

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



International Urban and Regional Cooperation
Sustainable and Innovative Cities and Regions





Funded by the
European Union

PREFACE

With the rapid global growth of urbanisation and the dramatic rise of megacities, cities and regions have become important forces driving human development, responding to social, economic, and environmental challenges, and providing prosperity, innovation, culture, and entrepreneurship. At the same time, many cities and regions are under tremendous pressure to transform, and local governments are committed to ensuring the fulfilment of the needs of citizens in such areas as urban environment, energy, transportation, communications, health, and education. Cities and regions are rooted in a common ecosystem and share resources. They become the driving force of social-, economic-, and environmental-related transitions.

To promote the inter-city and regional cooperation, learning and innovation between the EU and its key partner countries, based on the successful experience of the International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IUC 2016-2020), the International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC 2021-2023) programme was launched. Composed of two sections, "Inter-city cooperation on sustainable urban development" and "inter-regional cooperation on innovation", the programme supports pilot cities and regions in implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement, and the local development agenda through an intensified exchange of experience and knowledge. The International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) is a global network that brings together 138 cities and 50 regions from 36 countries to collaborate with the public and private sectors, research and innovation institutions, civil society organisations and citizens to promote an inclusive and win-win approach towards sustainable urban development and regional innovation.

By participating in the project, the pilot cities and regions from the EU and China can exchange experience and knowledge on ecological transition and Green Deal, urban/regional renewal and social cohesion, innovation and sustainable development. In thematic clusters, pragmatic cooperation and strategic partnerships will be set up to jointly explore green solutions and create a prosperous common future.

Thematic Clusters

CROSS-CUTTING OVERALL CHALLENGES



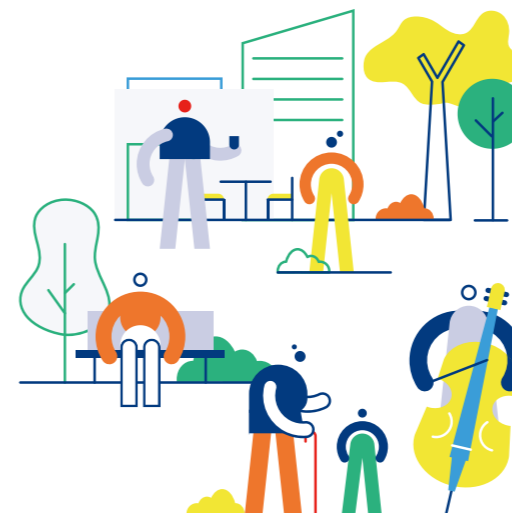
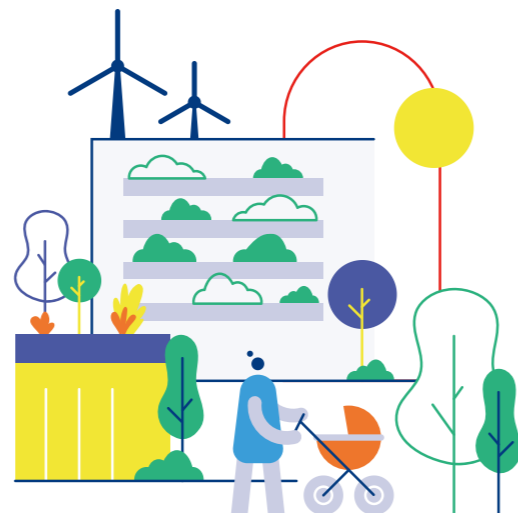
Digital Transition & Smart City



Climate Change & Energy Transition



Post-COVID Recovery – social justice and social inclusion



- o **Circular Economy**, Waste Management
- o **Nature Based Solutions**, Greening, Water Management
- o **Sustainable Urban Agriculture**, Healthy Food, Urban Gardens
- o **Renovation Wave**, Decarbonized & Energy, Efficiency in Buildings



- o **Sustainable Urban Agriculture**, Agrofood Chain, Foods Systems
- o **Technologies 4.0**

- o **Urban Agendas / planning**, SUD Strategies, Public Space, Urban Model
- o **Mobility & Transport**, Street for People, Superblocks, Metropolitan Connections
- o **Urban Poverty**, Deprived Neighbourhoods, Housing, Social Cohesion



- o **Industry 5.0**, Bigger Competitiveness, Productive Diversification

- o **Tourism & Culture**
- o **Health, Life Science**, Elderly, Bio Economy
- o **Education, Jobs & Skills**, Innovation Centres, Business Clusters



- o **Tourism & Culture**, Diversification-Slow food & Supplies
- o **Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies**(RIS 4)
- o **Education, Jobs & Skills**

CITIES OF EUROPE

<i>Barcelona</i>	03
<i>Bari</i>	05
<i>Bielsko-Biala</i>	07
<i>Fuenlabrada</i>	09
<i>Ioannina</i>	11
<i>Larissa</i>	13
<i>Mannheim</i>	15
<i>Murcia</i>	17
<i>Nuovo Circondario Imolese</i>	19
<i>Santiago de Compostela-Ames</i>	21
<i>Sofia</i>	23
<i>Stuttgart Region</i>	25

REGIONS OF EUROPE

<i>Bacau County</i>	27
<i>Castilla y Leon</i>	29
<i>Krapina-Zagorje County</i>	31
<i>Region Lazio</i>	33
<i>Ljubljana Urban Region</i>	35
<i>Sisak Moslavina County</i>	37
<i>South Bohemia</i>	39
<i>Umbria</i>	41
<i>Autonomous Region of Valencia</i>	43
<i>Western Greece Region</i>	45

CITIES AND REGIONS OF CHINA

<i>Beijing</i>	49	
<i>Tianjin</i>	51	
<i>Hohhot</i>	53	
<i>Dalian</i>	55	
<i>Suzhou</i>	57	<i>Qingdao</i> 71
<i>Yangzhou</i>	59	<i>Zhengzhou</i> 73
<i>Hangzhou</i>	61	<i>Wuhan</i> 75
<i>Wenzhou</i>	63	<i>Hunan Xiangjiang New Area</i> 77
<i>Hefei</i>	65	<i>Guangzhou Development District</i> 79
<i>Nanchang</i>	67	<i>Liuzhou</i> 81
<i>Jinan</i>	69	<i>Haikou</i> 83
		<i>Chongqing Liangjiang New Area</i> 85
		<i>Chengdu</i> 87
		<i>Kunming</i> 89
		<i>Xi'an</i> 91

Content



CITIES AND REGIONS OF
EUROPE

Urban Agendas / planning, SUD Strategies

Renovation Wave, Efficiency in Buildings

Nature Based Solutions, Greening, Water Management

Digital Transition & Smart City

General Socio-economic Profile

Located on the north-eastern coast of the Iberian Peninsula and facing the Mediterranean Sea, Barcelona is the capital and the largest city of the autonomous community of Catalonia, and the second most populous municipality of Spain.

Barcelona is one of the first industrialised regions on the European continent, and accounts for one fifth of the country's total industrial output in the automotive, chemical, precision instrumentation and plastics industries, making it the largest industrial centre in Spain. Thanks to its artistic and creative tradition, Barcelona is known for its industrial design. The city is home to many characteristic buildings and world heritage sites, which drive tourism and the hospitality industry.

Barcelona has a well-developed higher education system that includes the University of Barcelona, the Polytechnic University of Catalonia and the Pompeu Fabra University. Among the private universities, the Ramon Llull University is known for its affiliated business school ESADE - Escola Superior d'Administració i Direcció d'Empreses.

Barcelona



1,666,530



101.9 km²



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Good Practices

In terms of urban regeneration, the city is now undergoing a third wave of transformation to restore urban biodiversity and realise socio-economic revitalisation with high-value metropolitan strategies as well as smart and nature-based solutions. Key urban renewal and development projects include the Besòs River Plan, regeneration of Les Glòries and 22@.

22@ represents a pioneering solution for regenerating largely obsolete industrial land. It refurbishes existing architectural heritage and housing, so as to create an innovation ecosystem that attracts businesses and universities. By working with universities, 22@ businesses and neighbourhood associations, it accommodates the interests of local residents, civil society, academia, business and economic stakeholders.

Another urban development challenge Barcelona faces is sustainable water management. Currently, the city introduces a new water collection system, which reduces the load on the conventional system and reuses rainwater. This system is further complemented with extended green canopies and green spaces, which are crucial to reducing the heat effect and fighting against global warming.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- **Urban Agenda:** The Instituto Municipal de Urbanismo (IMU) of Barcelona has broad experience in public space design and SUD strategies, and would like to share it with other cities, as well as learn from their innovative solutions.
- **Renovation Wave:** Barcelona's physical geography makes it impossible to grow and extend the city outwards. The existing neighbourhoods must be renewed to meet the challenges of energy efficiency, accessibility, habitability, and social cohesion.
- **Nature-based Solutions:** Compact cities, such as Barcelona, have high levels of traffic pollution. Introducing nature-based solutions in streets and public spaces helps reduce pollution and ease traffic. The city would like to discuss with Chinese partners how to apply new solutions in its public space design and planning, in order to achieve sustainable development.

Urban Poverty, Deprived Neighbourhoods, Housing, Social Cohesion

Urban Agendas / planning, SUD Strategies, Public Space, Urban Model

Mobility & Transport, Street for People, Superblocks, Metropolitan Connections

Post-COVID Recovery – social justice and social inclusion

General Socio-economic Profile

A harbor city on the Adriatic Sea, Bari is the capital of the Puglia region in Southern Italy. Home to the Basilica of Saint Nicholas, Bari is one of the best-known centres of the Orthodox Church in the West.

Bari has a solid mercantile and entrepreneurial tradition. As the second most important economic centre of Southern Italy and a university city, Bari has the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute, three universities, 11 national research centres, one Fine Arts Academy, one Conservatory of Music, 10 production districts and the second industrial park of the Adriatic area. Bari has a strong tertiary sector as well as outstanding manufacturing and agro-industries, including automotives, mechanics, mechatronics, chemistry, food processing, ICT, construction, energy and publishing sector.

The city has focused its urban development efforts on revamping its waterfront (the longest in Italy and an immensely precious resource), converting brownfield and former barracks into parks and cultural centres, enhancing archaeological and architectural sites, and strengthening dialogue between the city and universities. At the heart of the Bari urban strategy are people, organisations and collaborative networks within a framework of community governance, that emphasize the value of participation and active citizenship.

Bari



330,000



116 km²



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©Locals

Good Practices

The city of Bari wishes to share its expertise and experience in urban regeneration through effective models of civic participation and engagement. In particular, Bari has developed solid know-how in polycentric urban development. Focusing on individual neighbourhoods, it has stimulated and strengthened communities by introducing comprehensive policies for public space enhancement (Open Space), improving infrastructure (schools, kindergartens, libraries, cultural centres), creating community hubs (SPAZIO13, Officina), supporting innovative enterprises (URBIS), and empowering civic networks between neighborhood organisations (RCU). Bari's participatory tools are related to the implementation of the URBACT method, which help create models with great replication potential. It engages residents and stakeholders in co-designing the post-Covid city and implementing innovative actions in several areas, such as tactical urbanism, collaborative reuse of public spaces and engagement of deprived groups.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- Urban regeneration and cohesion through community engagement, with a focus on enhancing public space via active citizenship. Bari is designing new pedestrian areas using tactical urban planning and superblocks. Public space and neighbourhoods are the key themes of Bari's urban development.
- The city of Bari believes that, without social justice, there can be no real urban development. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Bari prepares itself for the post-pandemic period from overcoming the public health crisis to prioritising the promotion of rights, skills and opportunities for the most deprived groups of the population.

Education, Jobs & Skills, Innovation Centres, Business Clusters

Tourism & Culture

Health, Life Science, Elderly, Bio Economy

Digital Transition & Smart City

General Socio-economic Profile

Bielsko-Biała is the capital and leading city of the sub-region Silesia in Southern Poland, with small parts in the Czech Republic and Germany.

The city's main goal is to achieve sustainable development and to create favourable conditions for living, high-quality services and access to well-developed technical infrastructure. With innovative development, it strives to enhance and consolidate regional potentials, whilst creating smart markets for technologies of the future. Thus, a regional network of innovation will take shape, which eventually forms an innovative ecosystem.

The region will work on the following key areas for greater competitiveness:

- Creation of knowledge and innovation communities
- Development of an innovative public services network
- Modern infrastructure as a base for scientific and R&D activities
- Inclusion of SMEs into the global innovation chains
- Talent cultivation and capacity building.

Bielsko-Biała



665,000



2,352 km²



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资料来源: Pixabay

Good Practices

Digital Innovation Hub & FabLab infrastructure – boosting community creativity, raising awareness of digital fabrication, familiarise companies with Industry 4.0 technologies, guiding digital transformation, promoting best practices and matchmaking with international institutions.

Smart City solutions – digital applications for citizens to report irregularities; remote voting, social consultations; digitalisation of public services; participative budgeting procedures.

Smart specialisation strategy on a local level – coordination of local focus groups, indication of local smart specialisations, application of innovative strategy development methods.

Education schemes for cultivating the skills of the future – offering workshops and trainings tailored to different needs, skill levels, ages and purposes.

Best available techniques (BAT): seed capital fund, funding scheme for innovation

Successful transition from industrial to creative region.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

○ Education, Jobs and Skills – clusters, innovation centres

The city is currently working on different education programmes tailored for the local business sector, smart specialisations, labor market and digital transition. The Digital Innovation Hub will serve as a one-stop innovation centre for SMEs and the public sector to facilitate this transition. The city wishes to exchange experience in this thematic field the most.

○ Tourism & Culture

Bielsko-Biała is located in a renowned tourist area, at the foothills of the Beskidy mountains. It is at the crossroad of different cultures, making it a cradle of folk crafts, arts, music (jazz) and modern creativity. The city has a lot to offer.

