

### **EU-China High Level people to people Dialogue (HPPD) since 2012:**

Over the past decade the EU and China have closely cooperated in the areas of education, training, culture, multilingualism and youth through sector-focused policy dialogues. In 2012, the European Commission and China decided to integrate these sector activities under the HPPD, which complements the EU-China High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue and High Level Strategic Dialogue.

The HPPD is the overarching mechanism which accommodates all EU-China joint initiatives in the field of people to people exchanges. The HPPD officially helps build mutual trust and consolidate intercultural understanding with China. It is mainly a diplomatic exercise to communicate on non-controversial aspects of our cooperation with China.

**The first round** of the EU-China HPPD was held in Brussels on 18 April 2012. On that occasion Commissioner Vassiliou and Vice-Premier Liu Yandong endorsed a document with follow-up actions, which led in particular to:

- The adoption of a Joint Declaration on EU-China cultural cooperation following the success of the 2012 EU-China Year of Intercultural Dialogue;
- The launch in April 2013 of the EU-China Higher Education Platform for Cooperation and Exchange (HEPCE), which has been organised four times;
- A mapping of EU-China cultural stakeholders and cooperation projects;

**The second round** of the EU-China HPPD was held in Beijing on 6 September 2014. On that occasion Commissioner Vassiliou and Vice-President Liu Yandong signed a Joint Communiqué. One of the immediate follow-up actions was the inclusion of the EU-China Tuning initiative within the scope of the HPPD. The project aims at strengthening the compatibility of EU and China education systems as well as enhancing outcome-based education. The first phase ended in May 2014.

**The third EU-China HPPD** took place in Brussels on 15 September 2015 between Commissioner Navracsics and Vice-Premier Liu Yandong. The event aimed to celebrate the 40th anniversary of EU-China diplomatic relations. Thematic panels on education, culture, youth and gender equality were held as side events.

On 11 October 2016 the first **China-EU Education Ministers Conference** took place in Beijing, with the Sino-Europe Forum on Education Policy Think Tanks held in the margins. Many topics were discussed, including the progress in the participation of China in the EU-led U-Multirank. It was also agreed to extend the Tuning study. The U-Multirank system is conceived to make it easier to compare universities, to help students make an informed choice about where to study, but also to provide a benchmark for universities. Currently 1600 universities from 95 countries around the world are featured in the system. 96 of these universities are from China

At the occasion of the 18th EU-China Summit, it was agreed that 2018 would be the "EU-China Year of Tourism". Its specific objectives were agreed at the 19th EU China Summit in June 2017, including promoting lesser-known destinations, improving travel and tourism experiences and providing opportunities to increase economic cooperation.

The **fourth meeting** of the dialogue took place in Shanghai on 13-14 November 2017.

In the field of **culture**, the focus was on city-to-city interactions, exploiting synergies between the European Capitals of Culture and Culture Cities of East Asia. It was an occasion to take stock of progress achieved under Erasmus+ mobility actions as well as with the Tuning research project, U-Multirank, and the establishment of Confucius centres in Europe. A series of satellite events were held in the margin of the HPPD. These events brought together experts from China and the EU to promote cooperation and peer-learning. In the framework of the dialogue on **gender equality**, women economic empowerment and work-life balance were the main topics addressed. The role of **youth** in cultural diplomacy was the

focus of the youth seminar; whereas in the field of **sport**, physical activity, sport education and coach mobility were the main focus (European week of Sport). Commissioner invited 10 representatives of EU MS and sport movements to discuss the development of sport and possible cooperation between EU and China. As a follow up representatives of Chinese sport administration were invited to the EU Sport Forum (March 2018; Mr Bo Chu, Director General, Sport Policy and Regulation Department, General Administration of Sport of China presented preparations to Beijing 2022). Currently, we are running a Preparatory Action on Mobility and exchanges where one of the focus is cooperation with Asia.

Throughout the history of the HPPD there have been several EU-China Thematic Years, including the 2011 EU-China Year of Youth, the 2012 EU-China Year of Intercultural Dialogue and 2018 EU-China Year of Tourism.

DG-EAC will lead the preparation of the fifth round of the HPPD, which will be hosted in Brussels in 2020. It will be the first HPPD event for the newly elected Vice-Premier Mrs Sun Chunlan.