



# **CO-REACH**

***Co-ordination of Research  
between Europe and China***

# An ERA-NET Co-ordination Action

## The ERA-NET Scheme:

- An instrument of the European Commission's Sixth Framework Programme (FP6)
- Aimed at supporting the bottom-up co-ordination of national research programmes within Europe: Building the European Research Area
- Open to participation by research funding organisations: Ministries, research councils, academies; *not* research performing institutions



# The CO-REACH Application

- *Initial brainstorming: April 2004*
- *Application submitted: October 2004*
- *Application evaluation: January 2005*
- *CO-REACH launch: May 2005*
- *Duration: 5 years: 01/05/2005 to 31/04/2010*
- *Support from the European Commission (ERA-NET scheme) for management and co-ordination activities only (not research funding)*
- *Started with 12 Partners and 7 Observers*



# **WHAT: The Main Goal of CO-REACH**

*To launch one or two new European funding programmes of research co-operation with China on topics that are of mutual interest and priority to both Europe and China*

# WHY: CO-REACH Objectives

## *1. Contribute to building the European Research Area (ERA) by coordinating bilateral programmes of research co-operation with China*

- Within individual European countries
- Between European countries
- Between European countries and supra-national European organisations (e.g. the European Commission)

Co-ordination: Promoting regular information-sharing and increasing levels of practical co-operation/collaboration



## **Objectives (continued)**

### ***2. Strengthen the international dimension of the ERA by:***

- Organising the exchange of trans-national programme information, expertise and best practice
- Using this information to provide a single information gateway to European S&T for Chinese organisations and researchers
- Developing a generic protocol for setting up new trans-national programmes of research co-operation with countries outside of Europe



## **Objectives (continued)**

### ***3. Strengthen S&T relations between Europe and China by:***

- Enlarging the CO-REACH consortium's European membership
- Building a strong partnership between CO-REACH and all its Chinese counterparts
- Bringing together critical financial/scientific mass for the support of new European programmes of research co-operation with China
- Securing increased levels of support for bilateral programmes of research co-operation with China



## **Objectives (continued)**

### ***4. Contribute to strategic and coherent policy-making on European research co-operation with China by:***

- Bringing together national and international expertise in this field
- Initiating and/or participating in relevant policy discussions about critical research needs and priorities, challenges and opportunities, in both Europe and China





## **Objectives (continued)**

- 5. Lay the foundations for long lasting co-operation between CO-REACH partners and thus securing the future development of CO-REACH beyond April 2010*

# HOW: CO-REACH Work Packages



- ***6 WPs covering:***
  - management activities of the network: WP1
  - co-ordination activities: WP2 to WP6
- ***Spread over 5 years***
- ***Designed to build on one another and thus cultivate increasing levels of practical co-operation and collaboration between***
- ***CO-REACH partners***
- ***Each WP consists of several tasks***
- ***All CO-REACH partners involved as:***
  - WP Leaders; or
  - Task Leaders
- ***All CO-REACH observers encouraged to participate in all WP tasks***



# Work Packages (continued)

## *WP Leaders:*

- *WP1: KNAW, Netherlands*
- *WP2: CNRS, France*
- *WP3: RCN, Norway*
- *WP4: RS, United Kingdom*
- *WP5: BMBF, Germany*
- *WP6: BA, United Kingdom*

# **WP1: Building and maintaining the foundations of the CO-REACH network**

- ***Build and maintain the network's internal management structures, systems and processes:***

- Governance system
- CO-REACH Secretariat
- Communications policy
- Quality assurance
- Reporting to the European Commission

- ***Enlarge the CO-REACH consortium***

- ***Build a partnership with Chinese counterpart organisations***

- ***Establish wider international networks for CO-REACH***

- ***Coordinate CO-REACH activities with those of supra-national organisations***



# **WP2: Mapping & benchmarking European bilateral programmes with China**


- Provide a comprehensive overview of the nature, scope and content of the network's bilateral programmes with China*
- Benchmark programme management systems and identify best practice choices*
- To keep programme information updated and make it available to European and Chinese S&T policymakers, programme officers and researchers via an online directory*

# **WP3: Preparing for trans-national co-operation and collaboration between CO-REACH partners**

- Analyse complementarities and differences between the network's various bilateral programmes with China*
- Identify practical opportunities for future co-operation and collaboration between CO-REACH partners*
- Identify potential barriers to such co-operation and collaboration, and develop solutions for them*
- Develop a generic protocol for setting up and managing future European programmes with China*

# WP4: Realising trans-national co-operation and collaboration

- *Organise the sharing of programme resources*
- *Develop joint activities and linkages between clusters of bilateral programmes*
- *Organise 2 S&T events in order to:*
  - Promote the networking of European and Chinese researchers participating in the network's various bilateral programmes
  - Secure researchers' input in CO-REACH plans to set up new European programmes with China
- *Formulate a plan of action for launching and implementing new European programmes*



# **WP5: Launching one/two new European research programmes with China**

- Draft and conclude co-operation agreements with Chinese counterpart organisations*
- Launch new European pilot programmes of research co-operation with China (using national budgets)*
- Evaluate the pilot programmes and make recommendations for launching the main phase of these programmes*



# **WP6: Anchoring the CO-REACH network**



- Draft and conclude co-operation agreements with Chinese counterpart organisations*
- Launch new European pilot programmes of research co-operation with China (using national budgets)*
- Evaluate the pilot programmes and make recommendations for launching the main phase of these programmes*

# WHO: CO-REACH Governance



- *Board: All partners, chaired by the President of the KNAW*
- *Executive Board: Partners leading WPs*
- *Management Team: Actual WP Leaders*
- *Advisory Group: External experts*
- *Secretariat: Scientific Secretary; Management Assistant & ICT Officer*
- *WP Leaders and Task Groups*

# Conclusions



- *An (expanding) European network*
- *Driven by a common interest: S&T co-operation with China*
- *Facing two main challenges:*
  - Realising successful co-ordination at the European level
  - Building a strong partnership with our Chinese counterparts