

# Proposal Evaluation Form



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)

## Evaluation Summary Report - Research and innovation actions

Call: HORIZON-CL2-2021-TRANSFORMATIONS-01  
Type of action: HORIZON-RIA  
Proposal number: 101061700  
Proposal acronym: DWARC  
Duration (months): 36  
Proposal title: Dealing with a Resurgent China  
Activity: HORIZON-CL2-2021-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-07

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total Cost	%	Grant Requested	%
1	SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES ROYAL CHARTER	UK	1,266,347.5	31.67%	1,266,348	31.67%
2	UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE MADRID	ES	210,688.75	5.27%	210,689	5.27%
3	SWPS UNIWERSYTET HUMANISTYCZNOSPOLECZNY	PL	167,162.5	4.18%	167,163	4.18%
4	BRUEGEL AISBL*	BE	868,500	21.72%	868,500	21.72%
5	Asia Centre	FR	247,500	6.19%	247,500	6.19%
6	Mercator Institute for China Studies gGmbH	DE	887,125	22.19%	887,125	22.19%
7	FONDATION NATIONALE DES SCIENCES POLITIQUES	FR	262,500	6.57%	262,500	6.57%
8	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DEL PIEMONTE ORIENTALE AMEDEO AVOGADRO	IT	88,406.25	2.21%	88,406	2.21%
Total:			3,998,230		3,998,231	

### Abstract:

This consortium recognises the resurgence of China as a top tier great power is changing the world, and the EU needs to develop a long-term approach based on knowledge to engage strategically with the resurgent and increasingly assertive China as well as the global changes unleashed thereby, including the process of selective 'de-coupling' and persistent US-China tension. To assist this, this consortium will bring together some of the best researchers across seven countries to work in a synergetic way to build up a world class independent knowledge base on China in Europe. We will do so by engaging in critical scientific research, nurturing a generation of younger scholars and building up a collaborative network that endures. The key subjects we will address will cover all the key areas identified in the Horizon call, namely, society and culture, politics, economy and foreign policy. Furthermore, this consortium will prioritise impact and dissemination for the EU, the corporate world, the media and the wider public across Europe. The building up of independent knowledge on a resurgent China will enable the EU to better deal with it.

## Evaluation Summary Report

### Evaluation Result

**Total score: 13.00 (Threshold: 10)**

### Criterion 1 - Excellence

Score: **4.50** (Threshold: 3/5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:

- **Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art.**

*This is an excellent proposal. It has clearly stated, highly relevant objectives in striving to demonstrate how domestic societal, political, and economic changes in China impact its foreign relations with the EU. It establishes an ambitious research agenda that goes beyond the state of the art and has strong potential to keep EU policy communities up-to-date on ongoing developments in China. Most work packages show innovation potential such as the PoliXi Index which provides a unique and significant output. However, the focus on dynamism in Chinese society, while fundamental to understanding China and will plug an important knowledge gap, does not convincingly clarify how its findings will address European weaknesses in research and policy.*

- **Soundness of the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.**

*The scientific methodology has a credible approach. Its methodology is pluralist, multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary. Its process for gathering information is comprehensive. The proposal is also very well connected to existing China networks and projects in Europe. It posits that China research tends to work in silos according to issue areas, and that it will integrate these issues collectively. However, it does not do so within a streamlined methodology for cross-fertilization. Gender is an integral part of the proposal, closely embedded into the research focus of a dedicated work package. This stands out as a key asset for the proposal, however, justification for why young people's attitudes and cultural products are explored is unclear. It also does not detail the new framework it intends to develop to study Xi era politics. Open science practices are clearly addressed.*

### Criterion 2 - Impact

Score: **4.50** (Threshold: 3/5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:

- **Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project.**

*The contribution of the proposal towards expected outcomes and wider impacts is described in sound detail. The proposal focuses on reaching policy makers, advisers and includes also the business community as its target stakeholder group. A large number of stakeholders will benefit from this proposal, including EU policy makers and the wider community at large. It has the strong potential to make a deep and long-lasting impact through nurturing of young China researchers, but the specifics of how this will be achieved in practice are not fully explained. For example, engaging large students bodies is not provided strong consideration. The proposal has an ambitious set of deliverables to contribute both broadly and at scale and the outputs will add considerable significance to the targeted topics. Barriers to outputs are thoroughly discussed and risk mitigation plans established. The management of any potential negative impacts is described effectively.*

- **Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.**

*The dissemination, exploitation and communication plans are well addressed and of good quality. It has a diverse grouping of research outputs, from journal articles to podcasts. Target groups are broad and fit well within the issue areas engaged. The different kinds of outcomes are explicitly listed, impacts and outcomes are all linked effectively. Communication methods are well set out and cover a wide spectrum of communication channels and audiences. The proposal's board serves a useful function for networking and reporting. The management of intellectual property is mentioned but lacks detail.*