○ Healthcare - Life Science

The city also pays close attention to caring for the elderly, such as life-long learning.

Urban Agendas / planning, SUD Strategies, Public Space, Urban Model

Circular Economy, Waste Management

Urban Poverty, Deprived Neighbourhoods, Housing, Social Cohesion

Digital Transition & Smart City

Climate Change & Energy Transition

Post-COVID Recovery – social justice and social inclusion

General Socio-economic Profile

Fuenlabrada is a municipality located in the south of the Madrid metropolitan area with the highest number of production units (15,534), 95% of which are considered micro-businesses. The main economic activities in Fuenlabrada are industry and services. The city has developed from a small agricultural town in the 1960s to an industrial and service city at the beginning of the 21st century. Its labor market is highly dependent on the municipality of Madrid. Fuenlabrada has a proven track record of transformation. The city has structured itself towards growth without planning. Its transformed residential areas welcomed workers from other regions and cities by providing them with basic services (infrastructure, facilities, equipment, and green spaces). Fuenlabrada has also developed new areas for residential and industrial growth with high urban value, which help shape a compact and structured city with facilities comparable to a large city. The city also has universities, hospitals, mortuary and waste treatment plant, among others, that help maintain economic activities in all sectors. Fuenlabrada has become a model city of circular economy, waste treatment and the integration of national and international migrants.

Fuenlabrada



200,143



39.41 km²



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Good Practices

Fuenlabrada's main urban strategies and expertise focus on the following themes:

Urban development. Fuenlabrada has overcome the urban growth model in the 1980s and 90s, and focuses on providing basic urban services. The city follows new urban strategic frameworks such as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Urban Agenda for the EU and Spain, and adopts a participatory and interdisciplinary approach. Main urban projects: 1. Urban regeneration of the city centre; 2. Building energy efficiency retrofit; 3. Green infrastructure; 4. Urban mobility; E. New economic activity

Circular economy. Fuenlabrada has one of the highest recycling rate of paper in Spain, thanks to its dense container network across the city and campaigns to raise citizen awareness. An extensive presence of waste management companies that cover the region of Madrid (36 companies) contribute to this circular specialisation and job creation.

Fighting urban poverty. Fuenlabrada is a pioneer in social integration with a wide variety of projects that increase immigrants' access to employment.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- **Urban Agenda/Planning.** Fuenlabrada's main challenge is to revitalise its central district, which has suffered progressive deterioration, loss of economic and administrative activities, obsolete urban fabric as well as declining public space. It has greatly reduced the attractiveness of this municipal reference point to citizens. Fuenlabrada wishes to learn from other cities to address this challenge, and to adopt a fully integrated approach to regenerating the historical centre through urban renewal, housing retrofit, green infrastructure, mobility and economic boost.
- **Circular Economy.** As a model city for waste collection and management, Fuenlabrada wishes to learn from other cities about urban planning. The city is willing to share its rich experience and knowledge in waste management with other IURC cities. A number of companies dedicated to circular economy have chosen Fuenlabrada as their headquarters. The City Council has introduced many targeted collection policies and citizen awareness programmes to achieve one of the highest recycling rates in the region.
- **Sharing experience in integration and employment.** Fuenlabrada is one of the seven European cities to develop an Urban Innovation Action for the Integration of Migrants and Refugees, which considers the role of employment in the acculturation process.
- **The City Council implements an integrated working approach that promotes collaboration among different areas, and proposes to build a multi-disciplinary core team with various partners for the IURC programme.** The goal is to cover all levels of governance work on sustainable urban development, and to address strategic issues on the agendas, which are necessary for the development of urban life.

Circular Economy, Waste Management

Tourism & Culture

Health, Life Science, Elderly, Bio Economy

Education, Jobs & Skills, Innovation Centres, Business Clusters

Post-COVID Recovery – social justice and social inclusion

General Socio-economic Profile

Ioannina is the capital and the largest city of Epirus, a north-western region of Greece, and the 10th largest municipality of the country in terms of population. As a university city, it has a favourable environment and a rich heritage, which are conducive to developing the secondary and tertiary sectors with quality living and attractive conditions. Ioannina is the trade centre of the Epirus Region. Tourism has always played a vital role in the local economy. The city is a major tourist destination all year round, drawing visitors to its many attractions, sports events, and conferences with support from its growing tourist infrastructure. Ioannina is becoming a modern European city with a dynamic economy and improves services to its citizens and businesses with ICT systems, tools, and methods. It also strengthens collaborative governance via participation and co-creation processes.

The Municipality of Ioannina is undergoing a process of integrated planning in strategic sectors including Urban Development, Urban Energy, Urban Mobility, Smart City, Waste Management and Business Plan of 2020-2023.

Ioannina



112,486



403.32 km²



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Good Practices

The Municipality of Ioannina implements its Urban Development Strategy and other strategic plans for renewable energy and sustainable urban mobility, and participates in several European projects and initiatives including the POCITYF, SPROUT, CONNECTING NATURE and 100 ICC. The city looks forward to sharing its experience and lessons with other cities, so as to develop a smarter and greener city.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- The Municipality chooses Circular Economy and Waste Management as its preferred thematic areas, as there are great interests from entrepreneurs. These areas are also key to environmental protection.
- Tourism and culture have always been a priority for Ioannina and its ecosystem.
- Ioannina works on enhancing the skills of its citizens and public servants, and aims to improve employment, entrepreneurship, and innovation.
- The University of Ioannina is also interested in the thematic area of Healthcare - Life Science – Elderly - Bio-economy.

Tourism & Culture

Nature Based Solutions, Greening, Water Management

Urban Agendas / planning, SUD Strategies, Public Space, Urban Model

Digital Transition & Smart City

Climate Change & Energy Transition

General Socio-economic Profile

Larissa is the 5th largest city in Greece, the biggest urban centre in Central Greece and the capital of the Thessaly region. It is an important centre of economy, administration, education, culture, commerce and healthcare, as well as has a strong foundation in agriculture thanks to its location in the middle of the largest plain in Greece. Its urban development policies and projects help create the conditions for sustainable growth.

Larissa



146,926



122.59 km²



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资料来源: Pixabay

Good Practices

Larissa is the first Greek city to plan and implement a long-term scheme that pedestrianises its city centre in the mid-80s. The central area has a mixture of diverse functions, including residence, services, healthcare, education, commerce, culture, tourism, hospitality and entertainment. Larissa wishes to share its experiences of transforming and expanding its city centre by improving its urban development plans and overcoming oppositions over the years. The city has transformed its identity whilst promoting its cultural heritage.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- Larissa is an 8,000-year-old city with significant monuments in the central area and an important cultural profile that includes museums, organisations, productions, an ECoC2021 candidacy, and a European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN) award.
- Larissa believes that culture plays a significant role in urban development, and that cities also need to address current challenges like climate change by re-thinking urban public space. A sense of ownership of the intangible and public resources, including green space and heritage, shall be enhanced.
- Larissa needs to address the climate change challenge. With the technological advances, the city also needs to meet the demand for digital services of its citizens, businesses, organisations, and visitors, and monitor their performance.

Renovation Wave, Efficiency in Buildings

Nature Based Solutions, Greening, Water Management

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Healthy Food, Urban Gardens

Education, Jobs & Skills, Innovation Centres, Business Clusters

Climate Change & Energy Transition

General Socio-economic Profile

Mannheim is located at the heart of the Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region in Southwest Germany. Mannheim and the Rhine-Neckar region are among the strongest economic centres in Europe with around 160,000 companies in total. Mannheim is a vibrant, diverse city, where multinational corporations, SMEs and start-ups work closely together. With a growing high number of patents, the whole region is highly innovative and dynamic. In addition, significant inventions such as the automobile, the bicycle, the tractor, and the rocket plane have come out of Mannheim. The spirit of invention remains active until today and global players as well as SMEs constantly develop new ideas and future-oriented solutions. The City of Mannheim strongly supports the economic and research sector through highly specialised and well-networked clusters in the fields of medical technology, smart production (industry 4.0), creative business, energy, mobility and logistics. With an export rate of around 66%, Mannheim is highly integrated in international markets and has an excellent infrastructure.

Mannheim



320,010



145 km²



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Good Practices

Mannheim wants to be a pilot city for localising the European Green Deal and for sustainable urban transformation. In 2020, the city joined hands with ICLEI to host the 9th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns. The online event drew the participation of more than 1,500 participants from 39 European countries as well as 50 countries outside Europe. Upon closing of the conference, cities across Europe signed the Mannheim Message as a commitment to localise the European Green Deal.

An office for the Local Green Deal Mannheim has been established. Its goal is to develop and implement an action plan for a local green deal in the city by 2027, so as to reach the goal of climate neutrality by 2050. Mannheim will prepare a set of concrete measures for climate-neutral, sustainable, and inclusive urban development. The Local Green Deal Mannheim is a concrete action taken under the Mannheim 2030 model and a local response to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As a pilot city, Mannheim aims to share its experiences of this innovative process both at home and abroad for a greater impact.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- Mannheim is committed to implementing a Local Green Deal as part of its contribution to the European climate neutrality goal. The main fields of action include clean energy, circular economy, resource conservation, building & living, a pollution-free environment and sustainable mobility.
- One priority of the Mannheim Local Green Deal will be the New European Bauhaus (NEB). Mannheim actively joins the European movement of making urban living space more affordable, accessible and sustainable, and improving the quality of life through innovative solutions. The city has set up a working group to support the NEB initiative and develop project ideas. Mannheim would like to internationalise this process by exchanging practices on the topic of the renovation wave and green solutions.
- Mannheim will host Germany's Federal Garden Show in 2023, which provides an opportunity to transform its existing green spaces and build new ones. The garden show will focus on four themes: climate, environment, energy and food security. Through the event, Mannheim will be able to communicate key environmental issues, such as sustainable food supply and urban gardening, with a wide audience, and engage international partners for mutual benefits.
- The collaboration between the City of Mannheim and the City of Chongqing as pilot cities of the International Urban Cooperation programme (IUC 2016-2020) has yielded significant results. In the new project cycle, Mannheim wishes to deepen the cooperation and take it to a new stage.

Tourism & Culture

Circular Economy, Waste Management

Urban Agendas / planning, SUD Strategies, Public Space, Urban Model

Digital Transition & Smart City

Climate Change & Energy Transition

Post-COVID Recovery – social justice and social inclusion

General Socio-economic Profile

As the 7th largest city in Spain, the principal economy of Murcia is based on services, tourism, and agriculture (fruit, vegetable and wine export all over Europe). The extensive urban area is inhabited by city dwellers as well as people from the rural area. Home to two universities, Murcia attracts students from all over the region, Spain and Europe.

Murcia



465,000



881 km²



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Good Practices

Murcia redefines its public space for culture and consumption with the New Integrated Cultural-Governance Model. Through Street Invasion, Atomisation and Cultural Reactivation, the city's Creative Hubs call for projects to boost local economy and cultural offer, and mitigate the COVID-19 impact. Thus, it brings culture closer to the public, and democratise it through digitisation and enhanced accessibility.

Circular Economy Strategy, included in the Urban Agenda 2030 (SDG 11), and involvement in three Horizon 2020 Projects, namely VALUEWASTE, CITYLOOPS and HOOP. Murcia processes 199,133 t/y mixed waste and 73,480 t/y organic waste, which are turned into compost, biogas, protein for food & feed and biofertiliser. The city also treats its wastewater for reuse, including land application of wastewater sludge (50%) or composting (50%).

Murcia Sustainable Urban Development Strategy.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Murcia wishes to share its experiences as well as to learn, improve or expand existing strategies for tackling the challenges. The city looks forward to exchanges and mutual-learning in relevant areas, or use shared experiences to co-create new solutions on the following thematic areas:

- **Tourism & Culture:** Murcia wishes to share its New Cultural Model, which is backed by the Urban Agenda for the EU: Partnership on Culture and Cultural Heritage. Furthermore, the Murcia Urban Agenda is one of Spain's national pilots for the municipal implementation of the Urban Agenda for the European Union 2030.
- **Circular Economy - Waste Management:** Murcia is willing to share its Circular Economy Strategy (which has direct input from 3 successful H2020 projects, VALUEWASTE, CITYLOOPS and HOOP), including methods for recycling promotion, correct separation of urban bio-waste for valorisation, separate collection, logistics, waste treatment and production.
- **Urban Agenda/Planning – SUD Strategies:** Murcia thoroughly implements the SUD Strategy.

Nature Based Solutions, Greening, Water Management

Tourism & Culture

Education, Jobs & Skills, Innovation Centres, Business Clusters

Urban Agendas / planning, SUD Strategies

Digital Transition & Smart City

Climate Change & Energy Transition

General Socio-economic Profile

The Nuovo Circondario Imolese (NCI) is a union of 10 municipalities and towns located in the metropolitan city of Bologna, including Borgo Tossignano, Casalfiumanese, Castel del Rio, Dozza, Fontanelice, Imola, Mordano, Castel Guelfo di Bologna, Castel San Pietro Terme and Medicina.

The NCI is an area characterized by important industries and a thriving agricultural sector with leading and innovative farming techniques. It has a rich history, artistic heritage, and tourist attraction routes. The area is also renowned worldwide for its Formula 1 racing circuit. The Natural Park of the Vena del Gesso, located in this area, is applying to become a UNESCO Natural Heritage site. An important seat of the University of Bologna is located here with activities related to agriculture, ornamental greenery, and herbal techniques. NCI works with important and leading local companies in the industrial sector, plant engineering and automation, and ceramics. NCI is also home to international academic foundations and a renowned piano academy. Research and innovation are essential elements for the development of the area. For this reason, NCI constantly promotes investments in the university and higher education sector.

