



CHINA-EUROPA FORUM

## The four pillars of the China-Europa Forum's workshops

The China-Europe Forum combines unity and diversity: unity of a comprehensive dialogue between the Chinese and the European societies, diversity of the realities within China and within Europe, diversity of the socioprofessional groups who form the societies, diversity of the challenges they face. The biennial meetings of the Forum and more specifically their plenary sessions, the website, the directory, the methodology symbolize the unity; the socioprofessional and thematic workshops symbolize the diversity.

For that dialogue to become sustainable over time, it is necessary for the workshops on both sides to gain foothold in society and to be built, like houses, on four strong pillars, each of which has its importance.

- **The first pillar : geographic**, settles a workshop in the concrete reality of a society. That is basically where the workshop is moderated and where the biennial meetings take place. For this, a strong partnership is sought with a local authority- region, large city, state - which shows both its commitment to the general approach of the Forum as an actor of a responsible globalization and its particular interest for the theme of the workshop it hosts. Whenever possible, existing cooperations between China and Europe should be enhanced, particularly through twinings.
- **The second pillar, intellectual**, calls for the best of the reflection on the workshop's theme. This may be a university or a network of universities, a research center or network, a think tank. They are not experts on China in Europe or experts on Europe in China. Instead, this intellectual network gathers the best of the experience of each society. The Forum also serves as an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue and the reflection within each society. Whenever possible, it should be taken advantage of joint research programs or inter-university cooperations between Europe and China.
- **The third pillar, social networks**, mobilizes stakeholders of the civil society who are interested in the workshop's theme and by the dialogue between the Chinese and European societies. These networks either already exist such as businesses networks, family associations, professional or activist associations. They can also be created gradually within the framework of the Forum. When cooperation between Chinese and European networks pre-exist, they should be enhanced.
- **The fourth pillar, mediator**, has a dual function and therefore a dual nature. The first function is to enable or facilitate the dialogue within societies and between societies overcoming the barrier of language (which also exists between European countries) and the misunderstandings of intercultural dialogue. This will usually be academic institutions of foreign languages or comparative studies. The second function is to share with the rest of society the reflections and discussions carried in workshops. This will usually be magazines, newspapers, television networks, websites and blogs.