### Criterion 3 - Quality and efficiency of the implementation

Score: **4.00** (Threshold: 3/5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:

- **Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.**

*The work plan is of high quality. The tasks of the work packages are well presented and clearly funnelled into an overarching work package to assess the EU's overall relationship with China. The work plan divides WPs in a manner including participants from different universities in each WP which deepens the institutional cooperation between the project institutions. A WP includes participants whose expertise is largely outside the core focus of the WP. Milestones are described in detail, as are deliverables, to allow effective monitoring to take place. The proposal involves experts and research assistants with complementary skills and knowledge in line with the deliverables. The resource allocation is clear and critical risks are well addressed.*

- **Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.**

*This is a robust, interdisciplinary proposal. The capacity of the team is very strong within their respective fields of expertise. The know-how and qualifications of partners within the various work packages are at the cutting edge of China research in the EU, including where social sciences and humanities expertise is necessary. The partners together bring together strong inter-disciplinary knowledge between the work packages with expertise in gender among the varying specialities. Their roles are clearly established with strong complementarities. The allocation of responsibilities between the partner institutions shows some unevenness. The added value brought to the consortium by some of the institutions not leading a WP is inadequately explained.*

### Scope of the application

Status: **Yes**

Comments (in case the proposal is out of scope)

Not provided

### Exceptional funding

**A third country participant/international organisation not listed in [the General Annex to the Main Work Programme](#) may exceptionally receive funding if their participation is essential for carrying out the project (for instance due to outstanding expertise, access to unique know-how, access to research infrastructure, access to particular geographical environments, possibility to involve key partners in emerging markets, access to data, etc.). (For more information, see the [HE programme guide](#))**

Please list the concerned applicants and requested grant amount and explain the reasons why.

Based on the information provided, the following participants should receive exceptional funding:

Not provided

Based on the information provided, the following participants should NOT receive exceptional funding:

Not provided

### Use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC)

Status: **No**

If YES, please state whether the use of hESC is, or is not, in your opinion, necessary to achieve the scientific objectives of the proposal and the reasons why. Alternatively, please state if it cannot be assessed whether the use of hESC is necessary or not, because of a lack of information.

Not provided

### Use of human embryos

Status: **No**

If YES, please explain how the human embryos will be used in the project.

*Not provided*

#### Activities excluded from funding

Status: **No**

If YES, please explain.

*Not provided*

#### Do no significant harm principle

Status: **Yes**

If Partially/No/Cannot be assessed please explain

*Not provided*

#### Exclusive focus on civil applications

Status: **Yes**

If NO, please explain.

*Not provided*

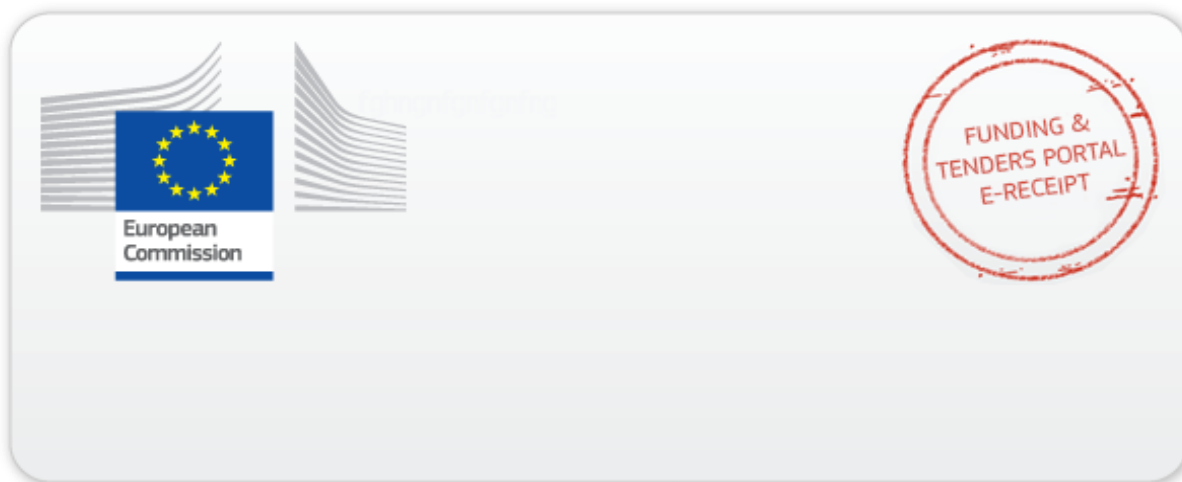
#### Artificial Intelligence

Status: **No**

If YES, the technical robustness of the proposed system must be evaluated under the appropriate criterion.

#### Overall comments

*Not provided*



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