Nuovo Circondario Imolese



133,562



787.3 km²



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Good Practices

NIC wishes to share its experiences and knowledge of reforesting industrial areas, eco-parks and urban renewal with Chinese partners. It has planted 6 hectares of woods around its racing circuit, and 47,000 square metres of greenery along the Venice cycle path. Projects to improve public space and facilities, such as kindergartens and primary schools, have been developed through public participation.

During the previous IUC programme, NCI presented the “World Heritage Garden” at the Yangzhou International Horticultural Exposition.

NCI’s governments, research institutions, and enterprises are actively engaged in international cooperation.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- The experiences that NCI can share with Chinese partners are primarily oriented to nature-based solutions, innovative green solutions, life cycle assessment, eco-design of gardens, urban solutions, connection between rural and urban areas, social inclusion and microfinance for start-ups.
- NCI also wishes to enhance collaboration with Chinese partners in the field of tourism and cultural heritage.
- Smart and sustainable cities empowered by technology and culture will be the future.
- NCI looks forward to discussing with Chinese partners the cooperation opportunities of setting up a joint research centre for green design.

Urban Agendas / planning, SUD Strategies, Public Space, Urban Model

Health, Life Science, Elderly, Bio Economy

Education, Jobs & Skills, Innovation Centres, Business Clusters

Tourism & Culture

Digital Transition & Smart City

General Socio-economic Profile

Santiago de Compostela-Ames is a functional area in north-western Spain, led by the capital of Galicia. Its economic structure features the main seats of the Galician regional administration, a university with centuries of tradition and, of course, and an incomparable cultural capital with the presence of the Cathedral of Santiago and the Way of St. James. The Santiago-Ames Functional Area focuses on sustainable urban development with an integrated approach. It is also a member of the Eixo Atlántico, which promotes cross-border cooperation between Galicia and Northern Portugal.

Santiago de Compostela -Ames



129,952



300.91 km²



资料来源: Pixabay

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Good Practices

URBAN AGENDA: strategy and action plan for sustainable urban development, raising awareness, education, regulation, financing, research, management, facilities, infrastructure, and integration of criteria in urban planning. The Functional Area faces the challenge of being overly dependent on culture and heritage, and looks for new areas to diversify its economy, attract new industry and grow its value chains.

SMARTIAGO: It is the first innovative public procurement project carried out by the local authority of a World Heritage City following the Urban Agenda. Its main objective is to implement innovative solutions for smart city development.

BIOPOLO: Biotech companies can carry out their activities in a business-friendly environment, thanks to a close collaboration with the Technological and Business Cluster of Life Sciences (BIOGA). This complements other existing structures, such as the Campus Vida of the University of Santiago, and develops the Galician biotech sector into an industry model by pooling various key actors to a shared location.

COWORKING A PROA: a coworking space in Ames that focuses on the latest technologies and audiovisual products. The space stands out in the business park, and is becoming headquarters of several prestigious firms and brands.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- **URBAN AGENDA:** Santiago de Compostela- Ames looks for synergic development with other cities with similar characteristics to jointly identify best actions and strategies for the future. The Urban Agenda, as a strategic city plan, helps parameterise public policies for the achieving the 2030 goals. Currently under design, the Urban Agenda, Strategy and Action Plan will define the city's development guidelines in the urban, social, business and environmental spheres. As a medium to long-term strategy, it shall guide the city towards the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, with a particular focus on SDG 11. Santiago de Compostela- Ames is interested in sharing and comparing its methods with other cities
- **BIOECONOMY:** The CAMPUS VIDA of University of Santiago (USC) promotes a new model of research collaboration among public research, health sector and biotech business, driving economic and social growth with scientific excellence. This project builds on collective intelligence to achieve university excellence. This quadruple helix strategy and its development experience will be shared and improved internationally
- **CLUSTERS & INNOVATION CENTRES:** Biopolo complements the Campus Vida facilities to create a set of infrastructure for prospective companies. Its creation responds to a demand of biotech companies in Galicia.

Education, Jobs & Skills, Innovation Centres, Business Clusters

Mobility & Transport, Street for People

Circular Economy, Waste Management

Urban Agendas / planning

Digital Transition & Smart City

Climate Change & Energy Transition

General Socio-economic Profile

Sofia is one of the oldest cities in Europe, whose history can be traced back some 7,000 years. Declared a capital city in 1879, Sofia is the largest city of the Republic of Bulgaria, and the 14th largest city in Europe with a population of 1.4 million. It's the biggest centre of economy, politics, technology, administration, culture, and education in Bulgaria. The city has an export and service-oriented economy, with 16% of exports produced by its growing ICT sector. Sofia has one of the most vibrant innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems in Central and Eastern Europe. It is a magnet for talent, and is home to 23 of Bulgaria's 54 universities. Forty percent of students are in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math fields. A share of 52.8% of the working-age population has a university degree. Around one third of the people in the age group of 19-34 speak more than one foreign language at an intermediary or even higher level.

Sofia



1,400,000



492 km²



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Good Practices

- Digitalisation and innovation; using innovative technologies for sustainable urban development
- Smart mobility, green and on-demand transport projects
- Waste management and resource efficiency
- Co-creation as a key aspect for sustainable urban development
- Engaging citizens in dialogues, ecosystem management, urban projects and strategy formulation
- Creating a long-term vision/strategy for SUDs

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- **Education, Jobs and Skills.** The city wishes to collaborate within clusters, and develop innovation centres and hubs to enhance competitiveness and business potential of SMEs, industries and the society. The new European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH) for big data, high-speed computing and AI provides tailored one-stop-shop services, as well as opportunities for innovation, global presence, and training. It also actively promotes collaboration and exchange of know-how and best practices with Chinese cities.
- **Mobility & Transport is a key focus of the municipal and national government.** It is a priority for the Innovative Sofia, the Transport & Urban Mobility Department, and the Urban Mobility Centre in Sofia.
- **Urban Agenda / Planning** - SUD strategies, public space, urban models
- **Circular Economy** - waste management is another priority both at the municipal and national level. It is a key focus of the Green System, Ecology and Land Use Department in Sofia.

Urban Agendas / planning, SUD Strategies

Mobility & Transport, Street for People

Nature Based Solutions, Greening, Water Management

Climate Change & Energy Transition

General Socio-economic Profile

Stuttgart, the capital of the Baden-Württemberg state in southwest Germany, is known as a manufacturing hub. The most important sector in the Stuttgart Region is automotive, followed by mechanical engineering, IT and electrical engineering. The Stuttgart Region is among Europe's most prosperous areas that offer highly attractive job opportunities. The region spends 6.6% of its GDP on research and development, which makes it an innovative powerhouse in Europe.

The region is home to the state parliament, government institutions, headquarters of renowned companies (such as Daimler, Porsche, Bosch), an airport and an international trade fair centre, thereby offering many examples of "gateway infrastructure". Its industry export rate is 68%, indicating a high degree of regional reliance on fruitful and functioning relations with international partners.

High-priority issues the region faces include maintaining the quality of life, protecting biodiversity and open spaces, developing renewable energy sources, providing climate-sensitive mobility and adapting to climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic acts as a catalyst for regional structural change, whilst transformation and digitalisation of the automotive industry pose a huge challenge. To sum up, the Stuttgart Region needs to strengthen its economic and ecological resilience.

Stuttgart Region



2,800,000



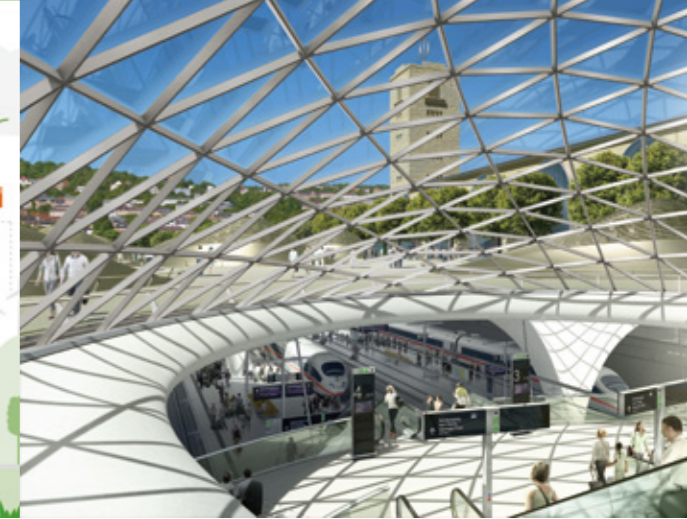
3,654 km²



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斯图加特21号铁路项目 ©Ingenhoven Architects

Good Practices

As the public authority for spatial development, the local government is obliged to foster sustainable development and work continuously on strategies that ensure climate and environmental protection. Innovations and new technologies are important problem solvers, as outlined in the EU Green Deal. The regional ecosystem enables strong collaboration among science, education and business. The region actively encourages new technological development through regional networks, clusters and centres of excellence.

Furthermore, the region strives to keep its infrastructure working while the urban agglomeration continues to grow. Thus, it constantly identifies innovative solutions that make life easier, healthier and more equal for residents. For example, the region invests intensively in high-tech broadband infrastructure and an intelligent transport system. It grasps the opportunities brought by digitalisation and innovation, and would like to share these experiences with other regions.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- Urban Agenda/Planning.** Urban space in Germany is not so much about megacities, but rather consists of urban landscapes where large cities and smaller localities are functionally linked across administrative boundaries. Local authorities are responsible for providing adequate options for residential and commercial use, adapting the infrastructure (especially mobility), enhancing competitiveness and warranting important open space functions.
- Mobility:** The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) is designed to cover the entire region with public transport access. It includes the regional metro-rail system (S-Bahn) transporting more than 430,000 passengers each day. The Stuttgart 21 rail project receives a great sum of funds for restructuring and digitalising the railway network and constructing a new high-speed railway line which improves the metropolitan region's connection to Paris and Budapest.
- Nature-based Solutions:** Through the "Landscape Park" funding scheme, more than EUR 15 million have been invested in improving green open spaces and recreational areas. The basic idea of the scheme is not only to protect the landscape, but also to upgrade it in terms of adaptation and biodiversity.

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Agrofood Chain, Foods Systems

Technologies 4.0

Industry 5.0, Bigger Competitiveness, Productive Diversification

Tourism & Culture, Diversification-Slow food & Supplies

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies(RIS 4)

Education, Jobs & Skills

Digital Transition & Smart City

Climate Change & Energy Transition

General Socio-economic Profile

Bacau county is located in the historical Moldavia region of Romania. As the centre of development, the city of Bacău benefits from its own economic potential, good connectivity to national transport infrastructure and the territorial cooperation across the metropolitan area, for which the associated members contribute to developing the area with land resources, cultural heritage and industries. The establishment of the SMART specialisation and cooperation networks bring extra value to the area, achieving an economy of scale both for rural and urban communities through enhanced access to markets, production models, information, research/innovation centres and ICT tools.

Bacau County



616,168



6,621 km²



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Good Practices

Bacau county is eager to learn from other participants of the programme, and to apply the experience and knowledge locally. Its main goal is to attract new sources of financing for regional development. The county welcomes any advice and good practices for its future growth.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

The Bacau County Council has a long history of international cooperation and great confidence in building long-term partnerships. It looks forward to working with Chinese partners to create a better future for the environment and society. The county is highly interested in sharing best practices and experiences in the following areas:

- Sustainable Agriculture – Agrofood Chain, Food Systems
- Technologies 4.0
- Industry 5.0 - Bigger Competitiveness, Productive Diversification
- Tourism & Culture – Diversification-Slow Food & Supplies
- Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialisation Strategies (RIS 4)
- Education, Jobs & Skills
- Digital Transition & Smart City
- Climate Change & Energy Transition

Industry 5.0, Bigger Competitiveness, Productive Diversification

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies (RIS 4)

General Socio-economic Profile

Castilla y León is Spain's largest region and the third largest in Europe with a territory of 94,225 km². Agriculture is one of its major economic drivers, representing 15% of Spain's primary sector. But the region also has an important industrial foundation, with food and automotives in the lead, followed by fast-growing knowledge-based sectors such as aerospace, renewable energy, health-biotechnology and ICT.

Castilla y Leon



2,447,519



94,222 km²



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Good Practices

The Institute for Business Competitiveness of Castilla y León (ICE) leads programmes, actions, policies and financing measures for the private sector at the regional level, and participates in the promotion and deployment of the Spanish Research, Development and Innovation (R&D&i) policies as well as programmes at the EU and international level. Its commitments include:

- Innovation policies and financing for enterprises and technology centres
- Facilitation of regional participation in European R&D programmes
- Promotion of inward/outward investment and internationalisation
- Industrial Soil Policies

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

The region wishes to foster technological cooperation between local companies and Chinese stakeholders, such as through technology transfer and entrepreneurial collaboration. It also looks forward to sharing best practices on innovation policies and programmes. The focal thematic areas are:

- Industry 5.0 - Bigger Competitiveness, Productive Diversification
- Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialisation Strategies (RIS 4)

Industry 5.0, Bigger Competitiveness, Productive Diversification

Tourism & Culture, Diversification-Slow food & Supplies

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies(RIS 4)

Education, Jobs & Skills

Digital Transition & Smart City

Post-COVID Recovery – social justice and social inclusion

General Socio-economic Profile

The Krapina-zagorje County is a historical region in northern Croatia. Its rural character is intersected by developing cities with a great potential for IT, logistics, tourism, and sustainable agriculture infrastructure. The local economic activities mainly include manufacturing, processing, trade and construction. New development trends, market demands and opportunities are increasingly present, such as the smart village/city development paradigm, and industrial/entrepreneurial zoning. The Krapina-zagorje County currently focuses on implementing the smart village and city development approach, designing and carrying out a digital transition strategy, and enabling interconnectivity of the public sector, private sector, NGOs, government, and education. It aims to fairly and sustainably develop its economy and improve quality of life.

