

China in Europe Research Network (CHERN) - CA 18215

Chinese investments in peripheralised places in Europe

Basics

Host Organization: University of Amsterdam (Department of Human Geography, Planning & International Development Studies)

Host Organizations's representative: Prof. Maggi W.H. Leung

Representative's contact: w.h.m.leung@uva.nl

The tentative length of the STSM: 2 months

Call's description and objectives

When thinking about the growing Chinese investments in Europe, attention is often paid to spectacular events such as acquisition of Volvo, Midea-Kuka, Inter Milan club, cargo terminals and ports. Yet, a bit more "quietly", residents of small towns, rural and/or "declining" regions across Europe have also witnessed diverse kinds of Chinese investments in their areas. The following two media headlines show the contrasting perspectives toward such Chinese investments:

"Chinatown in Hoppstädten-Weiersbach: the Chinese are making Hunsrück boom" (Deutschlandfunk Kultur 19.09.2019, translated)

"The growing revolt against Chinese 'conquering' French farms" (South China Morning Post, 08.09.2018)

These investments are not only flows of capital. Together with money, people, materialities, knowledge and ideas also move. While these flows can create synergies and new opportunities, they also bring frictions and challenges. The impacts of these investments on the different population groups, political-economies and environment are diverse and dynamic. Relatively little attention has been given to this kind of investments in academic research. More solid understanding of these processes can offer insights into the transformative potential of Chinese investments as resources for the building of new futures that are (hopefully) more sustainable, inclusive and resilient in these peripheralised regions in Europe.

Objectives. The STSM is aimed at a collaborative effort between the host and the visiting researcher in order to:

- Co-create a research plan to investigate a specific type of less-studied, small-scaler and 'under the radar' Chinese investments in a particular (set of) peripherised European region(s) e.g., 'shrinking' (depopulated or declining) smaller towns or rural areas.
- Conduct a small-scale pilot study, with (digital) fieldwork, in the framework of this new research programme;
- Set up a database of existing resources (secondary data, media, stakeholders etc.)
- Identify potential funding sources and partners for the new research programme.

Call's specific requirements

In addition to COST requirements (see **Practical details** below), the applicant should have:

- Knowledge and research experiences on Chinese investments in Europe;
- Experiences in fieldwork-based research;
- Experiences in grant proposal writing;
- Knowledge in European languages (in addition to English) would be an advantage.

Results

In addition to COST requirements (scientific report) the STSM will results in:

- Draft proposal for a joint research project
- A (draft) academic paper and a blog/vlog drawing on the pilot research

Practical details

All applicants must carefully read the [STSM basic facts](#) on CHERN's website before applying.

Potential pandemic restrictions would mean that initial meetings and activities would be done remotely. The exact dates and timing of the mission shall be determined jointly by the Host and the selected applicant.

Deadlines

Deadline for applications to be submitted: **March 25 2022**

Notification of application outcome: **April 5 2022**

Period of STSM: Spring to Summer 2022 (exact dates to be determined together with the host)

Submitting the reports: **30 days** after completing the STSM (and no later than October 15th)

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)