



BACES ANNUAL REPORT 2016

#2

Note: this second report is only an intermediate version, since the report will be aligned with the calendar year and budget year Jan-Dec. Activities taking place in fall 2016 will be added. The report will be part of the annual institutional report of VUB. The report will encompass the period Sep 2015-Dec 2016.

I. BACES meetings

BACES meetings took place on 16 September 2015, 18 May 2016, 4 October 2016. A report of each meeting is available at the BACES secretariat.

II. Changes in governance

During the meeting of 16 September 2015 it was decided to:

- keep Gustaaf Geeraerts as EU Chair and Director
- add Luk Van Langenhove as VUB-member of the Academic Board
- add Duncan Freeman as external advisor of the Academic Board (he was at that time not bound to VUB)

At the meeting of 18 May 2016, following changes were presented:

- Luk Van Langenhove is EU Chair and Steffi Weil is EU Director, since Gustaaf Geeraerts is residing in China.

Oct. 2016: Steffi Weil resigned the Academic Board and Jan Cornelis joined Academic Board

III. Activities

Seminars, Workshops, Conferences

-17-18 July 2015 – International Conference

Title: **'EU-China 40-year: New Strategic Partnership'**

Organisers: RUC

Location: RUC

Participants: 90 participants from China (75 from RUC, Sichuan and Fudan, etc.) and Europe (15 from Belgium, The Netherlands, UK, Austria, Demark, Poland, etc.)

Budget: 60.000,00 CNY by RUC

Info: **Hans-Dietmar Schweisgut**, Head of EU Delegation in China gave a speech. Five panels were arranged on EU-China Partnership for peace and security, growth and development, reform and governance, civilization and culture, one belt one road. A Book edited by Prof. Xinning Song from RUC and Prof. Hua Liu from Shanxi University, was published in March 2017, with RUC funding.

-16-17 September 2015 - International Conference

Title: **'EU-China 40 years: A new Strategic Partnership'**

Organisers: VUB, BACES, Egmont

Location: VUB

Participants: >200

Budget: BACES and RUC

Info: Madam Liu Yandong attended the closing session and delivered a speech

-6 October 2015 - Think Tank Roundtable

Title: **'The Silk Road, the New World Order and EU-China Relations'**

Organisers: BACES (Duncan Freeman), IES (Thomas Sattich), The Charhar Institute

Participants: 15

Budget: 179,29 (catering)

Info: Roundtable involving delegation from the Charhar Institute, a leading think tank on international relations in China, and representatives of various think tanks in Brussels, as well as IES, Vesalius College and other departments in the VUB.

Presentation by Charhar Institute delegation, Prof Zhao Zhao Kejin, Senior Fellow, Charhar Institute and Deputy Professor of Tsinghua University, on the development of China's foreign policy in relation to the One Belt, One Road initiative. Followed by in an depth discussion involving members of Charhar Institute delegation and European attendees.

-14 March 2016 – Public Seminar

Title: **‘Prospects for the Chinese Economy’**

Organisers: BACES (Duncan Freeman), EU Asia Center (Fraser Cameron)

Participants: 40

Budget: N/A

Info: The seminar discussed the current situation of Chinese economy, especially in light of recent developments and new policies outlined in 13th Five Year Plan. The seminar focused on the potential impact of developments in China on the EU. Presenters

Duncan Freeman, Senior Fellow, Brussels Institute for China and European Studies;

Annika Melander, DG Ecfm and ex EU delegation in China,

Sun Mingxi, Head of Economic Division, Mission of China to the EU; Chris Cheung, Director, EU SME Centre in China.

-4 May 2016 – Workshop

Title: **‘The Chinese Approach to Public Diplomacy – a Clash of Ideas’**

Organisers: BACES and VUB

Location: VUB

Participants: 60-80

Budget: VUB

Info: China’s assertion that it can rise peacefully is at times contested in the Western political- and scholarly community. China’s increasing importance on the global stage coincides with its efforts to project and spread Chinese norms and values around the globe. Based on its international economic and political momentum, China has developed a strategy to expand its cultural influence. The strategy borrows from modern Western concepts such as soft power as well as ancient Chinese statecraft. An important vehicle of China’s diplomacy has been Confucius Centers around the world, modeled on long-standing Western equivalents, which offer services ranging from Chinese language lessons, cultural and political information to collaborative Western-Chinese research projects.