Krapina -Zagorje County



124,517



1,229 km²



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Good Practices

The Krapina-Zagorje County has, and continues to create a sustainable and encouraging environment for service specialisation and innovative development.

The Bračak Energy Centre is a unique project that reconstructs (structurally, functionally, energetically) an old castle/manor, and converts it into office space for a regional energy agency (with a small museum). It conserves the cultural heritage as well as utilises vacant buildings to provide a business space for establishing the highest benchmark in energy research, implementation, and management.

Zagorje Development Agency and Krapina-zagorje County Entrepreneurship Centre support institutions in preparing, applying for, monitoring and managing projects funded by national or EU funds. They help both SMEs and public institutions with innovation and specialisation project subjects.

The County has been recognised as a medical tourism destination with two speciality hospitals or medical centres.

The County is among the leading tourist regions in Continental Croatia, offering both natural beauty and interesting local life. Its museums (such as the Krapina Neanderthal Museum) have won numerous awards for their creative, multimedia approaches to heritage presentation and interpretation.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

As the County strives to become an industry centre and innovation hub, it is interested in “Industry 5.0”, which is being supported by its tourism competence centre and business incubator. It is certainly interconnected with the areas of “Tourism & Culture”, “Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialisation” and “Education, Jobs & Skills”.

The Krapina-zagorje County has established two institutions for entrepreneurship. The Krapina-zagorje County Business Incubator (supporting start-ups with office space, broadband connection, and operational fee discount) and the Krapina-zagorje County Entrepreneurial Centre (including a consulting agency for private sector clients, and office space for start-ups and SMEs). The County is also in the advanced stages of establishing a tourism excellence centre. It has been recognised as an important destination for spa and medical tourism.

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Agrofood Chain, Foods Systems

Education, Jobs & Skills

Tourism & Culture, Diversification-Slow food & Supplies

 Climate Change & Energy Transition

General Socio-economic Profile

Region Lazio implements its Smart Specialisation Strategy – RIS3 and actively responds to emerging opportunities and market developments within the latest social-economic development framework for the 2021-2027 period. Starting with identifying the most competitive areas in the region, Lazio strives to promote development and employment, prioritise the action plan and develop unique regional competitiveness. At the same time, it aims to enhance regional strengths in research, technological development and innovation.

The main innovation drivers for Region Lazio include agri-food, circular economy, life science, automotive, sustainable mobility, aerospace, blue economy, digital/creative industries, security, technologies and cultural heritage protection.

Region Lazio



5,879,000



17,242 km²



资料来源: Pixabay

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Good Practices

Best practices in tourism: The region strives to create a win-win cooperation model that enables its partners and stakeholders to share, discuss and exchange best practices with the IURC partner regions. Its smart specialisation strategy includes the following three objectives:

- supporting regional industries in moving up towards value added segments and markets through technological innovation
- turning Region Lazio into a highly globalised region of innovation
- guiding regional businesses to enter international markets of strategic interest.

Strategic aims, concrete projects, and acquired expertise are the core values and resources that Region Lazio is willing to share with Chinese partner regions. Strategy discussion, vision exchange and action coordination will foster mutual learning and understanding, which help overcome cross-border challenges.

With regards to the tourism sector and in line with the RIS3, Region Lazio is willing to share its experience of system design and sustainable strategies for cultural services.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Region Lazio wishes to contribute to “A Smarter Europe”, “Tourism & Culture” and “A Greener Europe” with sustainable agriculture and agri-food, following the triple helix approach.

It will share its best practices in safe and sustainable agriculture as well as accessible tourism development. The region aims at supporting and enhancing the conservation of natural and scenic values, whilst retaining the attractiveness of tourist destinations. Protecting and promoting local produce in the context of tourism development equals to organising producer visits, tasting events, and wine & dine experiences, so as to allow international visitors to understand the natural connection between a product and its place of origin. At the same time, food and wine tourism would allow the region to showcase its agri-food practices to an international audience.

Quality agri-products are important to Region Lazio. It is committed to conveying a clear local identity to the international market. In order to achieve this, active involvement of local communities is a prerequisite. Local communities are the guardian of values that represent the regional food culture and identity, and attract tourists. This attractiveness results from the interaction of multiple factors within the region, and will provide a valuable reference for Chinese counterparts. Therefore, the establishment of a comprehensive cooperation plan, including a regional strategy and associated food and wine resources, will be the cornerstone of a fruitful collaboration under the IURC programme.

Technologies 4.0

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies(RIS 4)

Tourism & Culture, Diversification-Slow food & Supplies

Digital Transition & Smart City

General Socio-economic Profile

The Ljubljana Urban Region (LUR) is situated in central Slovenia, at the crossroad of two significant European corridors: the Baltic-Adriatic corridor and the Mediterranean corridor. The Slovenian capital – Ljubljana, the administrative, scientific and educational centre of Slovenia is also located in the region. Situated in the area where the Alpine, Danube, and Adriatic-Ionic macro-regions merge, the region has acquired a distinctive mark.

The Ljubljana Urban Region is the most economically developed region in Slovenia, generating over one-third of the national GDP. Its most prominent industry is the service industry, where the share of gross added value is the highest. Additionally, the region and its economic development are marked by a high concentration of creative professions and communities. The share of LUR's inhabitants in a creative profession is comparable to that in Northern and Western European regions.

The region has a large number of education and research institutions. Ljubljana is home to the country's largest university, the University of Ljubljana. The cluster of faculties and institutes attracts a large number of researchers, research organisations, and institutions. Another major potential of the region lies in fostering collaboration among education, scientific institutions and business, with the aim to develop new products and services with know-how, innovation, and creativity, and to boast high added value.

With its well-preserved natural environment, rich cultural heritage, and varied selection of leisure activities, the Ljubljana Urban Region provides a high quality of life to both its inhabitants and visitors. The interweaving of the diverse nature and the preserved cultural heritage represents potentials for developing tourism, including innovative tourism products and services.

Ljubljana Urban Region



537,893



2,334 km²



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Good Practices

The region promotes sustainable development with knowledge, innovation, creativity, and synergy between its principal stakeholders and sectors. It boosts competitiveness by modernising mobility, environment, ICT, and social infrastructure as well as by developing its human capitals. It creates a healthy and quality living environment through nature protection, spatial planning, housing retrofit, and self-supply in a sustainable way.

The LUR would like to share its experience in preparing strategic documents for innovation as well as success stories from innovation project. It also wishes to jointly explore innovative solutions that can have a positive impact on the SDGs. The region believes that market opportunities brought by these goals can potentially deliver savings and revenues.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- The regional development program 2021-2027 elevates the ambition to achieve competitive sustainability. Its vision is to preserve valuable resources such as clean drinking water and rich biodiversity, and to transform itself into a modern, resource-efficient, and competitive economy. Care for environment shall be the inherent principle, and the innovation dimension shall focus on resource efficiency, circular economy, biodiversity restoration and pollution reduction.
- Innovation-driven economy. The region is fully committed to innovation-driven economic development. As the central region with the capital city of Ljubljana, it is home to important innovation stakeholders at the national level. Furthermore, the Regional Creative Economy Centre has been established to support innovation processes, and to connect the regional innovation ecosystem. The region fully recognises that innovation is a source of growth and a tool for addressing global challenges like climate change and social issues.
- Smart city development. The LUR regards the smart city concept as a framework that includes ICT sustainable practices, measures to engage citizens and communities in addressing urbanisation challenges, and efforts to foster the innovation processes. The local activities emphasise on citizen engagement and matching facilities and data with physical infrastructure and services, so as to lower costs and improve sustainability. The region also aims to support communities to improve energy distribution, waste collection, traffic congestion and air quality.

Technologies 4.0

Education, Jobs & Skills

Digital Transition & Smart City

General Socio-economic Profile

Located in central Croatia, the Sisak Moslavina County has developed its economy with various industries including energy, petroleum, petrochemicals, chemicals, metallurgy, food, agriculture, forestry, trade, catering, construction, logistics and communications. There is also notable development in cutting-edge technologies, electronics and the pharmaceutical industry.

The county has formulated its regional development strategy on the following areas:

Economic growth and employment – developing an innovative, digital and export-oriented industry; developing craft industry, boosting entrepreneurship and building entrepreneurial infrastructure; sustainable and ecological agriculture and agricultural production capacity; new and renewable energy sources and efficient energy management; tourism; high-tech education infrastructure, including human resources and an active labor market; international cooperation.

Environmental protection and preservation of natural and cultural heritage – environmental preservation and improvement; sustainable use of natural resources and cultural heritage.

Infrastructure development and life quality improvement – enhancing social inclusion; developing health infrastructure and services; improving communication and transport connectivity.



172,439



4,468 km²

Sisak Moslavina County



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Good Practices

The county wishes to share its experience and expertise in gaming industry, artificial intelligence and blockchain, as well as how it integrates the entire gaming concept into the Digital Innovation Hub PISMO (DIH PISMO). In 2016, the county joined hands with the development agency SIMORA to launch the Gaming Industry Centre initiative. The aim was to transform from an industrial region to a modern and high-tech region with a primary focus on the gaming industry. The initiative consists of six steps to achieve this goal:

- Free English language courses for kindergartens
- Workshops - video game development workshops in all elementary and secondary schools
- Start-up - launching start-ups through newly formed business incubator PISMO/DIH PISMO
- Introducing gaming programmes into the regular secondary school system - new four-year programme in vocational schools – “video game developer”

- Financial support for start-ups in the field of video game development
- Building a gaming industry campus – including faculty, student dormitory, entrepreneurship incubator for eSport and accelerator for the gaming industry with a quota of 4,000. This project is on the list of strategic projects of the Republic of Croatia.

Currently, the first five steps have been successfully accomplished, and the last step is currently under development.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

With the new Gaming Industry Centre initiative, the Sisak Moslavina County wishes to further develop in this direction, and seeks to address two thematic areas through the IURC programme: Technologies and Education, as well as Jobs & Skills. Both areas are interconnected and key to success in any field. For modern technology, in particular, education and skilled talents are the key elements for future efficacy.

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Agrofood Chain, Foods Systems

Tourism & Culture, Diversification-Slow food & Supplies

Digital Transition & Smart City

General Socio-economic Profile

The South Bohemia Region abounds in natural resources such as forests, lakes, protected natural areas, and river sources. Regional industries consist mainly of automotive engineering, woodworking, textile and food processing. Science, research, innovation and education are important to the region. There are several higher education institutions and research organisations that focus on biology research. Local industrial development also places more attention on technological education, research and innovation. The diversified manufacturing industry, the growing high-quality research and innovation institutions, and the top-ranking international science teams and tertiary education are the biggest strengths of the region. Agriculture and tourism also account for a large share of the regional economy, and are included in regional strategies. The agricultural sector adopts innovative approaches and smart solutions for more sustainable and eco-friendly development. The region prepares and regularly updates the Concept of Tourism Development in the South Bohemia Region, which indicates the latest trends in the tourism industry, states the inclination towards sustainable, and low-carbon tourism (such as hiking, cycling, horse-riding and canoeing), and helps prepare tourism packages for visitors.

South Bohemia



644,083



10,056.79 km²



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Good Practices

The South Bohemia Region relies on smart specialisation in the long term. It has, in line with the OECD definition, combined industrial, educational and innovation policies to prioritise areas for knowledge-based investments, and to focus on the strengths and advantages of the regional economy, including digital management of food supplies, smart agriculture and top research projects. Smart processes have been implemented in precision farming schemes to support regional food products and brands.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- Sustainable Agriculture: The primary sector (agriculture, forestry and fishery) plays an important role in the region.
- Tourism & Culture: The South Bohemia Region is the third most visited region in the country, and presents a unique combination of tourist attractions, from natural gems such as the National Park Šumava and numerous protected natural areas, countless hiking paths also for cycling and horse-riding, to spa resorts and wellness facilities. However, it is important that the tourism sector offers high-quality services and convenient infrastructure for sustainable growth. All these aspects have been taken into accounts in the regional tourism strategy. There are certainly good practice examples in China that can be transferred to South Bohemia and vice versa.
- The region is promoting the concept of Smart Accelerator, which is designed to generate smart ideas and interventions in the long term, and to propose activities with high added value. The Smart Accelerator builds upon the strengths of the region and further develops them. It covers activities such as automated and digital agriculture, autonomous crop care (harvest, fertilisation, watering), and automated fish production (feeding, monitoring). Smart solutions are also used in the tourism industry to help better serve visitors and conduct targeted promotional campaigns according to the requirements of the destination management offices.

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Agrofood Chain, Foods Systems

Tourism & Culture, Diversification-Slow food & Supplies

Digital Transition & Smart City

General Socio-economic Profile

Located in Central Italy, Umbria is fully committed to developing a competitive, environmental and socially sustainable economy. The regional economy is mainly made up of small and medium enterprises, and the regional reform and development strategy focuses on pillar industries including aerospace, mechanics, biomedical, marine, natural fabrics, healthcare, automobile, agrifood, mechatronics, agrimec, bioplastics and green chemistry. At the heart of the regional development strategy are digital innovation and tourism. Specifically, there are three pivotal areas: environmental sustainability, culture, as well as wine & dine experiences. In addition to growing its tourist sector, the region promotes internationalisation of its productive system, and supports small and medium enterprises to emphasis on scientific research, technological innovation and green development.

Umbria



870,165



8,456 km²



资料来源: Pixabay



资料来源: wikimedia

Good Practices

The Umbria region has developed smart specialisation strategies with the aim of enhancing local potentials and leveraging on regional assets and talents through research and smart entrepreneurship. The strategies identify factors to help achieve desirable goals, which include a more efficient integration of industry and research, access to global markets, industry added-value services, living quality improvement and enhanced regional attractiveness. Within this context, the Umbria region has identified five priority sectors:

- Agrifood
- Life sciences
- Green chemistry
- Energy
- Smart industry/aerospace

Within each priority sector, the region has implemented a triple helix approach by involving actors from industry and academia in a supportive institutional set-up.

