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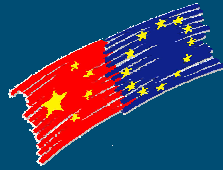


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International Labour Organization

# NEWSLETTER 3rd Issue, May 2016



## EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Support Project 支持中欧人员往来和移民领域对话项目

## Foreword

A successful economic growth is driven by the ambition to evolve and at the centre of this perpetual need for competitiveness stand innovation and scientific research. Nowadays, scientists and researchers around the world tend to focus more and more on cutting-edge and cross-disciplinary research, exploring ideas and possibilities beyond geographical boundaries. This creates the need for international cooperation and exchange in the area of science and innovation. International researchers' mobility enhances scientific and technological cooperation and improves the research environment – contributing to the involved countries' economic growth, creation of jobs as well as individual researchers' career development and of those working in

The sector.

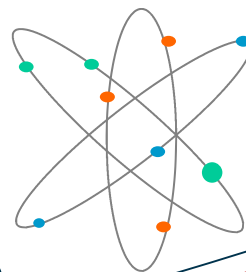
Human mobility is one of the defining features of the modern world and from migration and mobility management perspective there is a great opportunity for migration and development practitioners to channel this energy towards positive outcomes that would benefit people, societies and countries.

As promoting regular migration and mobility is an equally important objective under the *EU-China Dialogue for Migration and Mobility Support Project*, we have decided, in this edition of the newsletter, to highlight the promotion of regular migration with a particular focus on researchers' mobility between EU and China.

This edition will offer an overview of the cooperation frameworks between EU and China in the area of Science and Innovation, mobility of researchers, schemes introduced by both sides to promote and attract top talent and more. In addition, you will read analysis on the impact of the project activities, completed in the last quarter, on the overall objective of supporting the EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility.

*Pär Liljert*  
Head of Office, IOM Liaison Office in China.

# EU-China Research and Innovation Partnership



**T**hrough 40 years of consistent collaboration, the EU and China relations have matured into a comprehensive and strategic partnership under which research and innovation represents a key pillar. To further develop this partnership, EU - China researchers' mobility is crucial for building better innovation systems and developing new knowledge, enhancing bilateral scientific and technological cooperation, developing careers of individual researchers and developing skills of people behind research and innovation.

China has become one of the EU's key international partners in research and innovation in particular through the previous Framework Programme (FP7). Similarly, under Horizon 2020, the Chinese Government and the EU have agreed to set up a co-funding mechanism, which is a significant step forward in the EU-China research and innovation partnership. During his visit to Beijing in October 2015, the European Commission Director General for Research and Innovation, Mr. Robert-Jan Smits, together with his Chinese homologue Mr. Cao Jianlin, Vice Minister for Science and Technology, jointly reviewed the latest Science, Technology and innovation (STI) policies on both sides, addressed the framework conditions for EU-China STI cooperation and discussed priority areas of mutual interest such as food, agriculture and biotechnology, sustainable urbanization, environment and climate change, nuclear energy and renewable energy, SME

cooperation, research infrastructures and exchange of young scientists. Both sides reached agreement on the Implementation Guidelines of the EU-China Co-Funding Mechanism (CFM) for Research and Innovation, and a roadmap for improving reciprocal access to Research and Development funding programmes.

A recent study on “*EU-China Researcher Mobility and Policy Recommendations*”, funded by the Policy Dialogues Support Facility (PDSF II) provides an initial assessment of the situation of researcher mobility between the European Union (EU) and China, by mapping push-pull factors and formulating some evidence-based policy recommendations to further improve European researchers mobility in China. Other initiatives such as the EURAXESS Links China platform, funded by the European Commission, have also carried out numerous activities and events to support the mobility of researchers between Europe and China.

# European Initiatives Promoting Researcher Mobility



## Introduction to EURAXESS's work in China

Interview with Ms. Andrea Střelcová, EURAXESS Representative in China

EURAXESS China is a networking tool funded by the European Union's DG Research and Innovation. It's a support platform for European researchers active in China and for Chinese researchers willing to collaborate and/or pursue a career in Europe. It provides information on research and innovation in Europe, European research policy, opportunities for research funding, fellowships and grants for EU-China and international collaboration and for mobility. EURAXESS is a pan-European network active in 40 European countries, with global international locations in ASEAN, Brazil, Japan, India, North America – and China.

