

‘16+1 Cooperation’ and its Prospect’ Conference

The China-Croatia Think Tanks Forum

Time: 8 April, 2019

Location: Zagreb School of Economics and Management

Sponsors: Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Zagreb School of Economics and Management

Organizers: 16+1 Think Tanks Network, Institute of European Studies CASS, Zagreb University of Economics and Management

First Panel: 16+1 Cooperation Framework: Development and Prospects

10:50 am to 11:05 am

Nataša Marić, Sanel Jakupović: China and Developmental Security in Central and Eastern Europe: Why do weak Institutions work?

Speech by

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Zagreb, April 8, 2019

Dear Secretary General of 16+1 Think Tank Networks, Professor *Liu Zuokui*
Distinguished Vice President of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences *Mr. Wang Jingqing*
Distinguished Director General of Institute of European Studies, CASS, *Mr. Huang Ping*,
Appreciated dean of Zagreb School of Economics and Management *Mr. Đuro Njavro*,
Dear professors, scholars and colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to be here today in the wake of high-level state visits and give a scholarly contribution to the fast growing cooperation between our countries.

The Cooperation between Peoples Republic of China and the 16 Central and Eastern European countries is successfully practiced and has become institutionalized. Institutionalized cooperation always reassures both parties, or in this case multiple parties, of sincere and concrete common interests.

Our question is “Why”?

Why is the cooperation between China and 16 CEE countries successfully practiced and institutionalized? Ted Hopf proved elsewhere that it is the features of cooperation that mitigate conflict. Therefore we took to explore in depth the nature of the Platform “16+1” and its features.

Not only did we discover that its ‘weak’/loose structure is perhaps more effective than strong international institutions, but we also came to the conclusion that this type of cooperation also mitigates conflict in Central and Eastern Europe. This is particularly seen in the Chinese initiative to finance regional infrastructural projects.

In our view the Cooperation is practiced at the highest levels between our governments, among our companies and between us as Scholars because both the People’s Republic of China and the 16 CEE countries have one common goal in particular: Developmental Security.

Even though there are large political, economic and social differences among our countries, securing development and projecting outcomes is on everyone’s agenda.

So far we have discovered that this is because the “16+1”Agenda is practical, it is based upon voluntary participation for the sake of everyone’s developmental Security.

I will now allow my colleague Nataša Marić to introduce to you our research and findings.

Thank you.

Prof.dr.sc. Sanel Jakupović