Sharing the regional smart specialisation strategy with Chinese partners via the IURC programme would be a valuable opportunity for the region to deepen cooperation and engage on reciprocal learning and exchange, with a particular focus on sectors which best represent the region's contribution to the programme: agrifood and tourism.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Umbria seeks to address thematic areas related to agrifood chain as well as tourism & culture. In detail, Umbria wishes to carry out activities that help promote local tourism offers, with a focus on food and wine to attract and engage tourists overseas.

Moreover, the region hopes to exchange expertise in the sector of agricultural machinery. Agri-product and machinery commercialisation as well as overseas promotion will benefit the entire region, speed up digital transition, promote the tourist destination, and highlight the RIS3 goals. In this regard, the region values its collaboration with Chinese institutions and local private businesses for win-win results.

Circular Economy, Waste Management

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Agrofood Chain, Foods Systems

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies(RIS 4)

Education, Jobs & Skills

Tourism & Culture

Digital Transition & Smart City

Climate Change & Energy Transition

General Socio-economic Profile

The Autonomous Region of Valencia is located at the Mediterranean shore of Spain, and home to the provinces of Alicante, Castellón and Valencia.

Valencia stands out for its international trade, exports, innovation, and industrial development. The Valencian Community enjoys a privileged geographic location in the centre of the Mediterranean corridor, a key link in the global logistics networks.

The region also has an important industrial fabric and is one of the country's main tourist destinations. It has highly consolidated global clusters such as ceramics, agri-food, automobile and textile, among others, as well as strategic industries with great potentials including ICT, biotechnology, aeronautics and health-care. Valencia is a key player in international innovation cooperation.

Autonomous Region of Valencia



5,057,353



23,255 km²



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资料来源: Pixabay

Good Practices

Under the framework of the regional Smart Specialisation Strategy, Valencia has deployed several participation platforms called "Innovation Policy Labs". Each lab has clearly defined missions that gather stakeholders of the quadruple innovation helix (enterprises and business associations, regional administration, universities and technology centres, as well as social agents). They meet to align the missions with strategy priorities and agree on pilot projects that the regional government may undertake.

To ensure stakeholder participation, it is crucial to select and set up seed groups for the labs. In a second phase, the labs are open to companies, producers and consumer representatives, paying particular attention to their needs. Objectives of the strategy are then reviewed by taking into consideration of stakeholders' needs.

The Smart Grids Lab is a good example of this collaboration. Aware of the important fight against climate change, this lab aims to encourage innovation and development of smart grids, adapt to future energy models, enable sustainable energy management, and ensure power supply at competitive prices. Current trends focus on energy diversification and self-sufficiency. This opens up new and interesting prospects for an energy-scarce region to optimise network distribution.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- The Region of Valencia would like to exchange experiences and knowledge in the application of ICT for the digital transformation of economy.
- Agriculture and Agri-industry research that aim to improve sustainability and resource efficiency, so as to benefit more people and reduce poverty.
- Development of a regional model of smart specialisation and promotion of innovation ecosystems. ICT application for cities through intelligent mobility practices and optimal use of energy distribution network (smart grids)
- Development of models for knowledge transfer from academia to the economy, namely university-business consortia, science parks, university entrepreneurship...
- Exchange of experiences in the implementation, development and governance of a Regional Strategy for Research and Innovation for Smart Specialisation (RIS3)

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Agrofood Chain, Foods Systems

Technologies 4.0

Tourism & Culture, Diversification-Slow food & Supplies

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies(RIS 4)

Education, Jobs & Skills

Digital Transition & Smart City

Climate Change & Energy Transition

Post-COVID Recovery – social justice and social inclusion

General Socio-economic Profile

The Western Greece Region is located in the western part of mainland Greece. Its economy consists of the primary sector, featuring agriculture and livestock, the secondary sector, based on construction and labour-intensive industries, and the tertiary sector, with information and communication technologies, and administrative and support services. The region's urban centres are home to an emerging ecosystem of clusters and hubs that generate some significant, innovative and high-value activities in the agrofood sector (such as berries) and ICT business.

Western Greece Region



679,796



11,350.18 km²



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Good Practices

Trade exchange: companies are connected via knowledge and business networks across the regions

Smart City: joint R&D and business development in areas such as mobility, industry 4.0, sustainability, biofuels, entrepreneurship education and innovation. Under this framework, the Western Greece Region works with associations and their members, and also benefit from taking part in European projects and initiatives.

EU certification for agrofood production. The Western Greece Region produces two types of cheese with Protected Designation of Origin, the famous feta and kefalograviera, and can transfer knowhow concerning product handling, production and export at the requirements of the EU. Its strong agricultural sector helps shape its marketing and commercial strategies (berries, aquaculture, vegetables, olive oil)

- Extended cooperation in tourism sector as Western Greece has the privilege to host the most glorious sanctum of the ancient world, the Ancient Olympia
- Development and expansion of the local innovation ecosystem through networking and business models
- Global presence for local firms and start-ups
- Development of non-state/public sources of funding (crowd funding, risk management, etc.)

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Based on the Regional Innovation Strategy and other policies such as DIH and European initiatives, the Region identifies three key priorities:

- Agrofood System
- Tourism & Culture
- Advance Materials

Digital Sciences and Energy: The Greek Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs launched the REBRAIN GREECE initiative to promote Western Greece as a pole of digital innovation. A digital innovation hub called REBRAIN WESTERN GREECE DIH fully supports the digital transformation and dynamics of the region. Additionally, a resilient, inclusive and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will require international cooperation. Recently, the Region of Western Greece has financed business plans for local SMEs (EUR 30 million) in order to overcome the pandemic. Other European projects like ESMART CITY, CINOVATEC, and INNOXENIA have led to smart solutions in different sectors, and enhanced stakeholder skills and know-how exchange.



CITIES AND REGIONS OF
CHINA



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General Socio-economic Profile

With the support of the State Council of China, Beijing actively strives to build the Integrated National Demonstration Zone for Opening-up the Service Sector and the China (Beijing) Pilot Free Trade Zone, whilst seeking to set up the National Service Trade Innovation and Development Demonstration Zone, the Digital Trade Demonstration Zone and the Beijing Stock Exchange. This creates favorable conditions for Beijing to further foster the new development pattern.

Beijing aims for high-quality economic growth. Its GDP amounted to RMB 3.6 trillion yuan in 2020, and the per capita GDP was around USD 24,000. The service sector accounted for 83.8% of Beijing's GDP, and the digital economy accounted for 38%. Its competitiveness ranks 8th in the world.

Beijing has abundant science and technology resources, which makes the city full of innovative

vitality. The capital city is home to 92 universities and colleges, over 1,000 scientific research institutes, 120 national key laboratories, 29,000 national high-tech enterprises, and 93 unicorn enterprises with an R&D intensity of more than 6%.

Beijing attracts robust financial resources. The capital city is the national center of financial management and policy control. Its financial sector assets topped RMB 160 trillion, accounting for nearly half of the country. The size of funds under management and the total market capitalization of listed companies are the largest in China.

Beijing's global trade and commerce continue to expand. The European Union is Beijing's largest trading partner in goods, with the share of total imports and exports maintained at about 11%. At present, Europe has established a total of 5,015 enterprises in Beijing, with a cumulative investment of USD 16.1 billion.

Beijing



21,893,000



16,411 km²

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Agrofood Chain, Foods Systems

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Tourism, Culture and Creativity

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Focus on Beijing as an international scientific and technological innovation center. With the development of the Sino-German industrial park, efforts will be made to further innovate the Sino-German exchange and cooperation mechanism, implement major Sino-German economic and technical cooperation projects, create global industry clusters, promote mutually beneficial collaboration between China and Germany, and build a new highland of international cooperation in economy and technology.

Focus on Beijing as the cultural center for cultural exchanges and cooperation. Efforts shall be made to actively build a platform for international cultural exchanges, exhibitions and communication, promote high-level cultural trade, build a window for exchanges and mutual learning, enhance Beijing's image, and build the city with a more humanistic charm and a sense of happiness.

Focus on Beijing as an agricultural scientific and technological innovation hub. With the establishment of the Jingwa Center, the city will innovate with renowned institutions such as the Wageningen University & Research in the Netherlands, explore the construction of an agricultural scientific and technological innovation consortium, and strengthen the development of international demonstration zones for agricultural science and technology.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Tianjin borders Beijing Municipality and Hebei Province, bounded by the Bohai Sea to the east, and the Yan Mountains on the north. As the "maritime gateway" to capital Beijing and Xiong'an New Area, the city forms a key component of the coordinated Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei development. Its adjacency to Northeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific Economic Circle makes the city an important launchpad for China to participate in regional economic cooperation and globalization. Tianjin holds an important strategic position and plays a pivotal role. The Tianjin Port is accessible via three Eurasia land bridge corridors. This 300,000 ton artificial deep-water port is connected to over 500 ports in more than 180 countries and regions. The city has the densest railway

network in the country, and the second densest expressway network. The Tianjin Binhai International Airport will reach an annual passenger throughput of more than 70 million after expansion, making it a regional hub and an international aviation logistics center of China. Tianjin is among the top cities that offer comprehensive platforms in China, including national development zones, national independent innovation demonstration zone, as well as Dongjiang Free Trade Port Zone. Home to 14,000 foreign-invested enterprises and 249 Fortune 500 companies, the city is a top destination for foreign investment and yields among the highest rate of return.

Tianjin



14,000,000



12,000 km²

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Tourism, Culture and Creativity

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies(RIS 4)

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Strategic emerging industries will be the focus. Tianjin actively implements the national opening-up policy, continuously improves its business environment, strengthens industrial cooperation with the EU, proactively attracts high-level foreign investment projects, and promotes industrial upgrading.

Tianjin actively expands trade. The city has been given the green light to build an international consumption center city and an innovative development pilot of service and trade. It will actively integrate trade with new technology, economy and business formats, strengthen trade exchanges with the EU, and strive to become an EU commodity distribution and trading center for the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area.

Tianjin enhances the development of the China-EU Advanced Manufacturing Industrial Park and the Tianjin Italian SME Industrial Park. The city strengthens its partnerships in the fields of intelligent technology, digital economy, and creative culture. It works on landmark projects, and strives to build a bridgehead for China-EU and Sino-Italian strategic cooperation.

Tianjin reinforces cultural exchanges. It maintains close ties with the EU for comprehensive and multi-level cooperation. The city hosts international conferences such as the Davos forum and the World Intelligence Congress, and regularly organises exchange activities with Europe.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Hohhot, the capital city of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, has nine county-level divisions, one national development zone and one national high-tech industrial development zone.

Hohhot is located in the Bohai Economic Rim at a linear distance of merely 400 km from Beijing, which makes it the second closest provincial capital to China's capital city after Shijiazhuang. It is an essen-

tial bridgehead linking China with Mongolia, Russia and Eastern European countries. Hohhot grew its GDP at an average rate of 4.3%, and its per capita GDP reached RMB 89,000 during the 13th Five-Year Plan period. The total volume of imports and exports of Hohhot amounted to RMB 14.7 billion in 2020. From January to June 2021, its total foreign trade reached RMB 8.328 billion, increasing 11.2% year-on-year.

Hohhot



3,446,100



17,200 km²

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Agrofood Chain, Foods Systems

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Hohhot is committed to the dual circulation development by further enhancing its dairy industry, intensifying cooperation with renowned European universities and enterprises, introducing experts in dairy sector, working out joint R&D plans and conducting innovative research in life sciences, nutrition, health and food safety. Hohhot will make full use of its competitive resources and industries including biopharmaceuticals, chemical industry and new materials, and encourage competent enterprises to expand into overseas markets via cross-border e-commerce and overseas warehouse. Hohhot will strengthen effective coordination with areas covered by the first and second rounds of the China-EU Regional Policy Cooperation Dialogue mechanism, and strive for progress in synergetic development and industrial cooperation.



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Dalian



7,451,000



12,573.8 km²

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Education, jobs & skills, Innovation centres, business clusters

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies (RIS 4)

General Socio-economic Profile

Dalian is located on the east coast of the Eurasian continent, at the southern tip of Liaodong Peninsula, flanked by the Yellow Sea to the east and the Bohai Sea to the west. Dalian has a coastline of 2,211 km, 541 islands and 30 bay areas. It is an important port city on the northern coast of China with tourism resources. The city is also listed among China's five municipalities enjoying provincial economic administration power and the first 14 coastal open cities.

Dalian plays a leading role as the window opening to the outside world in the Northeast region. The city is home to Dalian Economic and Technological Development Zone (the first state-level economic development zone), Dalian Free Trade Zone (the first Free Trade Zone in Northeast China), Jinpu New Area (the first state-level new area in Northeast China), and China (Liaoning) Pilot Free Trade Zone Dalian Area. Dalian takes the lead in offering the most comprehensive platforms for opening up. It is a top

destination for foreign investment in the Northeast region and has attracted more than 19,584 foreign-invested enterprises to register here for operation, including 277 projects set up by Fortune 500 enterprises.

Dalian is an important international shipping and logistics center in Northern China. Having served as a free port three times in history, Dalian port has business interactions with over 300 ports in more than 160 countries. Dalian Zhoushuizi International Airport has established an extensive airline network with over 250 routes connecting China to Japan, South Korea, Russia, Europe, America and Asia. Dalian is a national demonstration city for modern logistics, handling over 41% of foreign trade container transportation, 100% of commercial vehicle and over 60% of imported crude oil transshipment in Northeast China. Its sea-rail transport volume has long been in a leading position in China.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Dalian actively works on setting up a mechanism for high-level official visits from European cities. Its preferred areas of cooperation include smart manufacturing, green petrochemical, digital economy, new energy vehicle, and vocational training. The city explores a cooperation model that develops industrial parks with joint efforts from administrative committees and enterprises, to demonstrate effective EU-China Regional Policy Cooperation within the 14th Five-year Plan period.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Suzhou has jurisdiction over 4 county-level cities, 6 districts, including Suzhou Industrial Park, 14 state-level development zones, 6 provincial development zones and 8 customs special control areas. A total of 160,000 industrial enterprises have settled in the city, and those above the designated size have achieved total revenue of over RMB 3 trillion for eight consecutive years. The city has a well-established manufacturing system covering 31 industrial divisions, 161 industrial groups, and 483 industrial classes, which shows its outstanding vertical industrial integration.

