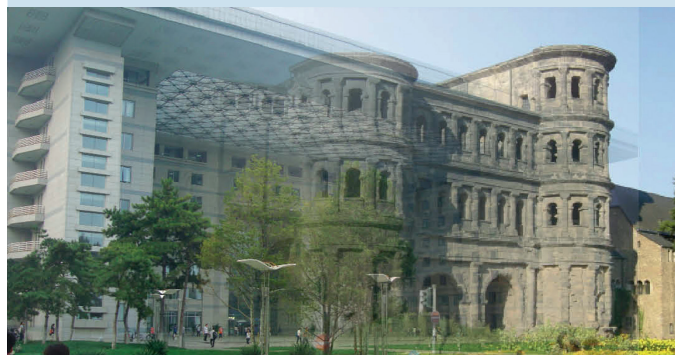


# ECER is Sustainable Development in Cooperation

In its overall societal interest, **China** aims at reducing the regional disparities and creating equal living conditions in all regions. By these means, China's economic successes can contribute to a more balanced regional development.

**Europe**, particularly Germany, has a vast experience of regional and structural policies that can be seen as references for Chinese regional policy experts. Due to its specific conditions, it is not intended to develop a one-size-fits-all strategy for China, but rather to discuss the value of European regional development objectives and instruments for China.

For this purpose, in 2008 the City of Trier and the Beijing Normal University initiated a feasibility study for the project **“European-Chinese Centre for Education and Research in Regional Development Planning (ECER)”**. The venture has been funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research as well as by the Chinese Ministry of Education. Under the general theme **“Sustainable Urban and Regional Development”**, five key topics for the areas of “academic education”, “professional training” and “research” have been defined.



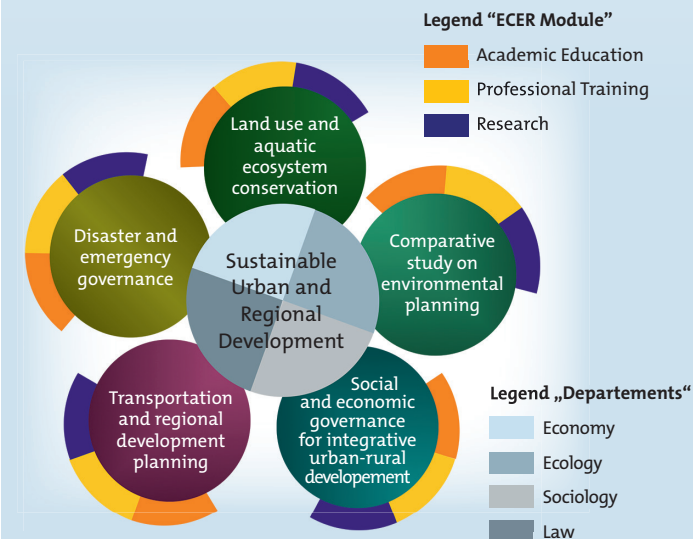
## Objectives

- ECER's goal is to establish a platform for European and Chinese experts, scholars, and planners in fields related to regional development planning, to foster dialogue, exchange of experience, and further cooperation. This means taking into account of China and Europe's situation, exchange experiences and lessons on regional development planning, to promote the development of China's planning and its legal system.
- Through scientific research cooperation between European, Chinese universities and other institutes in the related fields of regional development planning, ECER further enhances the academic level and international cooperation capacity of participating institutes.
- Through academic education and professional training programs, ECER develops international education, improves talent cultivation in these fields, and elevates the professional standards of central and regional government planning officials.



## Activities

The cooperation activities in ECER include three modules: academic education, professional training, and scientific research, all of which support and supplement each other. The results of scientific research could be applied in academic education and professional training modules. Professional training module could broaden expert network, and therefore contributing to scientific research programs. Moreover, our scientific researches could also benefit from pragmatic experiences and knowledge from participants of professional training, which could make research more apply oriented. Besides, academic education, especially PhD programs in ECER, are designed with ECER research programs; this integration will benefit both research and student cultivation.



Each program in every module revolves around the theme, **“sustainable urban and regional development”**, referring to several related subjects in the field of regional development planning, such as, geography, environment science, economics, law, and sociology.

## Organization

BNU, on the Chinese side, and the City of Trier, on the European side, act as the leading coordinator and major supporting institutes for ECER's Chinese and European network, respectively. By using their own resources, and finding external supports, they work together to promote ECER's development, and jointly addressing any possible problems during the process.

### Current partners in Chinese network:

- Beijing Normal University
- Beijing Jiaotong University
- East China Normal University
- Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou
- Xiamen University
- Yunnan University
- Wuhan University

### Current partners of European network:

- City of Trier, Germany
- RWTH Aachen University, Germany,
- Free University of Berlin, Germany
- University of Bremen, Germany
- University of Kaiserslautern, Germany
- University of Stuttgart, Germany\*
- University of Trier, Germany

\* a pilot project for academic education with focus on the Master degree course “infrastructure planning”

ECER welcomes other educational and research institutions to join us.

# ECER. Growth with Future.

The establishment of equal living conditions in all regions of China will be enabled through sustainable and thereupon future oriented urban and regional development. Europe has a long experience in sustainable regional development. The ECER network aims at applying this knowledge in the areas of academic education, professional training and policy oriented research.

Since the very beginning, the European-Chinese Centre for Education and Research in Regional Development Planning (ECER) is a unique example of an active faithful cooperation.

Best scientists and management officials from China and Europe are working together on new approaches and methods in sustainable regional development. Through mutual dialogue and joint cooperation in the ECER modules “Academic Education”, “Professional Training” and “Research”, experts obtain usefull insights for their practical work.



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### Supported and financed by:



## European-Chinese Centre for Education and Research in Regional Development Planning (ECER)



## Background

Along with rapid economic development, China is facing the challenges of serious eco-environment and socio-economic problems, which lead to increasing inter-regional disparities. In order to reduce this gap, and to promote national sustainable development and harmonious society, China needs a more systematic and effective regional development planning system from the central to local governments. European, especially German, regional development planning is at the forefront of the world. Their experiences and lessons can provide a good reference for China. At the same time, Chinese central and local government planners are also interested in learning internationally advanced experience and technology to improve their work.

Based on this idea, supported and financed by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research and Chinese Ministry of Education, Beijing Normal University (BNU) and City of Trier, Germany, jointly established the “European-Chinese Centre for Education and Research in Regional Development Planning” (ECER) in 2007, to improve Chinese regional development planning through academic education, professional training and scientific research, under the China-Germany/Europe inter-governmental cooperation framework. After three-year pilot phase implementation, ECER entered regular operation phase in May 2010.

By now, 39 Chinese students started their Master studies in Germany, 14 of which could follow it up with a PhD program.

The first German-Chinese „Think Tank“ started in 2010 and since then connects scientists in Germany and China once per year.