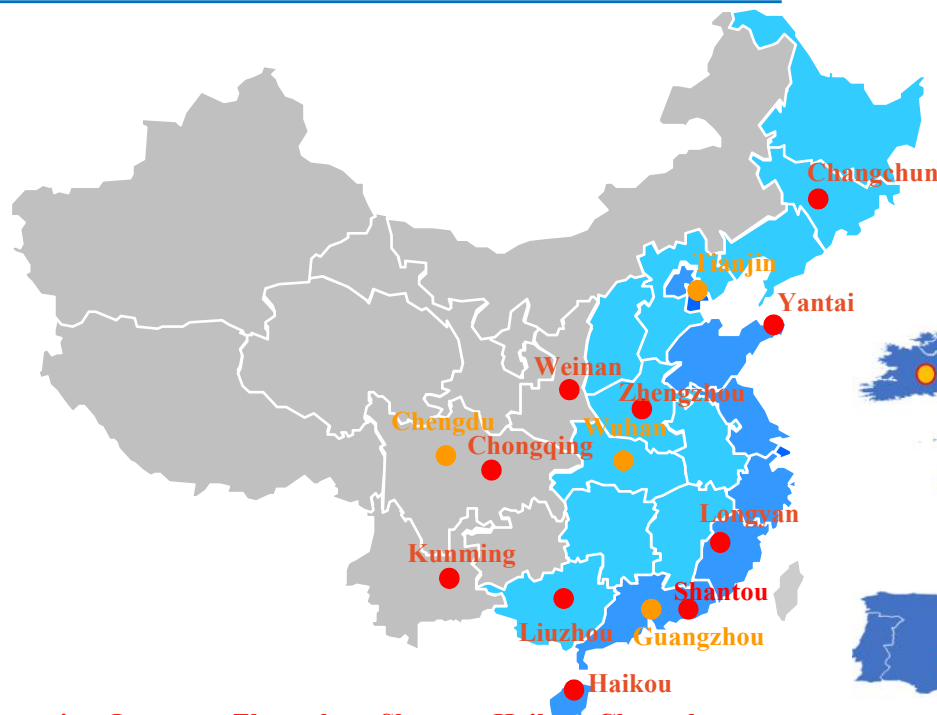
- **70 EU** cities from 21 countries
- 14 **Chinese** cities
- 9 **Japanese** cities
- 12 **Indian** cities
- 4 **Argentinean** cities
- 7 **Brazilian** cities
- 8 **Colombian** cities in 6 pairings
- 3 **Chilean** cities
- 3 **Peruvian** cities
- 6 **Canadian** cities
- 5 **Mexican** cities
- 8 **US** cities



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Pilot Cities for IUC Cooperation between the EU and China

