

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT
between
The National Natural Science Foundation of China
and
The Directorate-General for Research of the European Commission
to implement Coordinated Calls

Considering the *Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the People's Republic of China* signed in December 1998 and last renewed in December 2009, taking account of the discussions at the 8th meeting of the Steering Committee set up under the above mentioned Agreement held in Beijing on the 10th of November 2009, the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Directorate-General for Research of the European Commission (DG RTD) are planning to launch research projects in specific research areas of common interest.

Objective and Scope

The two sides intend to implement Coordinated Calls. NSFC and the European Commission will jointly select specific research areas of common interest in which coordinated calls are expected to be launched. For this purpose they will consult, if necessary, scientific experts from Europe and China and they may consider organising joint events, such as workshops. The selected research area(s) will be integral parts of their respective research programmes.

The Coordinated Calls will lead to projects to be financed by the European Union and by the NSFC.

The first coordinated call(s) will be launched as soon as possible. Each side will publish the call(s) for proposals following their rules and regulations.

Both sides will agree on the budgetary resources devoted to each coordinated call, on the indicative size and duration of the projects to be funded and on the expected timeframe for launching the projects.

The NSFC and DG RTD will regularly consult each other on the implementation of the projects. The Steering Committee of the S&T Agreement will be regularly informed on the content and implementation of the coordinated call(s), on the provisional budget, and the approximate number, size and duration of the foreseen projects.

Evaluation and selection of projects

The proposal presented in response to the calls should contain the research to be carried out by all participants. The evaluation panels will be composed of independent experts from the EU and China. All costs in relation with the evaluation of proposals presented in response to the European Union call will be covered by the EU.

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To be eligible, a proposal will have to meet the requirements set out in the call for proposals to which it responds. It is desirable that proposals are balanced, both in terms of number of partners and in terms of manpower devoted to the research projects by each side.

The Evaluation Panels will draw up ranking lists with the proposals which have successfully passed the evaluation. Both sides will follow the order of the ranking list in their respective decision processes, in accordance with their respective laws and procedures.

Contracting and start of the closely-coordinated project(s)

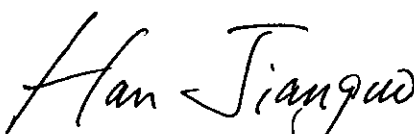
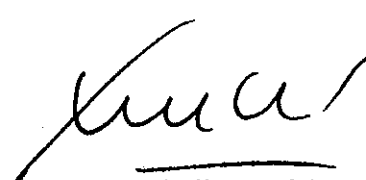
The selected projects will start after the signature with the European Commission of the Grant Agreement (GA) by the European participants and of the signature of the NSFC contract by the Chinese participants. The Grant Agreement and the NSFC contract will have a technical annex, describing the research to be carried out.

The participants in the projects from both sides will be invited to sign a Coordination Agreement (CA) between them, which will address concrete management issues that may arise during the projects implementation, as well as their agreements on Intellectual Property Rights issues.

Each side will fund its participants.

The present administrative arrangement does not create obligations binding under international law.

Done in duplicate in Brussels on 26 March 2010.

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