

<b>Research Activity Nr.</b>	4
<b>Person in charge</b>	Tamas Matura; David Morris
<b>Title</b>	<b>EU-EEU relations and the Role of China</b>
<b>Description</b>	<p>In order to investigate the impact of China on EU-EEU relations, the research team at Corvinus University of Budapest will undertake qualitative research interviews in Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and China. The goal is to develop an in-depth understanding of the new geopolitics, economic cooperation and political risks. These are characterised by the conflict between Russia and the EU on the one hand and the rise of China on the other hand. Not only globally, China is a rising power, but also regionally. The silk road initiative is a project of historical dimension and Russia and China have recently created economic and political synergies in this context. However, there is also competition between the two powers and a high potential of conflict.</p>
	<p>The aim of the research activity is to gather information on how specific actors act in the context of the interrelations between the EU, the EEU and China in general and the BRI in particular. The aim is to analyse the mutual positions of the involved parties, the potential synergies and tensions. The guiding questions are: Firstly, how do Western European actors, vs. Central and Eastern European actors, vs. Central Asian and Chinese actors perceive EU-EEU-China relations? What interests do they have? What roles do they play? How do they perceive each other? What tensions do occur? What are the potential synergies? What are the political risks? The project aims at going into depth, developing an understanding for the individual parties.</p>

<b>Methodology</b>	<p>In order to develop an in-depth understanding of EU-EEU-BRI relations and the role of different actors in this context, we will draw on a bottom-up research approach. For this purpose, qualitative research methods are most useful.</p> <p>In the first section of the project, following the necessary scientific preparations, we will conduct qualitative research interviews in major countries along the BRI. We will carry out the field studies in three phases, clustering countries to regions.</p> <p>In the first phase (early 2021), the research team of Corvinus University of Budapest will conduct qualitative research interviews with selected decision makers, experts, politicians and businesspeople in Brussels and Berlin to assess their perceptions of the EU-EEU-BRI cooperation and case studies of synergies and risks.</p> <p>In the second phase (summer 2021), the research team of Corvinus University of Budapest will conduct qualitative research interviews with selected decision makers, experts, politicians and businesspeople in Warsaw, Minsk and Moscow to assess their perceptions of the EU-EEU-BRI cooperation and case studies of synergies and risks.</p> <p>In the third phase (spring/summer 2022), the research team of Corvinus University of Budapest will conduct qualitative research interviews with selected decision makers, experts, politicians and businesspeople in Astana, Ulaan Baator, Beijing, Xi'an, Chengdu to assess their perceptions of the EU-EEU-BRI cooperation and case studies of synergies and risks.</p> <p>In the second section of the project, researchers of Corvinus University of Budapest will evaluate and analyse the information gathered through the interviews.</p> <p>In the third section of the project, research papers will be written and published in international journals both in Hungarian and in English, while a major international conference will be organised to gather other project members in Budapest and to discuss and disseminate the results of the research (and of the whole project). Corvinus University of Budapest will publish the proceedings of the conference online. The early research results will also be distributed in the summer school and public seminar in the second year of the project.</p>
<b>Impact</b>	<p>This research activity is fundamentally important to the project, as the assessment, attitudes and experiences of policy makers and business people have a major impact on EU-EEU-BRI relations. We will develop an in-depth understanding of political risks, as well as the potential for synergies and cooperation, in particular in regards to the role of China as an intervening variable on EU-EEU relations. We will disseminate the results in academia (students and scientists) and among business people and policy makers, to ensure our findings will contribute to a deeper understanding of the EU's interests, opportunities and risks.</p>
<b>Resulting publications</b>	<p>Publication on EU-EEU-BRI relations both in Hungarian and in English in major international scientific journals.</p>