

**Fourth Ministerial Forum on Cultural Cooperation between
China and Central and Eastern European Countries**

24-26 November, 2019, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

**Skopje Declaration
on Cultural Cooperation (2020-2021)**

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, the Hellenic Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Republic of Serbia, the Slovak Republic, and the Republic of Slovenia, gather in Skopje on the occasion of the Fourth Forum on Cultural Cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) on 25 November 2019,

- Acknowledging the establishment of the China-CEEC Cultural Cooperation Coordination Centre in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia in accordance with *the Hangzhou Declaration on Cultural Cooperation (2018-2019)* which focuses on monitoring and enhancing cultural cooperation between China and the CEEC countries as well as on implementing all adopted documents, thereby ensuring efficient collaboration process.

- Welcoming the creation of a web platform by the China-CEEC Cultural Cooperation Coordination Centre in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia, in accordance with the *2019 Dubrovnik Guidelines for Cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European Countries*.

- Recognizing that this web platform serves as a tool for exchange and promotion of information in the field of culture, that will facilitate the communication, the cooperation, the networking and the coordination between the national cultural institutions and organizations within the countries of the *17+1 Initiative*.
- Acknowledging the realization of various activities by the China-CEEC Cultural Cooperation Coordination Centre since its establishment, that strengthen the cultural cooperation under the *17+1 Initiative*, at both the bilateral and multilateral levels, including Forums, collaborations, field trips, workshops, cultural exchanges with all member countries.
- Welcoming the practical progress of cultural interactions, relations and cooperation between all countries, especially the cultural exchange that leads to further development in the China-CEEC cultural cooperation.
- Considering our common interest into further deepening the China-CEEC cultural ties.

Hereby acknowledge and agree to consider and incorporate the following principles in the cultural cooperation plan between China and CEEC:

1. To advance and strengthen China-CEEC cultural cooperation while giving special attention to topics concerning the promotion of cultural heritage, film production and distribution, cultural and creative industries, contemporary arts, and other relevant topics, jointly identified and listed in the appended cooperation plan.
2. To engage an expert from every ministry, at the condition, that this measure will not incur a financial impact for the ministry. The expert will be responsible on updating the web platform for the cultural cooperation under the 17+1 Initiative which will be the main tool for the accuracy and the distribution of information in a timely manner.

Therefore, we, the Ministers in charge of culture from China and CEEC and their representatives, hereby confirm the 2020 -2021 Cooperation Plan (Annex 1) and jointly approve its implementation. The implementation will be in accordance with the countries' respective national laws and regulations. Regarding the European Union member states, the implementation will be in accordance with the regulations, directives, legislative acts and policies consequent to the membership of the European Union.

Cultural Cooperation Plan between China and Central and Eastern European Countries for the Years 2020-2021

I. Libraries Union Forum

1. The 2nd China –CEEC Libraries Union Forum will take place in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia in September 2020. The principal organizer of the Forum will be the *Brakja Miladinovci City Library* with support of and in cooperation with the China-CEEC Cultural Cooperation Coordination Centre-Skopje and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of North Macedonia.

II. Cooperation in the field of audio-visual arts

1. China and CEEC countries will participate in a workshop organized by the North Macedonia Film Agency in Bitola during the world renowned *Manaki Brothers* International Cinematographers' Film Festival in September 2020 with special focus on film distribution, exchange of experiences and exploring possibilities for China's and CEEC's films to be distributed in all the countries included in the *17+1 Initiative*. It will include exchanging film weeks, mutual participation in international film festivals held in each other's countries, and dialogues between film specialists and co-producers.

2. China and CEEC will enhance their collaboration in the fields of music, dance, theatre, visual arts, and performances.

III. Cultural Heritage

1. China and CEEC will strengthen their cooperation in the area of safeguarding and promoting tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including museums.

The Parties shall exchange information about national laws and European regulations on the protection of cultural property, especially with regard to the prevention of theft,

clandestine excavation and illicit import, export, transit or transfer of ownership of cultural assets, and the restitution of cultural property.

2. The 3rd Forum on Cultural Heritage will be held in Pelagonija region, Republic of North Macedonia in April/ May 2021. The topic of the Forum is the monuments of Middle, Late and Post Byzantine Period in the area of Pelagonija. The principal organizer of the Forum will be the China-CEEC Cultural Cooperation Coordination Centre-Skopje and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of North Macedonia.

3. During the Forum, workshop on wall paintings and wall paintings protection, conservation and restoration will be held in the Pelagonija Region, Republic of North Macedonia. The workshop will include on-site surveys, examinations and research of the wall paintings in the region. It will also cover issues regarding the development of cultural tourism, including ones through museum exhibitions.

IV. Cultural and Creative Industries

China and CEEC will strengthen their cooperation in the field of cultural and creative industries by participating in a workshop in Ohrid, Republic of North Macedonia in July 2020 with the purpose of exchanging knowledge and information on the current challenges in the cultural and creative industries sector, sharing experiences and practices as well as providing new ideas for support, promotion and development in the area. Special emphasis will be given to traditional jewellery making, filigree art and the Ohrid pearl.

Cooperation in the cultural and creative sector from China and CEEC will be additionally strengthened through annual creative fora, the next one taking place in Ljubljana, Slovenia in September 2020.

V. Collaboration in the field of music

China and CEEC will collaborate in the field of orchestral music by supporting the idea of bringing together the most eminent musicians from the 17+1 member countries that are willing to participate into one orchestra performing grand symphonic works on

existing international festivals in the 17+1 countries that are willing to participate in this idea. The idea also includes establishment of a coordination body, exchange of artists and musical programmes from diverse cultural milieus.

VI. Final Provisions

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

Additional initiatives and actions may 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.