This kind of Chinese public diplomacy is not always well perceived and is seen as an attempt to undermine Western ‘liberal’ values and gain influence. China on the other hand argues that its diplomacy is a crucial tool to rise peacefully and contribute to a harmonious society. The necessity to address and understand Chinese diplomacy is important considering that China is contributing to research projects and knowledge production, not only by itself but jointly with partners in Europe such as the European Union and member state governments, and also engages with European universities, think tanks and other institutions. There are both convergent and divergent European and Chinese ideas on how this relationship should work. Thus a number of renowned specialists from China and Europe discuss the distinct Western or European and Chinese ideas of China’s cultural diplomacy, its rising power and its capacity to influence knowledge production. The workshop had several topics discussing this theme.

-9 May 2016

Title: **EU China Day 2016 – Promotion of European Integration**

Organisers: SCU and BACES (Prof. Jian Shi and Prof. Zhuyu Li)

Location: Guiyang

Participants: over 300 students & staff from Guizhou and local universities

Budget: SCU

Info:

At the beginning, the working group distributed EU promotional materials including European maps and promotion pamphlets sent by Delegation of the European Union to China. The activities mainly center around two keynote lectures delivered by two Jean Monnet Chair professors from Sichuan University. Prof. dr. Jian SHI gave a lecture entitled “Close to the EU: the European Integration Development”, Prof. dr. Yamei WANG focused on “the economic, political and cultural significance of the Euro”.

Prof. dr. Zhuyu LI gave an introduction to the EU Day activities developed by the CES within and beyond Sichuan University in the past years, stressed the peculiarity of the EU as a unique supranational organization in the world, and also hoped students to pay close attention to the EU-China relations, especially the relations between China and the eastern Europe in combination with their study and career plans.

Guizhou University said, such activities not only expand the international outlook of the staff and students and promote the academic communication and cooperation among institutions, but also build up new channels and platforms for the local University staff and students to have a better understanding of the European Union.

-16 June 2016 - workshop

Title: **Recent Developments in the South China Sea**

Organisers: BACES (Xinning Song)

Location: European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS)

Participants: Nearly 90 participants took part in the event, including academics, think tankers, officials, diplomats, business people, journalists, and students

Budget: N/A

Info: Professor **Xinning Song** gave the introduction, and Mr. **David Fouquet**, Senior Research Associate of EIAS moderated the discussion.

Ms. **Yan YAN**, the Deputy Director of the Research Center of Oceans Law and Policy in the National Institute for the South China Sea Studies (NISCSS), gave a 30-minute presentation on Recent Development of South China Sea, focused on three major issues, Reclamation, Navigation and Arbitration.

The South China Sea, through which USD 5.3 trillion worth of maritime trade passes each year, has become the focus of international concern as solutions over maritime territorial disputes remain to be found. China, Vietnam, The Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei have all made claims to various islets and rocks surrounded by vast amounts of untapped gas and oil reserves and prime fishing waters. Rising military expenditures by claimant countries, increased US presence and freedom of navigation operations, China’s land-reclamation and militarization projects on various islands and The Philippines’ appeal to international courts for arbitration have led to increased tensions despite all parties calling for a peaceful solution.

Ms Yan YAN, key speaker, is the Deputy Director of the Research Center of Oceans Law and Policy in the National Institute for the South China Sea Studies (NISCSS) and a PhD candidate for public international law at the University of Hong Kong.

-27 June 2016 – networking event

Title: **Networking event of VUB China Network**

Organisers: VUB-BACES

Location: VUB

Participants: Chinese students at VUB

Budget: N/A

Programme: Presentation of VUB China collaboration by Vice Rector Prof. Jan CORNELIS, followed by a presentation by Mr. SU Yantao, Second Secretary for Education at the Chinese Embassy in Belgium.

