

Discovering new models of China-Europe cooperation on infrastructure development: the Central and Eastern European experiences

CALL FOR PAPERS

China's emerging role as a developmental finance provider and a major infrastructure construction contractor in Eurasia, facilitated by the Belt and Road Initiative, has sparked a heated debate on the potential impact of China's activities on the existing normative and legal frameworks, macroeconomic stability, as well as the political situation of recipient countries. Concerns regarding those potentially transformative effects pushed the European Union (EU) to respond with new policy initiatives, promoting a sustainable, comprehensive and rules-based connectivity in Eurasia, particularly within the EU's Strategy for Connecting Europe & Asia framework. Apart from the direct engagement with the recipient countries in Eurasia, the EU intensifies the institutional dialogue with China, aimed at safeguarding the rules-based and economically sustainable approach to infrastructure development.

These new dynamics is particularly visible in the evolution of the 17+1 format, grouping China and Central and South-Eastern European countries. The regional response to China's offer on infrastructure development is mixed, ranging from enthusiastic responses by non-EU member states, resulting in a number of new infrastructure projects financed and constructed by Chinese companies, to a more cautious approach and modest cooperation results on behalf of the regional EU member states. Apart from the economic factors, linked with the financial terms presented by China, the dynamics of cooperation on infrastructure development is visibly affected by the activities of EU institutions and member states, linked with the general European policy shift pictured above. This mounting pressure leads China to experiment with new financial instruments, new approaches to the public procurement, and new project models (such as PPP or BOT), visible within the 17+1 format and beyond.

With this background, this special issue aims to assess the existing China-Europe cooperation in infrastructure development, as well as to bring together researchers covering the economic, political, financial and public policy aspects of the topic. We invite research and lessons-learned from analyses of case studies, as well as more conceptual approaches. With a particular focus put on 17+1 countries, a region often depicted as China's testing ground within the EU, we welcome contributions covering China's relevant activities in other European (both EU and non-EU) countries. We also welcome recommendations for a potential regional or EU-wide policy response to China's activities.

A non-exhaustive list of topics that could be covered in the special issue includes:

- The economic aspects of China's infrastructure financing utilisation in Europe, including the macroeconomic impact and sustainability
- The structure and terms of cooperation of the infrastructure-oriented financial instruments provided by China
- China's participation in public procurement within the EU and non-EU legal frameworks

- The impact of Chinese projects on local practices, rules, conventions and technical standards
- The political and public policy aspects on China's involvement in infrastructural projects on the local, national and EU levels

In this special issue, we invite contributors from the fields of **economics, finance, political economy, public policy and international relations**. The research on law-related aspects of China's infrastructure cooperation with Europe (eg. public procurement, PPP) will be presented in a separate special issue published in 2020.

The e-Journal of Law and Economy of China is an **Open Access (OA) e-journal** published by the Polish Research Centre for Law and Economy of China (Warsaw University, Poland). As a newly established open debate platform, the journal is aimed at stimulating discussions on key aspects of China's international rise, linking the law, economic and public policy perspectives. By bringing closer the researchers from the fields of law, economics, political economy and international relations, presenting different perspectives and methodologies, the journal offers an interdisciplinary approach to key China-related topics.

Submission information and guidelines:

The paper submissions will be subject to a peer review process. Articles submitted to the journal should not have been published before in their current or substantially similar form. The journal will be published on the website of the Polish Research Centre for Law and Economy of China, and the articles will all be assigned a DOI number.

The authors willing to publish an article in this special issue are asked to **provide an abstract and a short bio** by **October 10th** at Jakub.jakobowski@gmail.com.

- The expected article length is **40 000 characters (with spaces)**
- The journal is using the Harvard referencing system, eg. 'Dunning (1979, pp. 112-113) suggests that...' and 'recent studies have shown that ... (Zhao 2018; Lin 2017, p. 2-17).
- The authors will be encouraged to actively participate in the reviewing process, i.e. provide one review of another article submission (February 2020).
- The final version of the papers will be subject to a **professional proofreading**, in cooperation with the authors.
- Thanks to the project financing terms, authors of this special issue will be provided with a one-time **180 EUR remuneration**.

Special issue timeline:

- October 10th, 2019 - abstract and bio submission
- February 2nd, 2020 - submission deadline
- June 2020 - publication date

Contact details

Please get in touch with the editorial team should you have any questions:

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