

The consortium

COORDINATOR

prof. FRANCESCA SPIGARELLI / University of Macerata

EUROPE

- UNIVERSITY OF MACERATA / ITALY
- POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF MARCHE / ITALY
- ISTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO DI STUDI EUROPEI / ITALY
- TOULOUSE BUSINESS SCHOOL / FRANCE
- UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER / UNITED KINGDOM

CHINA

- BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY
- EAST CHINA UNIVERSITY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND LAW
- SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY
- TONGJI UNIVERSITY OF SHANGHAI

More information about the project

duration January 2013 / December 2016

funding scheme

People Marie Curie Action / International Research Staff Exchange Scheme

budget EU contribution 718.200,00 Euro

total seconded researchers 40

total months of secondment 342

project coordinator FRANCESCA SPIGARELLI

spigarelli@unimc.it

project manager BARBARA CHIUCCONI

barbara.chiucconi@unimc.it

EC project contact DANILA CONTE

danila.conte@ec.europa.eu

www.unimc.it/poreen



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PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN
EUROPE AND **CHINA** IN THE RENEWABLE
ENERGIES AND **ENVIRONMENTAL** INDUSTRIES



A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF A MARIE CURIE IRSES PROJECT



PROJECT RATIONALE

The POREEN project is funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme. It is a People Marie Curie Action - an International Research Staff Exchange Scheme - whose aim is to help research organisations to set up or strengthen long-term cooperation with others, through a coordinated exchange programme for their staff.

POREEN project aims at increasing the availability of interdisciplinary studies providing a comprehensive overview (technical, legal and economic) of Europe-China relations in the renewable energy and the environmental sectors, in order to support the development of a more rapid, sustainable and flexible industry in these sectors.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- I.** Provide guidelines, including policy proposals to support policy-makers at EU and local level, as well as operational suggestions for companies working in/with China, to enhance bilateral trade and investment flows.
- II.** Enhance scientific knowledge, through the theoretical and empirical finding of the different and joint research tasks.
- III.** The mobility program and the joint research activities will enable the identification of follow-on projects to be carried out further to POREEN.
- IV.** Improve research skills, thanks to mutually beneficial research collaboration between EU and Chinese centres of excellences with a strong reputation and knowledge in their fields.

TARGET GROUPS

- Research community both in the social science and the humanities and in the engineering fields
- Policy and decision-makers in Europe and in China, both at national and local level
- Firms, in the renewable energy and environmental sectors, both in Europe and in China

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Environmental protection and sustainable development have recently become of paramount importance, especially for China. Partnering and business opportunities can thus be significant for European companies in the field. At present, the Chinese energy system is characterized by the prevalent use of fossil-fuel resources while the renewable sources are just entering into the market. In recent years, China has initiated a process to update technologies and infrastructures, using the Best Available Techniques on the international market. This process is still ongoing and it must be completed in sectors such as heavy industry, where the conversion is aimed at increasing overall energy efficiency and reducing environmental impact. Given its size and increasing carbon footprint the evolution of the Chinese energy system and its environmental implications are of global relevance. Three main research areas are involved in POREEN, with specific but highly integrated and interconnected tasks.

The economic research area

The research aims to expand and deepening the knowledge of trade and foreign direct investments flows between Europe and China in the renewable energies and environmental industries so as to define/suggest:

- the priority sectors that should be targeted to stimulate Europe-China trade and investment flows;
- the obstacles, barriers and difficulties faced by European firms in initiating, maintaining and consolidating both trade and investment initiatives in China;
- the obstacles, barriers and difficulties encountered by Chinese companies investing in Europe.

The engineering research area

Engineering research activity is focused on two main research areas, both related to energy efficiency and carbon dioxide reduction:

- mobility and the transportation sector;
- low carbon buildings.

The research intends to analyze the state of the art and to propose a model addressing economical, legal and technical issues which need to be faced to ensure the introduction on the Chinese market of alternative fuels and low carbon technologies and instruments in the building sector, so as to identify concrete partnering opportunities for the European industry.

The legal research area

Critical legal issues, normative gaps and potentialities in Europe-China trade and FDI relations will be examined by researchers, who will specifically focus on:

- oil and gas offshore and renewable energy;
- environmental and labor standards and corporate social responsibility (CSR) issues.

The researchers will make use of their knowledge in international law, EU law, International investment and trade law, commercial law, environmental law and CSR. Their perspective will take into consideration both the European investment and cooperation projects in China and the main Chinese investment initiatives in Europe.