### Can you describe EURAXESS's activities in China?

Andrea (EURAXESS): EURAXESS China is a member of a large EURAXESS network that helps researchers with mobility-related issues and career development. In China, we are a small team of two people based in Beijing. We regularly organize events for researchers and send out information about latest developments in the EU-China research and innovation landscape, funding opportunities, and research collaboration networks.

### Can you provide an estimation of the number of European researchers currently pursuing their research work in China and in which fields?

Andrea (EURAXESS): According to a recent study jointly funded by EU and China on researchers' mobility, the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology reported that in 2014 there were roughly 26,500 incoming European researchers, as opposed to 31,700 outgoing Chinese researchers heading to Europe. This number includes short-term visits for e.g. scientific conferences as well as mid-term and long-term mobility.

We estimate that the majority of European researchers stay in China only for a limited period of time. A few people, in my personal estimation perhaps several hundreds, stay in China long-term, settle here to pursue their research career in China. This number, however, is growing, although it is still small in comparison with the number of Chinese researchers based in Europe.

China is catching up quickly in science and technology. In many fields, such as

physics, chemistry, life sciences, it already is on top. The living standards have also improved significantly. China has the 2nd highest investment of GDP in S&T, even higher than the EU-28, and the funding is abundant. On the other side, social sciences and humanities are a priority for international collaboration and European researchers pursuing research in those fields are usually dedicated China studies scholars.

### How does EURAXESS contribute to the promotion of mobility between European and Chinese researchers?

Andrea (EURAXESS): We foster researchers' networks between Europe and China – and these are crucial for scientific collaboration. We help researchers from academia, public or private research institutions meet each other, exchange experience in how to develop collaboration and improve their Sino-European networks and mobility. We can help researchers find research partners and information about research landscape between EU-China and funding—be it from European Commission, its 28 member states or additional countries, associated to the EU within the framework of Horizon 2020, EU's 8th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. We also promote European Research Area in China as an attractive location for research collaboration. Through our activities, we want to increase the brain circulation between Europe and China.

### What is going well and which areas can be improved

Andrea (EURAXESS): The number of Europeans who are staying in China and want

to develop their career in China is growing. They hope to see further improvements in the regulatory context, employment conditions, contract law, social security, access to funding, etc. Information sharing between European researchers is helping a lot to access information. They wish that more facilitation measures can be provided to those who are considering coming to China but face difficulties for example in obtaining visas and residency permits.

Chinese research institutions should strengthen and promote their attractiveness to the international market. International researchers hope that more opportunities and funding can be made accessible by Chinese research institutions, especially to be able to reach at big funding projects. Although the system is maturing and the situation is changing, there is still a lot of room for improvement. With China becoming a scientific powerhouse and an equal partner of EU in science and technology, we hope to see vibrant Sino-European researchers' networks and communities, and we hope EURAXESS contributes to that.

For more info visit [china.euraxess.org](http://china.euraxess.org), sign up to our newsletter on [tinyurl.com/elc-signup](http://tinyurl.com/elc-signup) or contact EURAXESS China—Andrea Střelcová or Halldor Berg—directly at: [china@euraxess.net](mailto:china@euraxess.net)

# Recent migration-related Policy Developments

## Beijing facilitates the residence permit application through online system

The Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau has put up on its website (<http://www.bjgaj.gov.cn/jjcrj/index.jsp?parm=rp3>) an online application form for foreign applicants applying for residence permit.

The form aims at improved administration of passport and visa applications and more specifically provides online application reservation services for Chinese citizens and/or foreigners approaching BEEA centers for passport or visa issuance/extension/renewal.

The notice targeting foreigners applying for a visa or a residence permit indicates that they first must fill in the online application and then go to the centre of Beijing Exit and Entry Administration to proceed with the visa interview. Otherwise, they cannot apply. The online application requires applicants to provide personal information, select appointment time, print the application form by themselves and submit the application together with other required supporting documents to the centre] pay the visa fee and return to the center in a delay of few days to collect their visa or resident permit.

The Beijing government's website (<http://www.ebeijing.gov.cn/>) is another good source of information for foreign nationals, applying for visa issuance, extension or renewal: <http://www.ebeijing.gov.cn/Government/GovernmentBulletin/default.htm>.

## Beijing facilitates Permanent Residence of Foreign Talent

The Beijing Public Security Bureau has started implementing 20 new immigration policies to simplify application process for visas, immigration and permanent residence in Beijing of highly-skilled foreign nationals, overseas Chinese returnee entrepreneurs, foreign members of entrepreneurial teams and young foreign students.