Introduction of VUB China Alumni Association & CSC scholarship, present by Ms. TONG Xiaohong, Director VUB China Network. Networking & Reception.

-28 June – 8 July 2016 - Training

Title: **'Training Young Teachers and promoting the EU's visibility in West China'**

Organisers: SCU and BACES (Prof. Jian Shi, Xiang Deng and Prof. Zhuyu Li)

Location: SCU

Participants: 50 young teachers of the southwest area

Budget: SCU

Info: The training programme focuses on the promotion of the European Integration and related studies for the youth in the Southwest area of China, and the main purposes are:

1. To enhance the research performance, teaching level and ability of the young teachers engaged in EU studies in Southwest China, who are the key human resources in promoting EU's visibility, and to help them become the backbone force in teaching and researching European integration in the local areas.
2. To attract more young teachers' and researchers' attention to the EU and its integration studies and to the related European studies, and consequently to further extend the EU and Europe's visibility and influence in West China.

Over 50 trainees from Yunan, Guizhou, Chongqing, Gansu and the Sichuan Province took part in the training programme. They were all around 28 to 36 years old and majoring in economics, business, management, international relations and cultural studies, including PhD candidates, young staff and associates. Jean Monnet Chair Professors and senior professors, from Denmark, RUC, and SCU, on EU studies gave 10 lectures.

Training Programme was partly supported by EU Jean Monnet Project and also BACES SCU Office. The programme and activities were well welcomed by the trainees and produced very positive impact on them. At the end of the training programme, a **Questionnaire evaluation** about the training programme was done.

A Chengdu Roundtable Meeting took place before the training programme, the topic was **"One Belt One Road: the New Strategy and the Development of China-EU Relations"**

The 2nd training programme will be held in June 26-July 2, 2016. Four European scholars will be invited to give lectures, including VUB Prof. Dr. Gustaaf Geeraerts and other European Studies scholars from the Netherlands, Poland and New Zealand. The 2016 Chengdu

Roundtable will be held after the Training programme on July 1-2, 2016, and the topic is "The Challenges for the Development of European Integration: behind the Multiple Crises".

-29 June 2016 – informal discussion

Title: **'New EU Policy Paper on China'**

Organisers: BACES-VUB

Location: VUB

Participants: 15. Participants came from VUB (including three PhD students), European Parliament (Mr. Victor Bostinaru, Vice Chair, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament and Member of Delegation of Relationship with People's Republic of China), European Institute for Asia Studies, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, University of Leuven, Lancaster University, UK and China Mission to the EU.

Budget: N/A

Info:

European Commission and European External Action Service released their Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on Elements for a new strategy on China on 22 June 2016 in Brussels.

The informal discussion on the EU paper is the first reflection by a group of experts on EU-China relations organized by BACES.

Professor **Xinning Song** gave a brief introduction to BACES and the new paper, 15 experts in the field had active discussion on the paper, from the history, security, economic, to aspects of human rights, and European values, as well as the impacts of Brexit on EU-China relations. Professor **Steffi Weil** gave the conclusion remarks.

Experts also discussed the follow-up activities and possibility to organize a research group on EU-China relations in the near future.

-June 30-July 2, an international workshop on "The Challenges for the Development of European Integration: behind the Multiple Crises" at Dujiangyan, the famous place for the ancient Irrigation System, the world cultural heritage.
Event at Sichuan University in Chengdu.

-7 July 2016 - workshop

Title: **'Internationalisation of Chinese Currency RMB'**

Organisers: BACES, Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations, European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS)

Location: European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS)

Participants: about 70 participants took part in the event, including academics, think tankers, officials, diplomats, business people, journalists and students.

Budget: 460 EUR

Info: Academic Workshop on internationalization of Chinese currency and its impact on world development.

