

China in Europe Research Network (CHERN) - CA 18215

Foreign Investment Screening in the European Union

Basics

Host Organization: Institute of World Economics, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies (Hungary)

Host Organizations's representative: Agnes Szunomar, PhD

Representative's contact: szunomar.agnes@krtk.mta.hu

Representative's homepage: <https://vgi.krtk.hu/en/>

The tentative length of the STSM: 2 weeks between May and June 2023

Call's description and objectives

The EU FDI Screening Regulation, which has become fully operational on 11 October 2020, is aimed at protecting the EU's autonomy in the strategic sectors from possible threats to public security and public order stemming from the foreign investments. The EU FDI Screening Regulation established a framework for the Member States and the European Commission to share information and coordinate the screening of foreign investments into the EU. At the same time, the national FDI screening regimes of the Member States have multiple divergencies in terms of sectors/industries covered, notification thresholds, applicable procedures, competent institutions, etc. Chinese companies, especially the Chinese state-owned enterprises, investing in the EU face increased regulatory scrutiny when their investments trigger FDI screening. The study aims at assessing the existing regulatory divergencies and appreciating their impact on the functioning of the cooperation mechanism under the EU FDI Screening Regulation.

The host organization has been focusing on the evolution of external investments into Europe for many years and currently runs a research project on Chinese and Russian investments into European infrastructure, with a focus on Central and Eastern Europe, to which the proposed STSM research could make an excellent link.

Objectives:

- Collecting related legal information on FDI screening legislation in the selected EU Member States;

- Conducting interviews with national FDI screening authorities and practicing lawyers in the selected EU Member States;
- Gathering current intelligence on FDI screening, such as media articles, announcements, reports, etc.

Call's specific requirements

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

- Familiarity with EU investment law and EU FDI Screening Regulation;
- Prior experience with comparative (legal) research;
- A good command of English, an additional European language will be an asset.

Results

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

- Database containing information on the key features of the FDI screening frameworks of the selected Member States;
- STSM report and one blog post containing the main characteristics of the FDI screening frameworks of the selected Member States.
- Draft of a future working paper/journal article containing comparative analysis of the FDI screening frameworks of the selected Member States.

Practical details

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

Initial meetings and activities would be done remotely, and the successful STSM Fellow would join for a 2-3 week visit to Hungary in June 2023 to work on output.

Deadlines

Deadline for applications to be submitted: **May 8th 2023**

Notification of application outcome: **May 20th 2023**

Period of STSM: 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:

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