The policies include: Establishment of a Permanent Residence Service Center in Zhongguancun by the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) to administer foreign nationals' applications, the approval period for the permanent residence for foreign national top talent shortened from 180 to 50 working days, and an integral assessment system set up for the permanent residence applications submitted by foreign nationals in Zhongguancun. A specific counter for permanent residence applications will be put in place for overseas Chinese, holding a Doctoral or Master's degree and who have set up long-term businesses in Zhongguancun. Foreign students studying at Chinese universities will also be allowed to take short-term internships in Zhongguancun.

Additionally, 10 policies, implemented in Shanghai since July 1, 2015, will also be implemented in Beijing. These include allowing foreigners within a specific income range and taxes to apply for permanent residence in China, allowing foreign students who graduated from Chinese universities to set up enterprises in China, and

allowing high-skilled foreign talent to hire foreign domestic workers in China.

Some of these 20 new policies will be tested out first in Beijing's Zhongguancun National Innovation Demonstration Zone. The Permanent Residence Service Center in Zhongguancun was officially open to foreigners in Beijing on 1st March 2016.

## Visa Issuance at the Border for applications on emergency and humanitarian grounds

The article 20 of the Exit and Entry Administration Law of the People's Republic of China stipulates that those foreigners who need to enter China urgently for humanitarian reasons, or are invited to enter China for urgent business, urgent repair work, or other urgent needs, and hold valid documentation proving the competent departments' authorization for port visa application, may apply for port visas at the visa-issuing authorities entrusted by the Ministry of Public Security at the ports ("port visa authorities") and authorized by the State Council to issue port visas.

## Visa- waiver for diplomatic passport holders from China and the Schengen Zone EU Member States

On 1st March 2016, Beijing and Brussels agreed to reciprocally grant visa-free entry for Chinese and Schengen Zone EU Member States diplomatic passport holders. According to the agreement, the holders of a valid diplomatic passport or EU laissez-passer, when travelling to the territory of the other party can be given permission to stay for a maximum period of 90 days in any 180-day period. This is a follow-up agreement after the EU-China Summit held in Brussels last June. The Chinese Ambassador to EU Mr. Yang Yanyi said at the signing ceremony: "More frequent exchange of personnel can help consolidate the foundations of a closer EU-China relationship". The negotiators of both sides will next discuss how to lift visa barriers for business, travel and study purposes.

Statistics indicate that in 2015 more than 3.5 million Chinese travelled to the EU, while the total number of outbound travels from China in the same year was 120 million.

## China's Yangtze River Delta offers 144-hour visa-free entry

In order to promote international tourism, attract talent and enhance trade cooperation in Yangtze River Delta, a new policy was introduced on 30 January 2016 by China to further ease up visa-free transit to Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces. According to the new policy, the visa-free transit is now extended to 144 hours or six days for foreign travellers arriving in Shanghai, Nanjing or Hangzhou from 51 countries including: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland,

France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Russia, Britain, Ireland, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, the US, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Brunei, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania.

Travellers from these countries can enjoy a 144-hour stay in the Yangtze River Delta upon entry in Shanghai by air, sea and railway ports, in Nanjing (Jiangsu Province) by Lukou International Airport and in Hangzhou (Zhejiang Province) via Xiaoshan International Airport, provided they have third country visas and tickets to leave for a third country or region within 144 hours.

Shanghai, Hangzhou and Nanjing have been allowing since 2013 a 72-hour visa-free entry for international transit passengers, however, under the previous policy, this visa-free entry was: 1) only available for those transit passengers, who entered through the airports of the three cities and 2) the transit passengers were not allowed to travel to the areas outside of the city. In addition to extended transit stay permit, the new policy also allows international passengers to travel outside these cities and visit the three provinces in the Yangtze River Delta.

The preliminary findings of an ongoing research on [Recruitment, Employment and Working Conditions of Domestic Workers in Beijing](#), conducted by Professor Liu Minghui from the Law School of China Women's University) were presented during the Policy Seminar on "Migrants and Cities" in Guangzhou.

The ultimate aim of this research, commissioned by ILO, is a strengthened knowledge base concerning domestic workers in the city that will support the development of:

- Policy and legislation to enhance the protection of this group of workers, in line with the provisions of C189 and its Recommendation; potentially leading to a consideration of ratification of C189 (Domestic Workers Convention).
- Measures among government, social partners and CSOs to ensure the development, implementation and enforcement of the respective policies and legislation.

