



## Workshop

### Thinking strategically about China's Overseas NGO Law: Towards civil society inclusion in EU-China relations?

28 September 2018

11.00 – 17.00 h

BBE, Michaelkirchstr. 17-18, 10179 Berlin

China's Overseas NGO Law came into effect on 1 January 1, 2017, stipulating that any group wishing to operate in China must register with public security officials. Foreign NGOs must refrain from engaging in political or religious activities or acting in a way that damages »China's national interests« or »ethnic unity«.

The workshop »*Thinking strategically about China's Overseas NGO Law: Towards a 'civil society compact' in EU-China relations?*«, co-organised by the German Network for Civil Society (BBE) and the Asia Research Institute of the University of Nottingham, will look closer at the impacts and affects this law has on the work of European NGOs and foundations operating in China and/or with Chinese partner organisations.

In the morning session Dr Fulda, Dr Fabian, Ms Macbean and Dr Schroeder will present preliminary findings from the Ford Foundation-funded research project »Monitoring the implementation of China's Overseas NGO Law: The view from Europe« (1 October 2017 - 31 December 2018). The project team will share key insights from their series of in-depth interviews with European NGO leaders in Germany, UK, Netherlands, France, Sweden, and Italy.

The following leading questions will guide the workshop proceedings:

- What are the intended and unintended impacts of China's Overseas NGO Law for European NGOs and their Chinese partners? Are there general trends or relevant differences of impact?
- Which strategic options have been considered by European NGOs and are crystallizing? To what extent can European NGOs learn from coping strategies of NGOs in other countries with closing civil society spaces?
- Many interviewed NGOs suggest that they perceive a paradigmatic change in Chinese civil society cooperation strategies in terms of insecurity, erosion of trust, shrinking spaces and less meaningful, authentic dialogue and cooperation. Is there a willingness among European NGOs to get involved beyond already established global arenas in either multilateral EU-China relations or the bilateral relations between individual European member states and China? If so, what could be the architecture of cooperation between civil society and European governments?

## Draft Programme

- 10.30**      **Registration**
- 11.00**      **Welcome**  
*Dr. Ansgar Klein, Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement*
- 11.05**      **Introduction**  
*Dr. Andreas Fulda, University of Nottingham*
- 11.15**      **Keynote-Input:**  
EU-China Cooperation and the Role of Civil Society  
*Reinhard Bütikofer, MEP, Delegation to the People's Republic of China (tbc)*
- 11.45**      **Presentation and Discussion:**  
Findings from the research project »Monitoring the implementation of  
China's Overseas NGO Law: The view from Europe«  
*Andreas Fulda, Horst Fabian, Nicola Macbean and Patrick Schroeder*
- 12.30**      **Light Lunch**
- 13.30**      **Role of China as strategic actor promoting shrinking spaces**  
*Prof. Dr. Mark Sidel, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law*
- 14.00**      **Do we need a new EU – China cooperation architecture with systematic  
inclusion of civil society cooperation?**  
*Dr. Andreas Fulda, University of Nottingham*
- 14.30**      **Discussion in Groups following Guiding Questions**
- 16.30**      **Wrap-Up and Conclusions**

We very much look forward to meeting you in Berlin.

Please confirm your participation by mail to  
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