



**Sofia Declaration**  
**on Cultural Cooperation (2016-2017)**  
**between**  
**China and Central and Eastern European Countries**

We, the Ministers responsible for culture and their representatives from the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Croatia, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, Hungary, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Republic of Serbia, the Slovak Republic, and the Republic of Slovenia, gathered in Sofia on the occasion of the Second Forum on Cultural Cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European Countries on 13 November 2015,

- In accordance with the Beijing Guidelines for the Development of Cultural Cooperation (2013) and the Belgrade Guidelines for Cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European Countries (2014);
- Acknowledging the substantial contribution of culture to economic, social and regional development and;
- Welcoming the positive evolution of cultural interaction, relations and cooperation between our countries;
- Taking into account the need to further strengthen cultural cooperation between China and Central and East European Countries (CEEC) and reaffirm the central role of culture in enhancing mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue;

Recognise and agree the following principles and priorities to be considered and included in the cultural cooperation process between China and CEEC:

1. To continue and deepen our policy dialogue on culture, covering issues of common interest such as the promotion of cultural diversity, cultural and creative industries, contemporary arts,

cultural heritage and other relevant topics, jointly identified and listed in the attached collaboration programme.

2. To facilitate the regular exchange of good practices and information on cultural matters of common interest including the promotion of knowledge and capacity building especially with regard to culture and arts in the digital environment.

3. To pay particular attention to the interests, needs and expectations of the younger generation.

4. To set up a coordination group comprising experts from the responsible ministry of each country. The main task of the group will be to coordinate the implementation of future cultural cooperation between our countries.

Therefore, we the Ministers responsible for culture from China and CEEC and their representatives, adopt the Two-year Collaboration Programme 2016-2017 (Annex 1) and jointly agree to implement it in order to stimulate and create new opportunities for direct cultural cooperation and joint projects.

## **Two-year Collaboration Programme (2016-2017)**

### **between China and Central and Eastern European Countries**

#### **I. Personnel Exchange and Experience Sharing**

1. At the initiative of China, the first China-CEEC Arts Cooperation Forum and the first China-CEEC Experts' Forum on Intangible Cultural Heritage will be held in Beijing in May 2016 and in Cracow in October 2016 respectively. The first China-CEEC Literature Forum will be held in Hungary and the first China-CEEC Experts' Forum on Cultural Industry in Serbia on dates to be confirmed.

2. China will invite the artistic directors of CEEC international theatre festivals in 2016 and of folk festivals in 2017 to visit China in order to strengthen the exchange and cooperation between the institutions in the fields of theatre and folk arts.

3. China will send delegations of performing arts presenters to purchase programmes from Croatia, Slovakia and Slovenia in June 2016, and from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Montenegro in June 2017.

#### **II. Arts Training**

1. The China-CEEC Summer Dance Camp will be held in China from mid-July to mid-August in 2016 and 2017.

2. China will send arts professionals and cultural managers to CEEC for work placements and internships in major cultural and arts institutions.

#### **III. Field Trips and Artistic Creation**

1. China will invite selected renowned composers and painters from each CEEC to visit China for field trips in April-May 2016 and June 2016 respectively.

2. China will send painters and photographers on field trips to CEEC.

#### **IV. Presentation of accomplishments**

The first China-CEEC Cultural Season will be held in China in 2017 to showcase the results of collaborations between China and CEEC in the fields of music, dance, theatre, visual arts, and performances for children.

#### **V. Publishing, TV and Film**

1. The CEEC will provide information on their cultural and creative industries which will form the basis of a work to be published by the Chinese side entitled *Rediscovery: Research on Contemporary Cultural Developments in the CEEC*.
2. The Chinese side will invite documentary crews from CEEC's national TV channels to visit China and produce documentaries on topics including the Chinese New Year, China's intangible cultural heritage and its creative industries.

#### **VI. Cultural Heritage**

1. China and CEEC will strengthen their cooperation in the area of safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage.
2. China and CEEC will collaborate in the spirit of UNESCO's #Unite4Heritage campaign to combat the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage and illicit trafficking of cultural property.

#### **VII. Final provisions**

The implementation of this collaboration programme will be dependent on financial resources available to the participating countries.

Additional initiatives and actions might be proposed and considered as part of this programme arising from specific cultural events, strategies or policies taking place in the above mentioned period.

The dispatch and receiving of individuals and art groups will be dealt with on an individual case-by-case basis. The sending country shall inform the receiving country of the date and theme of the proposed exchange at least six months in advance.