On 30 November 2015, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board determined that the Chinese renminbi (RMB) was a 'freely usable' currency. As a consequence, it is to be

included in the basket of currencies that underpin the IMF's reserve asset, the special drawing right (SDR), alongside the US Dollar, the Euro, the Japanese Yen and Pound Sterling. The IMF's 'tick of approval' for the RMB represents a political milestone for China's currency internationalisation, and signals progress on a reform process that includes gradually opening the capital account, strengthening the domestic financial system, and improving cross-border payments infrastructure and central bank swap lines. All of these are essential to the ongoing rebalancing of the Chinese economy towards a more sustainable growth model.

Professor **Xinning Song** gave the introduction of BACES and the joint event. Mr. **Erik Famaey**, Senior Associate of EIAS moderated the discussion.

Prof. **Feng ZHEN**, Associate Professor at School of Statistics, Renmin University of China; Professor Em. **Sylvain Plasschaert**, Advisory Board Member of EIAS; Mr.

Balazs Ujvari, Joint Research Fellow of Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations and European Policy Centre gave presentation on the topic.

-15-16 July 2016 - Training

Title: **'Summer School for Graduate Students on European Study'**

Organisers: RUC

Location: RUC

Participants: 50

Budget: 30,000CNY by RUC

Info: A graduate training programme on European Studies, organized by Renmin University of China.

45 graduate students from Sichuan University, Fudan University, Shandong University, Shanxi University, Yanshan University, University of International Business and Economics, China University of Political Science and Law took part in the programme.

10 Lectures on European Studies were offered to students. Speakers included three Chinese (RUC, Sichuan and Fudan) and 7 European (Belgium, UK, Denmark, Austria, The Netherlands, Poland) professors.

-17-18 July 2016 - International Conference

Title: One Belt One Road and EU-China Relations

Organisers: RUC

Location: RUC

Participants: 70

Budget: 25,000CNY by RUC

-18 July 2016 - 6th EU-China Forum

Title: **'China, Europe and Economic Transformation – Prospects and Opportunities'**

Organisers:

Location: Hăikǒu, China

Participants: Duncan Freeman, BACES, gave a talk in the session on

'EU-China Relations and 21st century economic governance' and moderated another session on **'Working together to tackle global challenges'**.

Budget: N/A

Programme: <http://www.friendsofeurope.org/event/eu-china-forum-china-europe-and-economic-transformation-prospects-and-opportunities/>

Info: The Forum focuses on the economic transformation currently underway in both the EU and China, to try and find synergies between the new 13th Five Year Plan and the EU 2020 strategy.

-September - Conference

Title: **Conference on OBOR**

Location: Dalian, China

Participants: Duncan Freeman participated as a speaker at this conference in Dalian on OBOR. The organisers, University of Applied Sciences Vienna and University of Maribor have invited BACES as cosponsor by including a BACES speaker in the programme.

Budget: N/A

-3 & 4 October 2016 - China Day 2016

Title: **China-Belgium Diplomatic Relations at 45 Years: Belgium As the Gateway for EU-China Relations.**

Organisers: VUB BACES (Xinning Song, Duncan Freeman), Egmont Institute for International Relations

Location: 3 October at Egmont Palace and 4 October at VUB

Participants:

Budget: Hanban China Studies project, Huawei Chair, The Ministry of Education in China

Info:

Keynote speech by Mr. Dong CHEN, Chargé d'Affaires ad Interim, Chinese Embassy to the Kingdom of Belgium and HEM. Dirk ACHTEN, Secretary General Federal Public Service, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium

Panel I: Belgian and China: Economic & Political Dimensions

Panel II: Benelux-China: Regional Dimensions at the Core of Europe

Panel III: Belgium at the Core of the Europe-China Relationship

Panel IV: Belgium-China: A Multilayered Relationship

Panel V. Prospects for Belgium-China Relationship- the next 45 years?

-5 October, Asia Platform, Rue de la Loi 26, B-1040 Brussels

Title: **Briefing Seminar on "Brexit and the Future of EU-China Relations"**

The event is organized by BACES and the Confucius Institute at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, in cooperation with the Egmont Institute and the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS). This seminar will examine the impact of Brexit on the future of EU-China relations, looking at the potential implications on economic and political cooperation and highlighting the uncertainties and dilemmas that have been created.