The European Union is a major source of foreign investment in Suzhou and a major destination for

Suzhou's investment abroad. Among the world's top 500 companies from Europe, 48 have invested in Suzhou, and more than 40 have set up regional headquarters or functional offices here. Germany is not only a key source of investment for China, but also a major destination for Suzhou to invest in the EU. As the most active area of Sino-German cooperation, Taicang has attracted more than 400 German enterprises, in particular the KERN-LIEBERS (TAICANG) Co., Ltd., accounting for 60.61% of the total number of German-funded enterprises in Suzhou. In 2017, Prime Minister Li Keqiang said at the China-Germany Forum in Berlin that Taicang is the highland for Sino-German innovation cooperation.

Suzhou



7,443,300



8,657.3 km²

Nature Based Solutions for Circular Cities and Regions

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Agrofood Chain, Foods Systems

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Urban Agendas/planning, SUD Strategies, public space, urban model

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies (RIS 4)

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Taicang is actively building a modern garden city. Relying on its "5+1" rail transit network, Taicang coordinates its development with the Shanghai metropolitan area, supports the development of Hongqiao International Open Hub, and promotes the construction of Loujiang New Town, the Future City. Taicang hopes to work with European cities on innovative urban planning and sustainable development.

Taicang is taking action towards carbon emissions peaking and carbon neutrality. The city plans to build Loujiang New City into a green, low-carbon and smart 5S-city (Smart infrastructure, Supply, Science, Study and Service), with efforts to construct smart infrastructure that supports mobility, science, innovation, education and public administration. Taicang hopes to collaborate with European cities on green solutions, energy transition, digital transformation and sustainable agriculture.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Yangzhou lies in central Jiangsu Province, where the Yangtze River Economic Belt meets the Grand Canal Cultural Belt. In 2020, the city's GDP exceeded RMB 600 billion, and its per capita GDP reached over RMB 130,000, the 16th in the country. Yangzhou is the birthplace of the Grand Canal in China, and one of the first historical and cultural cities recognized by the State Council. It is renowned as the "World Capital of Canals", "City of Gastronomy" and "Capital of East

Asian Culture". Yangzhou also earned the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award. It is also a National Civilized City, a national eco-city, and a key component of the Yangtze River Delta city cluster and Shanghai metropolitan area. Meanwhile, the city is a national innovation pilot and a demonstration city of entrepreneurship and innovation for small and micro-sized enterprises.

Yangzhou



4,600,000



6,640 km²

Nature Based Solutions for Circular Cities and Regions

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Urban Agendas/planning, SUD Strategies, public space, urban model

Education, jobs & skills, Innovation centres, business clusters

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies (RIS 4)

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Yangzhou hopes to carry out multi-disciplinary and comprehensive multi-level cooperation in regional policy research, cooperation mechanism, industrial transformation, scientific and technological innovation, industrial park development, urban transformation, sustainable development, green development (especially concerning carbon emissions peaking and carbon neutrality), education and culture.

To improve the environment, sustainability, ecological solutions, and green growth, Yangzhou joins hands with the government of Nuovo Circondario Imolese in Bologna, Italy, to establish the China-Italy Green Development and Design Research Center (Yangzhou).

Yangzhou's construction industry is the bellwether of the export-oriented economy. Efforts shall be made to promote its integration into the European market. With the support of Yangzhou University, Yangzhou Institute of Technology and other institutions, Yangzhou has worked together with renowned European universities such as the University of Rome and the University of Bologna in Italy in architecture, arts, crafts, culture, green growth, sustainable development and carbon emissions reduction. The Yangzhou High-tech Industrial Development Zone helps build the China-Europe Intelligent Equipment Industrial Park (Yangzhou). Yangzhou develops cooperative pilots following Germany's dual-track vocational training program as a model. The city also promotes the establishment of friendly relations with European cities, to build a bridge of friendship between China and Europe.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Hangzhou strives to develop an open economy and build a key hub for the "Digital Silk Road" to strengthen economic ties with the European market to contribute its share to developing the "dual circulation" development paradigm. In 2020, the city's GDP amounted to RMB 1,6110.6 billion, with GDP per capita exceeding USD 20,000. Hangzhou's imports and exports totalled RMB 548.559 billion, an annual increase of 8.2% compared to the end of the 12th Five-Year Plan period. In the past five years, foreign

capital increased to USD 33.976 billion, an increase of more than 30% since the previous Five-Year Plan period. Recently, Hangzhou's cross-border e-commerce model has been widely promoted both at home and abroad. The city received approval to construct the Hangzhou Area of China (Zhejiang) Pilot Free-Trade Zone. It has also launched the world's first Electronic World Trade Platform, or eWTP public service platform for overseas development.

Hangzhou



12,204,000



16,853.5 km²

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Urban Agendas/planning, SUD Strategies, public space, urban model

Education, jobs & skills, Innovation centres, business clusters

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies (RIS 4)

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Hangzhou will give full play to its unique advantage of cross-border e-commerce to promote China-EU exchange and cooperation.

Hangzhou will strengthen cooperation with European counterparts in digital transformation, and share public practices of applying digital technology in urban transformation.

Hangzhou will enhance digital free-trade cooperation with European cities, and share how it taps into the potential of e-commerce to promote employment and facilitate trade, investment, capital flow, logistics and personnel exchanges.

Hangzhou plans to strengthen cross-border cultural exchange by actively organizing cross-border e-commerce events and activities with regional governments, enterprises and universities in Europe.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Wenzhou, known as Ou in ancient times, derives its present name from its mild and pleasant climate without severely cold winter or scorching heat in summer. In 2020, the city's GDP was RMB 687.09 billion, an increase of 3.4%, making it one of the top 30 cities in the country. Its general public budget revenue was RMB 60.2 billion, an increase of 4%. The local per capita disposable income of urban and

rural residents was RMB 63,481 and RMB 32,428 respectively, an increase of 4.1% and 7.3%. Industries above the designated scale increased by 3.2%, fixed asset investment increased by 4.9%, total exports increased by 11.4%, and the trade volume between Wenzhou and European countries was RMB 47.59 billion, a year-on-year increase of 14.8%.

Wenzhou



9,570,000



12,110 km²

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Tourism, Culture and Creativity

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies(RIS 4)

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Cultural tourism. More than 160 overseas Chinese associations from Wenzhou in Europe are fully engaged in local tourism, catering, and other sectors.

Transportation and trade cooperation. Wenzhou actively participates in developing the China-Europe railway connectivity, plans to operate direct freight services to EU countries, and supports overseas Chinese to build warehouses in EU countries.

Post-pandemic recovery. During the pandemic, Wenzhou and the European Union conducted frequent exchanges of supplies through overseas Chinese associations. This has led to the establishment of friendly ties between the city and these countries.

Digital transformation and cross-border e-commerce. Digital economy is a unique feature of Zhejiang Province, and Wenzhou is among the fourth batch of cross-border e-commerce pilot zones approved by the State Council.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Hefei, the capital city of Anhui Province, is located in the center of Anhui and between the Yangtze River and the Huaihe River. It is home to the Chaohu Lake. Literally, Hefei refers to the converging place of Dongfei River and Nanfei River. Under the jurisdiction of the city, there are 13 counties (county-level cities), districts and development zones.

In 2020, Hefei's GDP reached over RMB 1 trillion, which ranked top 20th in the country and 9th among provincial capitals. As a key city in the Yangtze River Economic Belt, the world-class Yangtze River Delta urban agglomeration, and the National Comprehensive Transportation Hub, Hefei is easily accessible from all directions with its favorable geological position and critical strategic status, and is connected with diversified transportation means including high-speed railways, highways, international airport and inland water transportation.

Over the recent years, Hefei has been working on integrating scientific innovation with industries. As a result, its innovation competence has grown significantly. The national laboratory in Hefei is among the first batch of national laboratories. The city also accelerates the construction of the Comprehensive National Science Center, and launches research platforms that focus on energy, AI, big health and environmental protection. Hefei's strategic emerging industries feature intelligent chips, screen displays, new energy vehicles and vehicle connectivity. Its industry clusters of display, chips and AI have been listed in the first batch of national strategic emerging industry cluster. Hefei also witnesses rapid urban development, improving livelihood, stable and harmonious social governance, and more favorable business environment.

Hefei



9,370,000



11,400 km²

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Education, jobs & skills, Innovation centres, business clusters

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Hefei will continue its cooperation with the EU under the guidance of technological innovation, further give play to its regional strengths, strengthen its opening up, and enhance collaboration with higher education institutions in Europe to promote scientific and technological innovation and application. In addition, Hefei will continue to develop the China-Europe International Electronic Material Innovation Center and the Sino-German (Hefei) Intelligent Manufacturing Park, so as to attract talent, investment, technology and other resources to the city and deepen its cooperation with the EU in innovation, industry, trade, and cultural exchanges.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Nanchang, the capital city of Jiangxi Province, governs three counties, six districts, three state-level development zones and the Wanli Administration. It is the political, economic, cultural, scientific, technological and transportation center of the province.

Nanchang has clear ecological advantages. Its water area accounts for nearly 30% of the urban space, the urban green coverage rate is 43%, and the wetland

area covers more than 20% of the city. Nanchang has a strong industrial foundation consisting of 4 leading industries with an output value of more than RMB 100 billion (electronic information, automobiles and new energy vehicle, green food and new materials). The city is home to as many as 600 historical and cultural sites. Tengwang Pavilion is reputed as “one of three famous towers in Jiangnan (south of the Yangtze River)”.

Nanchang



6,255,000



7,159 km²

Nature Based Solutions for Circular Cities and Regions

Urban Agendas/planning, SUD Strategies, public space, urban model

Education, jobs & skills, Innovation centres, business clusters

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies (RIS 4)

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Urban renewal. As urbanization enters a new stage, Nanchang faces the challenge of rationally planning new urban areas whilst organically renewing the old areas. The city looks forward to working with EU cities (regions) on optimizing urban spatial layout, improving people’s livelihood, and highlighting the charm of history and culture. It strives to jointly enhance urban support, promote organic renewal, and shape beautiful urban landscape.

Ecological civilization and green development. Nanchang has always prioritized ecological and green development. It promotes the construction of a national ecological civilization pilot zone, so as to lay a solid foundation for eco-friendly and high-quality growth. The city hopes to exchange and work with EU cities (regions) in accelerating the development of a green, low-carbon and circular economic system and in the comprehensive management of urban water environment.

Urban issues and planning. In order to create a livable, healthy and dynamic urban environment and meet the growing needs of urban population, Nanchang is researching the urban development model with extensive public transport coverage. It hopes to discuss urban issues and planning with EU cities (regions) to jointly explore sustainable urban development solutions.

Regional collaborative innovation. For Nanchang, the development of electronic information and digital economy is key to cultivating new momentum. Thus, the city has held four editions of the World Conference on VR Industry in a row. It wishes to conduct in-depth exchanges with EU cities (regions) in electronic information, digital economy and smart city, and to jointly promote collaboration among enterprises to optimize production capacity and innovation capability.

Cooperation in education and vocational training. Nanchang is accelerating the development of modern vocational education by strengthening the Nanchang Technician College and implementing the China (Nanchang) Modern Vocational Education City project with high standards. The city looks forward to the extensive exchanges with EU cities (regions), to establish a number of school partnerships as well as carry out teacher-student exchanges and training.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Jinan, with Mount Tai to the south and Yellow River plain in the north, is the provincial capital of Shandong Province, an economically strong province of East China along the Yellow River. The mega-city enjoys the sub-provincial city status, and serves as the provincial center of politics, economy, culture, education, technology and finance. Jinan governs 10 districts and 2 counties. In 2020, local GDP reached RMB 1014.1 billion. Jinan has been listed as a "Top 50 Asian cities" for many years. It is a well-connected key city along the new Eurasian land corridors, with

the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Metropolitan Region to the north, the Yangtze River Delta to the south, Japan and South Korea to the east, and the Yellow River basin to the west. Jinan has a comprehensive network of railways, highways and airlines, making it one of the Top 5 hubs on the Beijing-Shanghai High-speed Railway route, one of the Top 45 highway hubs, one of the 21 logistics cities across the country, and the only hub of the China-Europe Railway Express in Shandong Province.