The empirical findings will be put into context by a legislative review and an analysis of the specific situation of domestic workers in China and Beijing. The final report will provide Chinese government, EU and its Member States' with 'good practices' and recommendations as well as the opportunity to better understand the migration aspect of the Chinese urbanization process and its coherence with international standards. The study is not only an illustration of the socio-economic impact of migration on development and urban development in particular, it also expresses the hope that domestic work may become a full-fledged urban labour market in its own right in China's near future.

# Overview of project activities through the last quarter

## Policy Seminar on “Migrants and Cities”, 17-18 March 2016, Guangzhou, Guangdong province

Promoting regular migration and human mobility between China and EU is one of the main objectives under the EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Support Project. Related to that, an important event was facilitated by IOM in March in the city of Guangzhou under the title of Policy Seminar on “Migrants and Cities”. The success of this Policy Seminar is to be considered as a milestone in overall strengthening of EU-China partnership on migration and mobility.

The contributions by several authorities of the city of Guangzhou provided a comprehensive overview of the opportunities and challenges of development and urbanization within the Chinese context, the role of city authorities in migration governance, social integration of migrants and responsible urban planning as well as policy and practical counter-measures taken by Chinese stakeholders to administer internal and international migratory flows.

Attended by key Chinese and international stakeholders among other Mr. XIE Xiaodan, Vice Mayor of Guangzhou, Ms. JIANG Qin, Counsellor, the Department of International Organizations and Conferences Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ignacio Asenjo, Second Secretary, Delegation of the European Union to China and Mongolia, central and provincial level officials from key Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Public Security (MPS), Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS), State Administration for Foreign Expert Affairs (SAFEA), National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) as well as Centre for China and Globalization (CCG), Consulates General of Italy, Poland, the Netherlands, UK, Indonesia, Cambodia, the Philippines and Nigeria and ILO, the Seminar is another joint

achievement, in addition to IOM’s recently launched Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVVR) pilot project, further solidifying the partnership between IOM and the city of Guangzhou.

Gathering all main Chinese stakeholders dealing with urbanization planning and migration management on this platform of exchange was an important achievement from project implementation perspective; creating synergies and allowing smoother coordination with these authorities on future project activities linked to regular migration in particular those promoting European researchers and high-end talent’s mobility to China.

**Key Reflections:** Compiled by IOM at the end of the second day, these considerations follow the objective of the seminar, namely supporting policy-makers in formulating new, improved policies in support of sustainable and inclusive development by highlighting the positive potential of migration and migrants and measures to tackle the risks of mixed migratory flows between EU and China:

- A mobile and divers world requires flexible migration governance that responds to change and transition.
- Enhanced inter-governmental cooperation, at central and city level, is necessary to effectively address issues related to the concept of migrants and cities.
- Policy issues in terms of internal migrants - hukou, social welfare, left-behind children and elderly care-takers - should be taken into consideration in the course of policy making at central and city level.
- Guangzhou sets an excellent example in China terms of management

of foreigners/migration governance, which should be used as a model by other Chinese cities.

- City-to-city cooperation under EU-China partnership is an important instrument for the benefit of migration management.
- Migrants increase cities’ growing interconnections and are an essential part of linking communities of origin and destination, i.e. city of Milan.
- Migrants associations can play a key role in the social integration of migrants.
- Successful integration of migrants starts from the local/city level.
- Foreign talents are key to China’s future economic development, as the country is transforming from a labour-intensive to a high-end industrial economy. However, policies on foreign low skilled labour are also be required.
- Recognising the efforts already made, China needs to draw on foreign sources of talent including both the overseas Chinese diaspora and non-Chinese ethnic foreign nationals through continued easing immigration policies.
- Dual citizenship can attract more talent to China.
- More in-depth studies and research is needed on the challenges and opportunities around migrants and cities.
- New urban agenda must maintain a harmonious approach taking into account both migrants and local populations.
- Further dialogue and exchanges, involving all relevant partners (local

authorities, central authorities, academics, foreign experts, international organisations, city-to-city cooperation - and potentially also private sector, employers and employment agencies and the migrants themselves etc) is needed to further develop policies on migrants and cities.

The event also meant to create a link with IOM's ongoing efforts in the area of migration and development in particular the work done in 2015 - the year dedicated by IOM to "Migrants and Cities", namely the Inter-Ministerial Conference (October 2015) as well as IOM's flagship report; the World Migration Report – 2015 – WMR 2015).

