China in Europe Research Network (CHERN) - CA 18215

China's digital power and its implications for the EU (CHERN WG2)

Basics

Host Organization: The Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI)/Sweden and the Swedish National China Centre in Stockholm
Host Organizations's representative: Dr Tim Nicholas Rühlig
Representative's contact: tim.ruhlig@ui.se
The tentative length of the STSM: 2-6 weeks

Call's description and objectives

Digital technologies are an important driver of societal, political, and economic change. The European Union must find its place in order to ensure a prosperous future for its people. A major challenge for the EU in this respect is the way in which the People's Republic of China (PRC) crafts its strategy towards technology and is employing its strategic advantage in the emerging power rivalry with the United States. While the EU needs to cooperate with China it also faces a four-dimensional "digital China challenge". Economically, an unlevel playing field favours Chinese tech firms. This endangers the EU's digital industrial competitiveness. Politically, China can leverage political concessions from technologically (over-)dependent third countries. In the security field, the inclusion of Chinese digital equipment could come with cyber-insecurities that enable espionage and sabotage. Ideationally, China's technological stronghold calls into question whether the governance principles of digital technologies reflect liberal and democratic values. This challenge is a multidimensional one as it encompasses a wide variety of technologies ranging from Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things to Blockchain, 5G, and semiconductors and requires both political and economic knowledge of China as well as technical expertise.

Objectives: The STSM is aimed at a collaborative effort between the host and the visiting research for:

- Exploring concrete ways of interdisciplinary research cooperation between a political scientist (host) and a technical expert (engineer, computer scientist etc.) (STSM visiting fellow) in the field of "digital power China",
- Discussing different disciplinary perspectives on concrete angles of the subject, such as technical standardization and/or a concrete technology,
- Exchanging methodological pathways from a technical and a social scientific perspective,
- Embedding the issue in the context of the growing technological competition between the US and China and its implications for Europe,
- Carving out concrete policy recommendations for the EU from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- Engaging in dialogue with local experts and policymakers.

Call's specific requirements

In addition to COST rules (see section "Who is eligible to be an STSM Applicant" in the STSM BASIC FACTS), the candidate should have:

- Academic background in engineering or computer science
- Previous work on China's digital technological capabilities and interest in its political implications
- Interest in interdisciplinary cooperation

Results

- Short CHERN Policy Brief
- Requirements by COST Organization or CHERN Action (for details see section »How does it work?« in the STSM BASIC FACTS).

Practical details

All applicants must carefully read the STSM instructions on the CHERN website before applying.

Pandemic restrictions would mean that initial meetings and activities would be done remotely. As restrictions lift, we hope that a visit to Host institution during summer/early autumn months of 2021 might be possible. The exact dates and timing shall be determined together with the selected applicant.

Deadlines

Deadline for applications to be submitted: **June 5, 2021**
Notification of application outcome: June 20, 2021

Period of STSM: **2-6 weeks** (the length and exact timing will be determined together with the host institution)

Submitting the reports: **within 30 days from the end date**

Accepting/ rejecting the reports: **within 2 weeks** after submission of the report

Execution of the payment of the grant: **within 4 weeks** after submission of the report.

More information

For more information please contact STSM Coordinator Martina Bofulin (martina.bofulin@zrc-sazu.si).