



# Università Ca'Foscari Venezia

**PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE:** MEDIUM - New pathways for sustainable urban development in China's medium-sized cities

**FUNDING PROGRAMME:** Europeaid

**CALL:** EuropeAid/135-587/DD/ACT/Multi

**SCIENTIFIC FIELD:** Sustainable development, rural migration management, urban growth and employability

**HOST DEPARTMENT/CENTRE:** ECLT - European Centre for Living Technologies

**SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE:** Prof.ssa Irene Poli

**FINANCIAL DATA:**

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 1.002.899,98	€ 179.215,53

## ABSTRACT:

The Chinese city-building strategy is currently undergoing a shift. The 'National New-type Urbanization Plan' announced in March 2014 sets out to promote urbanisation as a main driver of the country's economic growth. By 2020, medium-sized cities are likely to receive a large number of rural migrants due to the forthcoming gradual deregulation of the hukou system. If managed well, urban growth in these cities may allow innovative ideas to emerge, and so give rise to new job opportunities and alternative models of urban development. Therefore, medium-sized cities should not replicate the experience of megacities but turn instead towards new governance approaches and instruments to achieve sustainable development in accordance with their size and distinctive demographic transition. This project focuses on the economic and social dimensions of urban sustainability. It aims at building the capacity of local governments of medium cities to develop socio-technical innovations and meet the challenge of rural migrant integration. More specifically, four main goals are targeted:

- to get accurate quantitative and qualitative knowledge of socioeconomic characteristics of medium cities;
- to foster cross-fertilization of ideas and bring stakeholders' input into urban governance;
- to build long-term cooperative networks between European and Chinese universities and train young experts in the understanding of Chinese cities;
- to identify new business opportunities for EU companies.

The action will take place in three medium-sized cities representative of the diversity of urban profiles encountered in China, i.e. Hangzhou, Datong, and Hohhot. In each city, a four-step process will be carried out throughout the life of the project:

1. Network data analysis highlighting the distinctive economic and social profile of the city and their

insertion into economic, scientific and innovative networks (deliverables: internal report, maps, graphs and charts).

2. A seminar gathering social scientists from various disciplines to perform an assessment and evaluation of local urban policies based on comparisons and cross-analyses of Chinese and European experiences (deliverable: internal synthesis report);

3. A stakeholder workshop involving city officials, local industry, planners and architects, in which participants exchange views on the project team's assessment and evaluation results. Participants will also express their visions of sustainability (deliverable: internal synthesis report);

4. A conference establishing a dialogue between academic, political and economic communities, based on the reports delivered in the three previous phases (deliverables: a report synthesizing results from the three previous deliverables and a focused report for EU companies, both for external use).

At the end of the period, the project team will organize a conference in Brussels, in collaboration with the Eurochambers, to present the results of the project to European companies. Sponsorship from national chambers of commerce and firms will be sought.

A particular emphasis will be put on the dissemination of the results. We will organize a dedicated panel at the 2016 IGU congress in Beijing. Our reports will be disseminated to the European business community through the diplomatic and consular chamber channels. We will also create a dedicated website to keep stakeholders informed on our actions and outputs.

<b>Planned Start date</b>	<b>Planned End date</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> September 2015</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> August 2018</b>

#### **PARTNERSHIP:**

<b>1</b>	<b>Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique</b>	<b>Paris (FR)</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Ca' Foscari University of Venice</b>	<b>Venezia (IT)</b>	<b>Partner</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Hangzhou Normal University</b>	<b>Hangzhou (CHINA)</b>	<b>Partner</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Institut d'Etudes Politiques d' Aix-en-Provence</b>	<b>Aix-en-Provence (FR)</b>	<b>Partner</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Spatial Foresight GmbH</b>	<b>Heisdorf (LU)</b>	<b>Partner</b>

**WEBSITE:** available from 2016