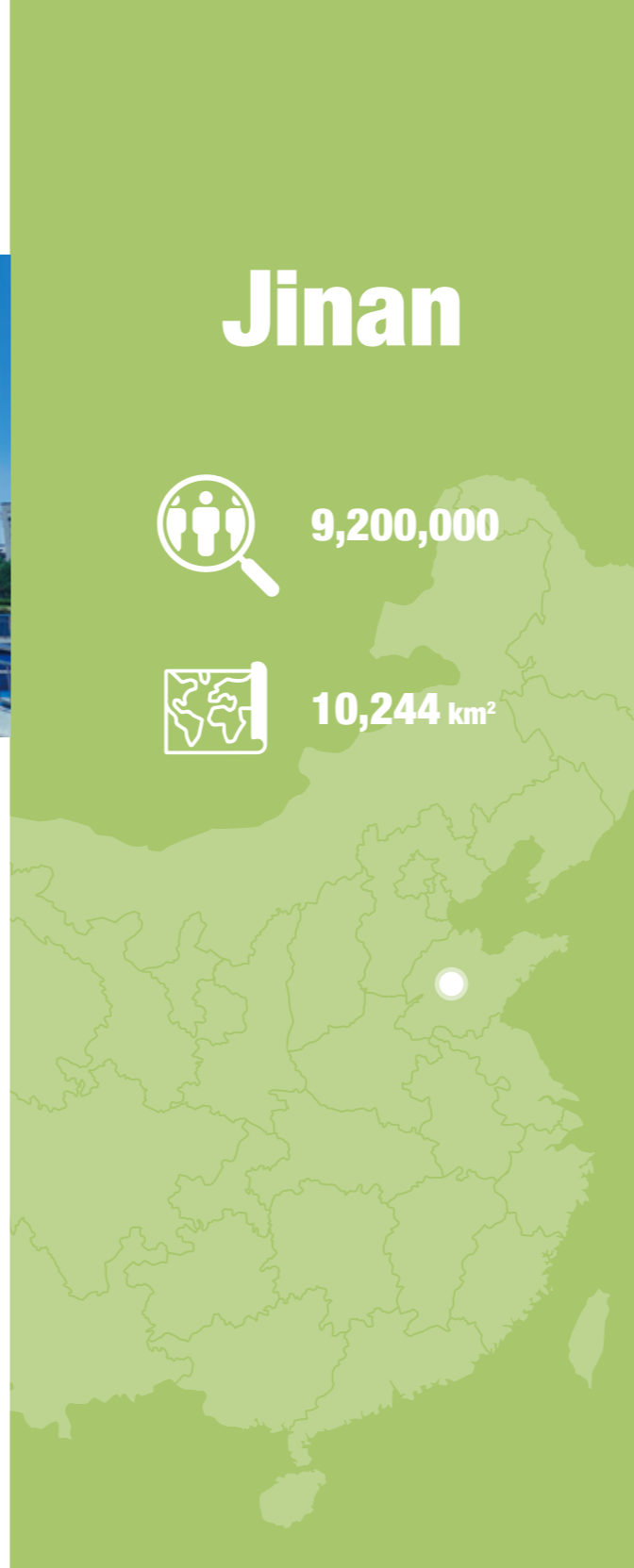
Jinan



9,200,000



10,244 km²



Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Tourism, Culture and Creativity

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Jinan will grasp the opportunity of China-Europe policy cooperation and communicate actively with more European cities.

Jinan will increase the functions and coverage of China-Europe Railway Express (Jinan), speed up the construction of the 4F Jinan Yaoqiang International Airport, launch more airlines to European countries, so as to facilitate smoother communications with Europe communication.

Jinan will promote bilateral investment, encourage leading enterprises to expand markets, set up commodity exhibition & trading centres and overseas warehouses, and increase the import and export of competitive commodities.

Jinan will strengthen mutual interactions, promote the establishment of sister cities, and facilitate exchanges and cooperation in economy, trade and culture.

Jinan will enhance cultural exchanges, actively bid for Sino-European conferences, develop a regular exhibition mechanism, and attract more international conferences to settle permanently in the city.

Jinan will strengthen its open platforms. The city is planning to create a China-Europe (Jinan) green manufacturing industrial park, which will showcase economic and trade achievements and serve as a pilot demonstration area for China-Europe industrial cooperation.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Qingdao is an important central city on China's eastern seaboard, located on the west coast of the Pacific Ocean and the shore of the Yellow Sea. It is also a popular tourist destination, an international trading port, a national historical and cultural city, China's capital of sailing and a UNESCO City of Film. It has been rated one of the most economically vibrant, most beautiful and most pro-business cities in China. It boasts Qingdao Port, the world's 6th largest port and Jiaodong International Airport, a 4F international hub airport in Northeast Asia. It is home to several national innovation platforms such as the Pilot National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology (Qingdao) and the National Innovation

Center of High-Speed Train, as well as nearly half of China's marine science and technology talent and one-third of academicians in the marine field. Home-grown companies including Haier, Hisense, Tsingtao Beer and CRRC Sifang have won the city worldwide acclaim. In 2020, the GDP of Qingdao reached RMB 1.24 trillion, ranking 13th in China. Import and export value hit RMB 640.7 billion; utilized FDI was USD 5.85 billion. Over 7,000 foreign companies have invested in Qingdao. The city is trading with 216 countries and regions around the world and has friendly relations with 80 cities in 43 countries. Qingdao has been selected as the Most Attractive Chinese City for Foreign Professionals 10 times.

Qingdao



10,070,000



11,200 km²

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Tourism, Culture and Creativity

Education, jobs & skills, Innovation centres, business clusters

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

In the coming three years, Qingdao will uphold the cooperation theme of "communication, sharing, opening up and collaboration", and actively engage in industrial, economic and trade, people-to-people and cultural cooperation with EU countries.

The Sino-German Eco-park, EU Project Innovation Center and several other parks in the city help promote exchange and cooperation with EU businesses in such areas as machinery manufacturing, high-end chemical engineering, automobile, energy transition, and Industrial Internet.

Qingdao will continue to host events like Sino-European Entrepreneurs Summit and Qingdao Multinationals Summit, bolster the China-Europe Railway Express services and expand business interactions with Europe.

Qingdao will carry out people-to-people exchanges such as cooperative education programs, cultural and art exchanges, youth activities and sailing events on a regular basis, introducing the city to people in EU countries.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Zhengzhou, the capital of Henan Province, is located in the centre and hinterland of China. It is a strategic fulcrum city for the New Eurasian Continental Bridge, and a national central city highly supported by the central government.

Zhengzhou is a city with a profound culture. As one of the birthplaces of the Chinese nation, it has more than 8,000 years of Peiligang culture, more than 6,000 years of Dahe Village culture, more than 5,300 years of Yangshao culture, and more than 3,600 years of Shang Dynasty Wangcheng culture. Zhengzhou remains one of China's eight ancient capitals, and a renowned historical and cultural city.

Zhengzhou enjoys a prominent location with great connectivity. It is one of China's 12 highest-level interna-

tional transportation hubs. The "mi"-shaped (6 main arteries of China) high-speed rail has taken its form. Its 2-hour high-speed rail circle covers 400 million people in China, and the 2-hour aviation circle covers 90% of the country's population and market.

Zhengzhou is a city with a complete modern industrial foundation. Its six leading industries including electronic information develop alongside its modern service industry. The output of smart phones accounts for about 1/7 of the world volume, the output of Yutong buses accounts for about 1/8 of the total volume worldwide, and its frozen food accounts for more than 60% of the national market. The special-shaped shield of China Railway Shield Construction technology leads the world, and the "Zhengzhou Price" of futures trading at the Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange has a global impact.

Zhengzhou



12,600,000



7,567.9 km²

Nature Based Solutions for Circular Cities and Regions

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Agrofood Chain, Foods Systems

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Tourism, Culture and Creativity

Education, jobs & skills, Innovation centres, business clusters

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies (RIS 4)

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Multi-level communication. Zhengzhou hopes to strengthen high-level visits, jointly hold economic and trade match-making activities, attract European institutions, associations and enterprises to set up offices in the city, strengthen academic exchanges and project cooperation with renowned European universities and international educational institutions, cultivate and recruit global talents, and enhance tourism cooperation and exchanges.

Technological innovation. Zhengzhou looks forward to deepening scientific and technological cooperation among innovation centers, scientific research institutions, universities and small and medium-sized enterprises, jointly building R&D centers, research institutes and branch offices, and participating in international research and development collaboration.

Industrial cooperation. The city hopes to enhance cooperation with Europe in equipment manufacturing, food processing, modern agriculture, energy conservation, environmental protection, international finance, and new-generation information technology. It also looks forward to developing industrial parks together with European counterparts.

Logistics and transportation. Zhengzhou hopes to work with European cities to open new air freight routes, expand the China-Europe freight train network, and build warehouses, logistics bases, distribution centers, so as to establish a multimodal transport system spanning Asia and Europe.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Wuhan is the capital of Hubei Province, a national central city under construction, as well as a core city of the Yangtze River Economic Belt. It has 13 administrative districts and 3 state-level development zones. In 2020, the city's GDP was RMB 1.56 trillion,

ranking 9th in China. In the first three quarters of 2021, its GDP stood at RMB 1.23 trillion, up 18.8% year on year and up 6.4% from the same period of 2019.

Wuhan



12,326,500



8,569.1 km²

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Urban Agendas/planning, SUD Strategies, public space, urban model

Tourism, Culture and Creativity

Education, jobs & skills, Innovation centres, business clusters

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Strengthening governmental exchanges and cooperation. Wuhan will advance regular high-level visits, establish sister city or friendly city relationship with an EU city every year, and strive to attract more international institutions and liaison offices from EU countries to settle down in Wuhan.

Enhancing trade and investment cooperation. Wuhan will dispatch 400 China-Europe Railway Express (Wuhan) annually, launch more air routes to Europe, construct the Sino-French Wuhan Ecological Demonstration City and Sino-German Wuhan International Industrial Park, attract more renowned EU enterprises to set up headquarters or second headquarters in the city, and deepen engineering cooperation with EU cities to promote the "Wuhan Architecture" brand.

Deepening cooperation in scientific and technological innovation. Wuhan will accelerate the development of the European Enterprise Service Network Huazhong Center (EENCC) and the China-EU Institute for Clean and Renewable Energy (ICARE), and explore cooperation with the EU in sustainable development, low carbon industries, clean production, energy conservation, environmental protection, and smart city.

Facilitating people-to-people cooperation. Wuhan will push forward its collaboration with the EU in tourist exchange, product promotion and market interaction, and carry out elementary education cooperation with the EU by building a number of friendship schools. It also plans to share its experience in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, and exchange ideas on public health, so as to build a community of common health with the EU region.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Located on the west bank of the Xiangjiang River, Hunan Xiangjiang New Area is the first state-level new area in central China with approval from the State Council. Since its establishment, its GDP has increased from RMB 160.25 billion in 2015 to RMB 251.132 billion in 2020, with an average annual growth rate of 9.1%, which ranks the 7th among all

national new areas. Its industry pattern has taken form, which consists of intelligent equipment, intelligent connected vehicle, intelligent terminal and power chip. Its competitive industries such as construction machinery, energy storage materials, modern finance, big data and health care are developing rapidly.

Hunan Xiangjiang New Area



2,514,900



1,200 km²

Nature Based Solutions for Circular Cities and Regions

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Urban Agendas/planning, SUD Strategies, public space, urban model

Tourism, Culture and Creativity

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies (RIS 4)

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Relying on its strategic positioning, advanced manufacturing foundation and excellent ecological environment, Xiangjiang New Area will take "Innovation and Sustainable Development" as its theme, and work with European countries in areas such as intelligent manufacturing, cultural tourism, health care, and smart city. Thus, the city strives to build clusters of an emerging industry, develop industrial ecosystems, speed up the growth of digital and real economy, and stimulate innovation to shape a new cooperation pattern that is healthy, shared, coordinated and innovative.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Guangzhou Development District (GDD) is located at the mouth of the Pearl River, in the east of Guangzhou, the central city of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. It is among the first batch of 14 national development zones in China and is integrated with Guangzhou High-tech Zone and Guangzhou Huangpu District. In 2020, GDD achieved a GDP of RMB 366.267 billion, an increase of 4.1%,

and its total tax revenue exceeded RMB 130 billion, an increase of 11.6%. The total industrial output of enterprises above designated size exceeded RMB 800 billion, making it the top three among the top 100 industrial zones in the country in 2020. It won the United Nations Investment Promotion Award in 2019.

As the birthplace of China's ancient Maritime Silk Road

and the gateway of Guangdong to the outside world, GDD has always been committed to international exchanges and cooperation. It has established economic and trade relations with more than 100 countries and regions around the world. Currently, more than 2,300 multinational companies have settled down here, with a total foreign investment of USD 30.8 billion. Seven pillar industries, namely next-generation information technology, automobile manufacturing, high-end chemical engineering, bio-pharmaceuticals, new energy, new materials, food and beverage have taken shape in the district.

GDD actively promotes China-EU Regional Policy Cooperation, China-Singapore Bilateral Cooperation, China-Israel High-tech Cooperation, and China-Saudi Arabia Production Cooperation, opening to comprehensively open up to the outside world.

Guangzhou Development Zone



1,320,000



484 km²

Nature Based Solutions for Circular Cities and Regions

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Education, jobs & skills, Innovation centres, business clusters

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies (RIS 4)

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Information technology. GDD focuses on the research, development and commercialization of achievements in IT, automobiles, new materials, and new energy sectors, and expands cooperation in industrial transformation and upgrading.

Technological R&D and innovation. GDD promotes collaborative R&D efforts with Europe, strives to establish an innovation network, and facilitates SME incubation and technological innovation. At the same time, it learns from the science and technology subsidy model of Guangzhou Development Zone and introduces outstanding European start-up projects to deepen China-EU cooperation in science and technology.

Green growth and new energy development. GDD hopes to work with Europe in the new energy sector including hydrogen, and to learn from, and test the European concepts, technologies and mature systems in energy conservation and emissions reduction, so as to develop itself into a model of green, low-carbon and circular development.

Intellectual property (IP). GDD wishes to work with relevant EU agencies in intellectual property, especially on value-added services such as professional IP consulting services, IP asset evaluation, and IP pledge loans.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Liuzhou, located in southwest China, is a charming city with over 2,000 years of history. This cultural and historical city is a popular tourist destination. Thanks to its picturesque landscape, profound history, cultural heritage and sound environment, Liuzhou is famed as the most beautiful industrial city in China.

Liuzhou is a major transportation hub in China, connecting the central-south and southwest regions.