Chinese Pilot Cities 2014-2018

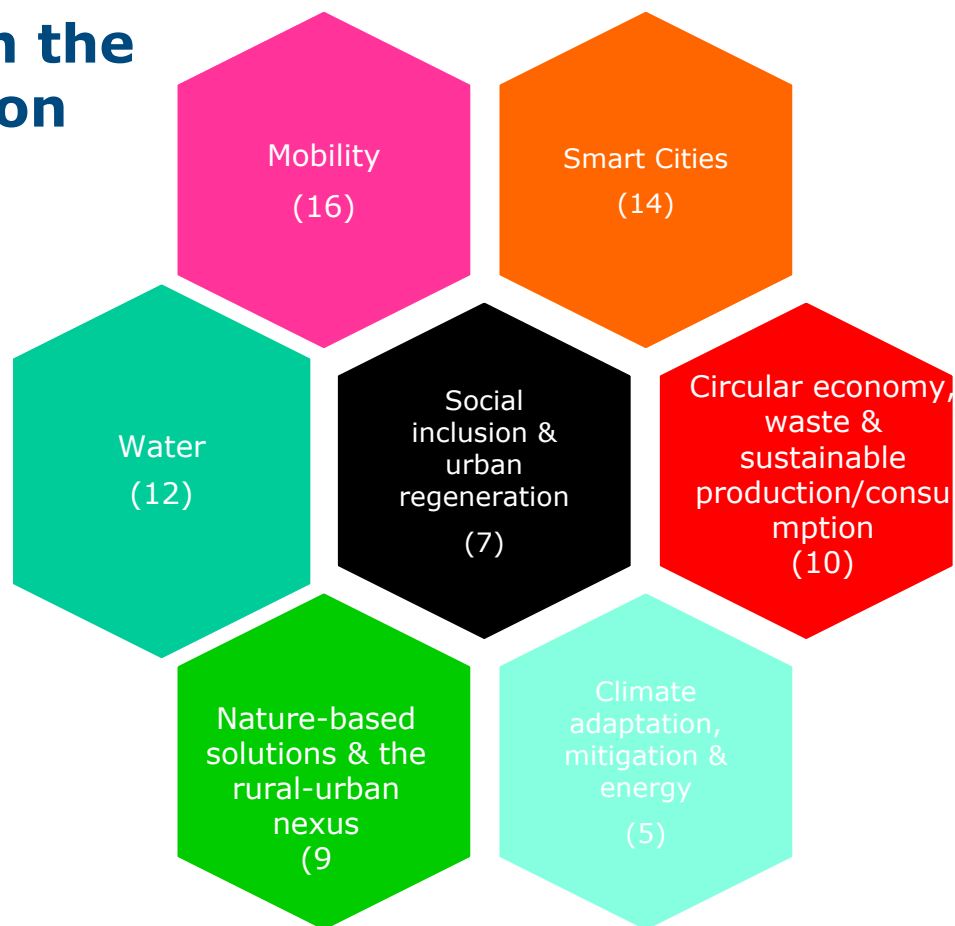


Chongqing, Longyan, Zhengzhou, Shantou, Haikou, Changchun,
Kunming, Liuzhou, Yantai, Weinan, Tianjin, Chengdu, Wuhai,
Guangzhou

Selected EU Pilot Cities 2017-2019



Themes in the cooperation



Outcomes (2017-2018)

Mechanism

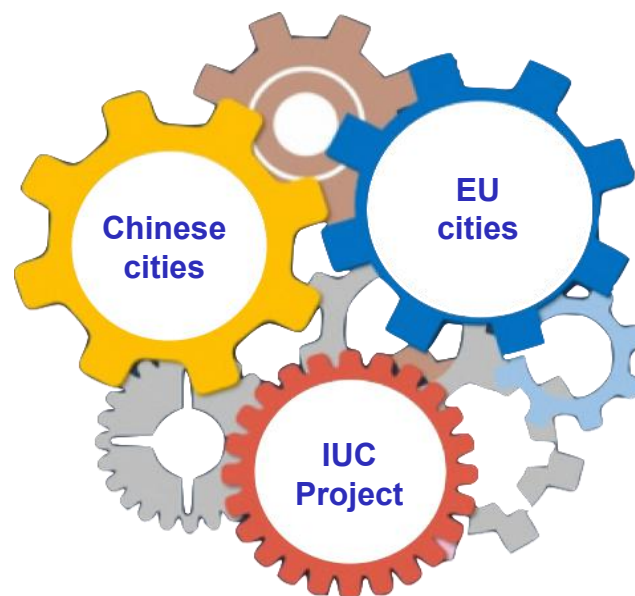
Multi-City Pairing Mechanism

MoUs

IUC Joint Declaration + 30 MoUs

Projects

1. **Chongqing-Mannheim Railway Express**
2. Eurasian Connectivity and Business Forum (Zhengzhou)
3. China-Italian Smart Technology Park
4. Export of Nice Carnival to Chinese cities
5. University and vocational training cooperation



Next Steps: towards IUC II, post 2020

- Work-in-progress
- Expected focus on city-to-city cooperation for sustainable urban development
- With an extension of work on region-to-region cooperation on innovation (currently only focused on Latin America in IUC I)
- Need for demonstrable success in IUC I

Where can I obtain more information?

[*www.ec.europa.eu/info/region*](http://www.ec.europa.eu/info/region)

[*http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/international/index_en.cfm*](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/international/index_en.cfm)

[*www.iuc.eu*](http://www.iuc.eu)

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