

Proposal for Joint Research and Publication of Impactful Data on Chinese Perceptions of Europe

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Submitted by:

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ECHOWALL is a new European platform that comprehensively monitors the developing China-Europe relationship, responding to growing interest and concern about China among a range of European actors as well as the public. Due to launch on September 1, 2018, the content-rich online website will bridge the gap in knowledge on China-Europe issues by offering comprehensive research and reporting on the areas where China and Europe intersect, whether these are about politics and foreign policy, or about business, culture and education. One of the most crucial characteristics of ECHOWALL, distinguishing it from existing policy-related publications and think tanks, will be to grapple with China's presence in Europe across sectors – from diplomacy and infrastructure investment, to film and publishing. The platform will encourage and facilitate greater openness and transparency about the China-Europe relationship – where it is working, and where it requires greater discussion and scrutiny. It will also help to cohere a broader community of China watchers in Europe, focus global attention on China-Europe issues, and make the China-related research and exchange activities in Europe more visible to the rest of the world.

While much of our editorial content will rely on journalistic reporting and writing, as well as providing expert context, we believe solid and systematic quantitative research will add essential value to our work and relevance.

China's social media space is key to understanding the country's social and political attitudes. Professor Fu King-wa's work through the WeChatscope and Weiboscope projects is an entirely original approach to understanding not just the evolving conversation on Chinese social media, but also how it is shaped and constrained by the state.

We are engaged with active discussion with Professor Fu and his team concerning how we might avail ourselves of his expertise, mutually developing impactful editorial products – reaching a broader audience – that explore Chinese perceptions of Europe. We hope to work closely with Professor Fu and his team to frame key research questions around timely and relevant aspects of the China-Europe relationship, while contributing on our end the valuable China and Europe expertise of our team and a broader audience and impact in Europe and beyond.

Any further questions regarding this proposal may be directed to David Bandurski at david.bandurski@chinamediaproject.org.