As an important land channel towards ASEAN, Liuzhou forms a modern transportation network of railways, motorways, waterways and airlines. Through the Guangdong-Guangxi-Chongqing-Xinjiang-Europe railway network, Liuzhou exports to Europe via Changsha, Wuhan, Zhengzhou, Guilin, Chongqing and Xinjiang. It also connects to Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao ports. Open platforms such as the Guangxi Free Trade Zone, China-EU Regional Policy Cooperation, and integrated large port have provided Liuzhou with unprecedented opportunities to work with European cities.

Liuzhou



4,160,000



18,596 km²

Nature Based Solutions for Circular Cities and Regions

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Urban Agendas/planning, SUD Strategies, public space, urban model

Tourism, Culture and Creativity

Education, jobs & skills, Innovation centres, business clusters

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

In the coming three years, Liuzhou will continue expanding its cooperation with European cities, focus on developing a smart and green city, new energy, industry 4.0 and vocational education to attract foreign investment, encourage local enterprises to go global, and form an open and win-win situation through bilateral cooperation.

Furthermore, Liuzhou will enhance exchanges with the Barcelona Municipal Government and its planning agencies, so as to carry out the joint project of innovation district between Liuzhou and Barcelona. Meanwhile, Liuzhou will strengthen its collaboration with Europe in the field of advanced manufacturing and invite leading high-tech enterprises as well as SMEs from Europe to settle in Liudong New Area for the Chinese market.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Haikou, also known as the Coconut City, is located in the north of the Hainan Island. As the capital city of Hainan Province, Haikou is the center of politics, economy, science, technology and culture, and the transport hub.

Dating back to more than 1,000 years ago, Haikou is the "state-level city of historical and cultural heritage". Its unique location, a major portal opening to the Pacific and Indian oceans, makes it possible to reach 59 countries and 67% of the world population through an eight-hour flight. With first-class ecology and environment, Haikou's forest coverage rate is at 38.47%, its green area accounts for 42.7% of the

built-up area, and its share of days with good and excellent air quality stables at about 99% all year round. It is one of the first "International Wetland Cities" globally and China's first pilot city of "World Healthy City". With solid industrial foundation, Haikou focuses on tourism, modern service industry and high-tech industry. 70% of the province's high-tech enterprises and corporate headquarters are registered in Haikou, whose gross product accounts for one-third of the provincial total. Haikou enjoys favorable policies as a free trade port, especially regarding taxation and free cross-border flow of trade, investment, capital, personnel, logistics and data.

Haikou



2,870,000



2,289 km²

Nature Based Solutions for Circular Cities and Regions

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Agrofood Chain, Foods Systems

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Urban Agendas/planning, SUD Strategies, public space, urban model

Tourism, Culture and Creativity

Education, jobs & skills, Innovation centres, business clusters

Regional Innovation & Smart and Sustainable Specialization Strategies (RIS 4)

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Haikou will focus on innovation, sustainable development, carbon neutrality, ecological transformation and green development in its collaboration with Europe.

Tourism and culture. Haikou will make use of its rich natural and cultural resources and favorable free trade policies to work with Europe on tourism and culture.

Education, employment and skill training. Haikou will, under special policy support, seek to carry out cooperative education programs, vocational training and talent exchange activities with Europe.

Healthcare and life science. Taking Haikou High Tech Zone as a major platform, Haikou will work with Europe in the fields of medicine, healthcare and life science.

Sustainable development and carbon neutrality. Haikou will collaborate with Europe in new energy, eco-restoration, and carbon neutralization fields.

Green development and urban renewal. Haikou will focus its cooperation with Europe on environmental protection, green development, sustainable agriculture and urban renewal.

Digital transition and smart city. As Haikou is building a smart city, it will exchange and work with Europe in digital transformation and smart city.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Chongqing Liangjiang New Area, approved by the State Council in 2010, is the first national new area in inland China, and the third nationwide. It is ramping up efforts to become a gateway of the inland region for openness and a smart city in Chongqing.

In 2020, the GDP of Liangjiang New Area reached RMB 367.5 billion. It has attracted more than 160 Fortune 500 enterprises, and its total foreign trade and foreign capital make up over one-third of Chongqing City.

Liangjiang New Area has now formed a "2+2+2" modern industrial system, consisting of TWO hundreds-of-billion-level pillar industries (automobiles and electronic information), TWO cultivation pillar industries (high-end equipment and biomedicine), and TWO integration industries (scientific and technological innovation and modern services).

Featuring "Half Nature and Half City", Liangjiang New Area is oriented towards "ecological priority and green development", with 650 square kilometers of water, mountains and natural areas. More than 100 ecological parks, urban green parks, and wetland landscapes allow residents to "see green vegetation outside their doors and walk to a park within 7 minutes". The "City with 100 Parks" has taken shape.

Liangjiang New Area is the heartland of the China-Singapore (Chongqing) Demonstration Initiative on Strategic Connectivity and the Chongqing Pilot Free Trade Zone. At present, six international cooperation industrial parks have been established, including Sino-Germany Industrial Park, Sino-Swiss Technopark, and Sino-Italian Industrial Park, making the area a magnet for international schools, hospitals and communities.

Chongqing Liangjiang New Area



3,290,000



1,200 km²

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Tourism, Culture and Creativity

Education, jobs & skills, Innovation centres,
business clusters

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

High-end manufacturing. Liangjiang New Area will work to introduce manufacturers of new energy vehicles and spare parts and strive to export locally produced new energy vehicles and heavy-duty trucks to Europe. Biomedicine: the new area aims at attracting leading European medical device manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies to set up factories and R&D centers in Chongqing.

Scientific and technological innovation. Institutions from Europe are welcome to settle in Chongqing for cooperation projects, branch offices and talent exchanges.

High-end service sector. Liangjiang New Area plans to develop headquarters economy, industrial design, high-end hotels, cultural tourism, catering, healthcare and finance by expanding the service industry pilot and building an international consumption center, with the "Cuntan International New City" project as the main carrier.

Logistics and trade. Liangjiang New Area will give full play to the advantages of the China-Europe Train (Chongqing-Xinjiang-Europe), New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, the Yangtze River Golden Waterway and other channels to promote trade between Chongqing and Europe, set up overseas warehouses on both sides and encourage European exporters to set up distribution centers in Chongqing.

Exchange and cooperation. Liangjiang New Area encourages the establishment of friendship cities or friendly cooperation regions, with efforts to jointly build industrial parks and co-organize international forums and events.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Chengdu, located in Southwestern China, is one of the top ten ancient capitals in China. The city boasts a history of over 2,300 years and enjoys the reputation of the "land of abundance" throughout history. It is home to a wealth of world natural and cultural heritage sites, including Qingcheng Mountain, Dujiangyan water conservancy project, and giant panda habitat, together with a myriad of intangible cultural heritage such as Sichuan Opera, Shu embroidery and Sichuan cuisine. Not surprisingly, it's crowned as the best tourist city in China and the

world's culinary capital. It has topped the rankings of the "Happiest Cities in China" for 12 years in a row. The city has a GDP of over EUR 246 billion in 2020. It is known as the fourth largest aviation center in China and one of the five China-Europe Railway Express hubs. It's designated as the national science center and pilot free trade zone with its well-developed industries in electronic information, car manufacturing, food and beverage, equipment manufacturing and biomedicine.

Chengdu



20,900,000



14,300 km²

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Tourism, Culture and Creativity

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Promoting local cooperation between China and EU. The Business & Innovation Centre for China-Europe Cooperation (CCEC) strives to be the preferred platform for European cities to set up presence and business in China by providing customized incentives and services.

Trade and logistics. Chengdu works to establish designated airlines for Europe so as to further increase the number of direct cargo flights. It also strengthens government-to-government and business-to-business cooperation with European cities on the route of the China-Europe Railway Express and builds overseas warehouses for cross-border e-commerce.

Culture and tourism. Chengdu will set up a regular cultural exchange framework to shows and exhibitions in partner cities. It will promote tourism resources, attract tourism projects and explore the opening of China-Europe travel trains.

Climate change and energy transition. Chengdu pursues collaboration with European cities for projects concerning carbon peaking and carbon neutrality, and promotes cooperation in hydrogen energy, and new energy vehicles.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Kunming, the provincial capital of Yunnan Province, is a political, economic, financial, cultural, scientific, technological and educational center in Southwest China. It is also a transportation and communication hub as well as China's gateway to South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Southern Europe and Africa. Its average annual temperature is about 15°C. Flowers bloom and plants are green all year round, making Kunming the famous "City of Eternal Spring" and "Flower City", ideal for leisure, tourism, vacation and residence. Kunming is rich in natural resources.

It has the second largest phosphate reserves in the world and the second largest salt reserves in inland China. It also has rich iron, titanium, copper and other mineral resources. The local biodiversity is diverse, with over 1,200 species of wild plants and more than 460 species of flowers. Kunming has a human habitation history of over 30,000 years, central Yunnan culture of over 2,400 years and city history of over 1,250 years. History, ethnic culture, religion, urban fashion, and border culture coexist here.

Kunming



8,460,000



21,000 km²

Nature Based Solutions for Circular Cities and Regions

Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Tourism, Culture and Creativity

Education, jobs & skills, Innovation centres, business clusters

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Kunming looks forward to extensive cooperation in new materials, big health and digital economy, whilst seeking new opportunities in healthcare, education, scientific research, culture and sports exchanges.

New materials. Relying on its precious metal research institute, which ranks first in China, Kunming aims at building a hundred-billion scale new material industrial chain.

Culture and tourism. Giving full play to the unique climate, history and culture, the city will develop cultural tourism and biomedicine, turning itself into an "International Healthcare City".

Digital economy. Kunming will work with smart EU cities to develop clusters of digital industries, including intelligence, chips and optics.

Education. Kunming will introduce high-quality educational resources from Europe for cooperative education programs.

Traditional Chinese medicine. Kunming will carry out international exchanges of traditional Chinese medical culture and introduce multi-disciplinary clinical research.

Ecological conservation. Kunming will conduct joint research and application in the fields of environmental protection, solid waste treatment, application of new energy, information and communication, machinery manufacturing, metal processing, artificial intelligence and utilization of renewable resources.

Kunming will carry out exchanges of culture, art, sports and facility construction.



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General Socio-economic Profile

Xi'an has been accredited as the 9th National Center City of China, and its GDP reached RMB 10 trillion in 2020. Xi'an is well connected as a global air and land transportation hub. Its Xianyang International Airport is the 2nd largest in Northern China. Xi'an has abundant scientific innovation resources. It's among the

first pilots for IP commercialization and is also a Top 10 Innovative City. Xi'an embraces frequent international exchanges, having established sister-city relationships with 38 cities from 30 countries, including 14 European cities. Xi'an has attracted investment from 242 of the Global 500 companies.

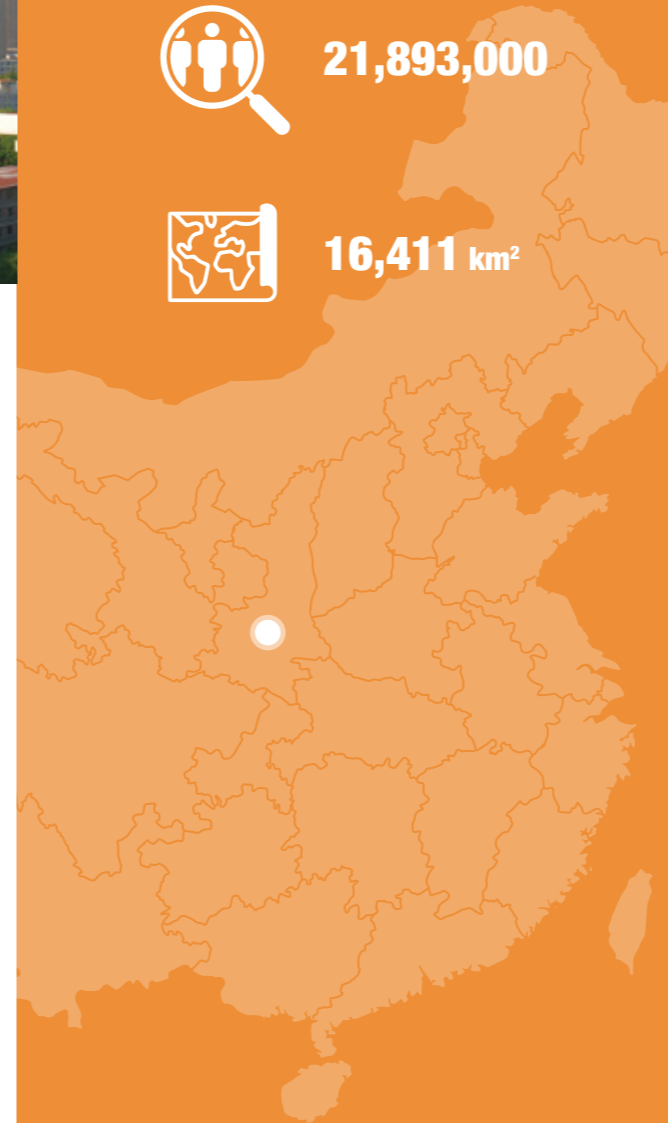
Xi'an



21,893,000



16,411 km²



Technologies 4.0, Industry 5.0 & Digital Economy

Tourism, Culture and Creativity

Education, jobs & skills, Innovation centres, business clusters

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

Xi'an plans to grasp the opportunity of EU-China Regional Policy Cooperation for various new collaborative efforts and comprehensive growth and seek to create a new model of Sino-EU cooperation at the local level.

Xi'an pays attention to building land and air transportation hubs that promote trade and logistics for commerce and industrial chains.

The city will further construct international cooperation parks and facilitate the concentration of high-end equipment manufacturers and automakers for wide-ranging cooperation.

Xi'an will make full use of platforms such as the Euro-Asia Economic Forum to explore new modes of economic and cultural exchange, and to establish sister-city relationships with European countries.

Scientific and technological innovation. Xi'an will intensify scientific innovation cooperation with Europe through joint research and development, staff training, and commercialization of research findings.