The Chinese version of the IOM World Migration Report: Migrants and Cities: New Partnerships to Manage Mobility was officially launched in the presence of invited guests and representatives from Chinese media.

## **Chinese travel agents receive information to enhance tourism to Europe**

*Training workshops on ADS-Supported tourism for Travel Agencies and Tourism Authorities in Provinces (Sichuan and Chongqing province)*

In a series of capacity-enhancement workshops targeting province travel agencies and tourism authorities, two additional training workshops were held in Chongqing (30 March) and Chengdu (31 March) following the first event held in Guangzhou, in September 2015.

The project team would like to thank the Consulate General of Hungary for assisting IOM in preparing the event in Chongqing and the Consulates General of France and Germany for co-organizing the workshop in Chengdu.

The half-day training workshop in Chongqing was held with the support of the Hungarian Consulate General on 30 March and gathered about 48 travel agency representatives, tourism authorities of Chongqing including Mr. Wang Dingguo, Deputy Head of Chongqing Tourism Bureau and repre-

sentatives of the Embassy of Switzerland.

The training workshop in Chengdu was held with the support of the Consulates General of Germany and France in Chengdu. The half-day event held on 31 March gathered about 38 travel agents and tourism authorities. More than 20 travel agencies operating in Sichuan, representatives from the Consulates General of France, Germany, Poland and the Embassy of Switzerland as well as IOM Liaison Office in China were present in the training.

Considering the momentum of the fairly recent roll-out of the Visa Information Systems (VIS) by the EU requiring Chinese applicants to provide biometric data when applying for Schengen visa as well as the recent announcement of the Chinese authorities allowing the Schengen EU nations to open Visa Application Centres in fifteen cities around China, the training workshops for provincial tourism agencies and authorities were well-timed and necessary. The year 2015 counted approximately 120 million Chinese outbound tourists, a 12% increase compared to 2014, according to figures released by China National Tourism Administration (CNTA), with Asian destinations still dominating the outbound Chinese market. However, Schengen destinations still took a large share of Chinese visitors. As an increasing proportion of the outbound tourism in China instigate from the emerging upper middle class of the second and third tiers cities, cooperation and exchange with relevant stakeholders in provinces become a priority for the EU to streamline tourism management with the overall objective of promoting sustainable and responsible tourism for the benefit of mutual economic gain.

## **Exchange of experience in handling fraudulent documents between EU and China, 13 April 2016**

IOM facilitated "Exchange of experience in handling fraudulent docu-

ments between EU and China", a visit to the national Document Examination Centre of the Bureau of Exit and Entry Administration of the Ministry of Public Security for representatives from the European Union Delegation and Embassies in Beijing including the Embassies of Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Finland, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the Embassy of Spain.

The Director of the centre, Mr WANG Shenhan provided an introduction to the four years of the existence of the centre and the system that China operates to provide 24 hour support and service nationally, connecting all of China's eight regional document examination centres through an intranet where information is continuously updated and shared. The centre organizes several training courses and annually around sixty (60) training courses are delivered mostly for Chinese police officials working on document fraud in the provinces.

The Document Examination Centre official shared some recent trends encountered by the Chinese authorities, including cases where they have cooperated with the Immigration Liaison Officer of the Embassy of the Netherlands.

Dr. Viktor Mandi, Immigration Liaison Officer of Embassy of Hungary shared some recent trends and cases and also information about the PRADO website - an online register of authentic travel and identity documents of the European Union Member States.

In his presentation, Mr Martin de Zwaan, Immigration Liaison Officer from the Embassy of the Netherlands, highlighted potential way forward in this area by ensuring closer cooperation and regular meetings between Staff of Document Examination Centre, Immigration Officers of Beijing airport and Immigration Liaison Officers working at the airport.



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## The way forward

Some highlights of the upcoming project activities

### June 2016

Workshop on Pre-Departure Orientation for workers going to Europe & abroad

Training course on China-EU Labour Migration – Challenges and Opportunities

### August 2016

International Standards for Identifying and Assisting Victims of Trafficking and Forced Labour

### September 2016

Seminar on Policy and Practical Measures to Promote Researcher Mobility between EU and China.

Workshops on the scope for labour migration between relevant Chinese and European regions with high potential for enhanced labour mobility

### IOM Liaison Office in China



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