

EU-China Smart Cities Project: Newsletter #2



The EU China Smart Cities Project comes under the wider umbrella of the **EU-China Urbanisation Partnership Forum**. This was launched at a high level event in Beijing on 21st November 2013 and from the press coverage below, it is clear how important this work is being regarded by both China and the EU.

The Smart Cities Sub-Forum and official naming of the 15 Chinese cities took place at this event and links to the agenda and presentations can be found below. Similarly, the core project team met at an Introductory Workshop to discuss what will happen next and to agree some actions, which will lead to an important meeting in China in the spring. Again, more details can be found below.

Press coverage: China, EU to enhance cooperation on urbanisation

China is willing to learn from the European Union (EU) in its push towards urbanisation, Premier Li Keqiang said on Thursday.

Li addressed the closing ceremony of the 2013 China-EU Urbanisation Partnership Forum, saying that the country will respect and protect the rights of rural people, and strive for sustainable urbanisation.

The premier urged China and the EU to deepen cooperation in many aspects, especially among enterprises, to jointly improve city design, public services and historical and cultural relic preservation.

China has just started pushing urbanisation with a core objective of improving people's living standards, which means learning from the EU's rich experience, said Xu Shaoshi, minister in charge of the National Development and Reform Commission.

He said that the EU could help China urbanize, which will provide the EU with many opportunities as hundreds of millions of rural Chinese head for cities.

"China expects more EU countries, cities, enterprises and organizations to establish close and practical partnerships with Chinese counterparts," Xu said.

He suggested both sides explore capital and policy support to reflect the partnership in specific cities and projects.

"The pursuit of smart, green, low-carbon development represents the new trend which will steer



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang addresses the closing ceremony of 2013 EU-China Urbanisation Partnership Forum in Beijing, capital of China, Nov. 21, 2013. (Xinhua/Pang Xinglei)

China's urbanisation," Xu said.

The forum witnessed agreements reached between 12 Chinese and EU cities and organisations for win-win benefits in city planning and management, industrial transformation and environmental protection.

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso also attended the forum's closing ceremony.

Further press coverage of the event can be found [here](#).

At the event, the Leaders also adopted the EU-China Agenda 2020 which reflects the bilateral agenda in both energy and urbanisation. See [here](#) for more information.

From the information above, the importance of the **EU-China Urbanisation Partnership Forum** is clear. The full agenda can be found [here](#).

China-EU Urbanisation Partnership Forum: Smart Cities Sub-forum

The program for the smart city sub-forum can be found [here](#). Presentations for the Chinese cities can be found [here](#) and the EU cities [here](#). The Chinese presentation is interesting as it also sets out the thinking around the direction to be taken.

Core project team workshop

The introductory workshop was attended by the core project team and representation from the [EU-China Policy Dialogues Support Facility](#). The EU-China Policy Dialogues Support Facility (PDSF) is an initiative co-funded by the European Union and China to facilitate and support current and future dialogues.

On the agenda was the progress in producing the White Paper, which the Chinese Ministry for Industry and IT (MIIT) will use for moving forward. A key part of this document will be the results of the analysis of the completed questionnaires from the 15 EU and 15 Chinese cities. These results will also inform how we structure the next phase of the project. A draft version will be made available to the cities shortly.

Funding will be available to allow a representative from each city to travel to China to participate in the first full meeting of the project and to finally start to build relationships with the Chinese partners. We hope to be able to give a firm date for this meeting shortly, as it will again be part of a larger high level event. Experts will also be invited to attend and suggestions are welcome. The 15 EU Cities will be contacted directly on this topic.

EC Link project

The EC Link project was also launched at the EU-China Urbanisation Forum. The aim of the EC-LINK project is to assist Chinese cities in their endeavour to meet the targets set in the 12th five year plan by providing technical assistance to MoHURD, sharing experiences on sustainable urbanisation and other relevant policies between Europe and China.

EC-LINK will foster better information exchange, promote the outputs of pilot and demonstration projects, help Chinese and European cities and their groupings to link-up as well as providing toolboxes and give guidance to cities on ecological and low-carbon solutions.

More information on the EC Link project can be found [here](#).

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