Participants: 250

Speakers: Dai Bingran from Fudan, Wang Shuo from CICIR, Chen Xin from CASS, Richard Higgot from Warwick, ...

-17 November 2017

Title: Hangzhou G20: China and Global Governance

Organisers: VUB BACES (Xinning Song), CERIS

Location: CERIS

Participants: 150

Budget: CI budget

Four speakers: Weiping Huang from RUC, Enrico Fels from University of Bonn, David Fouquet from CERIS, Duncan Freeman from College of Europe

-15 December 2017

Title: EU-China Security Cooperation

Organisers: VUB BACES (Xinning Song), European Institute for Asia Studies, University of Essex, UK

Location: Asian Platform, Brussels

Participants: 150

Budget: CI budget

Seven speakers: Weiping Huang from RUC, Emil Kirchner and Han Dorussen from Essex University, Thomas Christiansen from Maastricht University, Alberto Turkstra from EIAS, Michael Reiterer and Uwe Wissenbach, European External Action Service

Research Projects

-1 September 2015-31 August 2017

Title: **How to recognize European Integration –Realities and Challenges-Perspectives from Chinese Youth**

Organisers/Researchers: SCU and BACES (Prof. Jian Shi and Zhuyu Li), supported by a Jean Monnet project, the CES and BACES Office of SCU.

Location: SCU

Budget: N /A

Info: To promote European Union/European Integration profile in China and to know the cognition and understanding of EU and European Integration from the Chinese youth, the project will do the questionnaire among the Chinese college students so as to recognize Chinese youth's understanding of European Integration, noting and analyzing the possible differences between cities and universities at different levels. Through debates, information campaigns, speeches, questionnaires and interviews, we will try to well know and understand the China-EU relationship recognized by the Chinese youth, directly discuss with the students, and obtain their ideas and answers related to the knowledge about European Integration.

The first Project working meeting was held during 3-4 December 2015 at SCU and around twenty scholars participated in the meeting including delegate from RUC and Fudan University. We are right now in the survey procedure. Till May 11th, we have finished the survey in 13 universities from the North to the South, including Nanjing University, Nankai University, Hebei University, Shanxi University, Guizhou University, Southwest Jiaotong University, Southwest University of Economic and Finance, Southwest University for Nationalities, Southwest Medical University , etc. The data processing and analysis are proceeding.

IV. BACES in the picture:

http://paper.people.com.cn/rmrb/html/2016-05/28/nw.D110000renmrb_20160528_1-03.htm

<http://www.cctv-america.com/2016/05/31/the-heat-trade-negotiations-between-china-and-eu>

<http://english.cntv.cn/2015/11/17/VIDE1447706398788203.shtml>

http://paper.people.com.cn/rmrb/html/2015-12/30/nw.D110000renmrb_20151230_1-21.htm

V. Funding

Balance: see additional document.

VI. Scholarships

1. China Scholarship Council

20 students will join the BACES master scholarship programme in 2016-2017 in the following disciplines:

Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literary Studies	3
Master of Science in Communication Studies	5
Master of Science in European Integration and Development	5
Master of Science in Management	6
Master of Science in Management Science	1
Degree seekers	13
Exchange students (possibility to get degree later)	7
Male	4
Female	16
RUC	10
SCU	5
FUU	5

10 students will join the BACES PhD programme in 2016-2017 in the following disciplines:

Arts and Philosophy	1
Economic, political and social sciences	7
Physical Education and Physiotherapy	1

Psychology and Educational Sciences	1
12 months	9
48 months	1
Male	8
Female	2
RUC	4
SCU	3
FUU	3

2. Erasmus Mundus (EU)

Academic year 2016-2017: semester 1, 1 outgoing student to SCU, political sciences

Projects are ending.

3. Erasmus+ (EU)

Project 2016 for mobility 2017-2018: scholarships still need to be assigned.

4. Master Mind Scholarships (Flemish Ministry of Education)

Call 2015-2016: 1 student from RUC to VUB – Ma Management