



Transnational cooperation project  
“Air traffic and logistics development between the EU rural areas and China”

**Concept note of the project (March, 2019)**

Rational of the project

There will be a huge demand on airport services in the near future – both cargo and passenger services. According to the IATA (International Air Transport Association), passenger numbers could double to 8.2 billion in 2037, which poses significant challenges for the aviation industry and training. The Asia-Pacific region will drive the biggest growth with more than half the total number of new passengers over the next 20 years coming from these markets. Europe’s aviation market is currently fully saturated when it comes to airline companies and airports. Major EU airports cannot receive more flights from growing areas like China and the rest of the Asia, simply because there are no open slots available. This means that there is a demand to develop airports in European rural areas and outside the major cities to enable enough services and flights for cargo and passengers. There is also rapidly increasing demand on developing aviation training possibilities and promoting business platforms and incubators in Europe and China for mutual collaboration.

Main aims of the project

- 1) To provide new impulses to secondary/rural/regional airports in Europe for development and investments;
- 2) To build a European secondary airports network;
- 3) To enhance cooperation between European airports and build cooperation with Chinese airports via the development of aviation, airport, cargo and logistics technology;
- 4) EU-China training consortium establishment to enable training programmes for pilots, mechanics, logistics, etc.;
- 5) To build business platforms for European SMEs in China;
- 6) To develop cargo and passenger routes between the European airport network and China.

Negotiations in progress with the following partners

**Airports in Europe:** Tartu (Estonia); Seinäjoki (Finland); Teruel, Seve Ballesteros-Santander, Badajoz (Spain); Pisticci (Italy); Maribor (Slovenia); Halmstad (Sweden); Krakow (Poland); Brno, Ostrava (Czech Republic); Linz (Austria), France.

**Airports in China:** Ningbo and others.

**Research and development organisations in Europe and China:** Local Action Groups (LAGs) in partner countries; Robocoast network experts and companies in Finland; governments, local governments and state investment agencies in partner countries; aviation academies and training centres, universities and research and development institutions.

Preparatory project 2019-2021, including:

- Negotiations at local, state and European level and with Chinese partners;
- Establishment of European secondary airports network;



- Feasibility study of the airport network operations and routes, mapping of investment needs;
- EU-China aviation training consortium establishment;
- Business platforms development for SMEs in Europe and China;
- Cargo and passenger routes development between European airport network and with China;
- Rural tourism development.

Finances and time schedule:

- LEADER transnational cooperation project in 2019–2021: about 300 000 EUR in all with 8 European countries;
- Activities and investments according to the developed strategy and investment plan from 2022;
- Possible resources for future investments: state funds and budget, European Structural and Investment Funds, Eurasia Foundation, private investors, etc.

*Concept note compiled by Kristiina Tammets, CEO of Tartu County Development Association*