

Process for CEWP Policy Dialogue

Final Version

1. General Introduction of the CEWP Policy Dialogue

The China-Europe Water Platform (CEWP) is designed around three strategic pillars: Policy Dialogue, Research and Innovation and Business Cooperation. At the same time, four thematic Focus Areas were defined, namely Water Management and Ecological Security, Rural Water & Food Security, Water & Urbanization, Water & Energy Security. There are ongoing activities between Chinese and European partners under each of these themes and in addition cross cutting issues as Research & Innovation, Business Cooperation and Climate Change, aiming to raise and to deepen the Policy Dialogue.

In the context of water cooperation under CEWP, the Policy Dialogue can be described as the process of assisting and contributing to subnational, national and/or international decision-making processes for water policies and their potential implementation, involving relevant stakeholders and key players.

The Policy Dialogue must be therefore an iterative and interactive process, and should consider technical, policy and governance aspects. To deal with the variety and broadness nature of the activities foreseen, it should be considered that concrete purposes and outcomes can be demand driven but involving evidence-based discussions.

A Policy Dialogue can take place in different Arena's. These Arenas can take different forms, such as a one-time workshop/seminar, a project activity or be part of regular institutionalized meetings. For CEWP, such Arenas can be project workshops, entailing work package activities, JSC meetings, CEWP seminars and High-Level Meetings. These Arenas can vary from a micro to a macro level, being technical driven or being more policy-oriented, and specifically focusing at the city, sub regional or basin level, or encompassing national, regional or global levels. These arena's include related stakeholders involved. Depending on the subject of the Dialogue, discussions can occur on several Arena types to better add or integrate several sectorial dimensions. On the other hand, discussions can also occur on several Arena levels to have a higher institutional standard, if desired. In this respect the policy dialogues distinguish a horizontal and vertical dimension.

CEWP is one of the platforms that enables a water policy between China and Europe. The CEWP policy dialogue is closely linked with the work done by the European Commission under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2018 specifically for a bilateral cooperation on water between the EU and China and establishing a High-Level Policy Dialogue on Water.

2. CEWP Policy Dialogue Process

The policy dialogue process under CEWP has some specific characteristics due to the fact that CEWP-EU have five Grant Contracts with EUD. Four contracts are covering specific projects under the CEWP Focus Areas and one contract deals with overarching and crosscutting elements of CEWP. A Policy Dialogue, as a key element for the EU PI-program, is part of all contracts and policy recommendations constitute a major project output.



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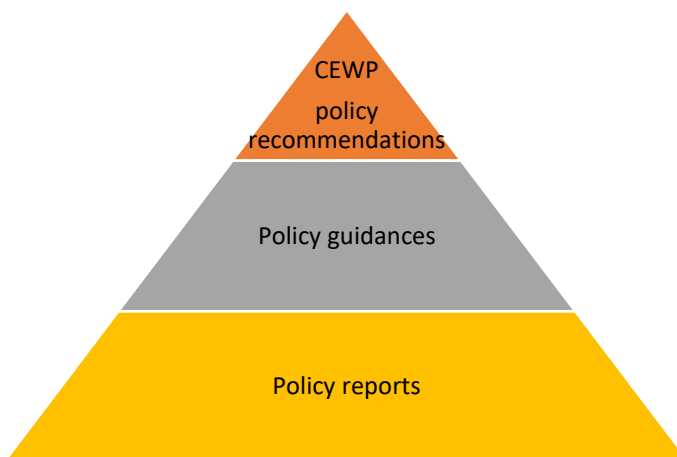
Within this framework, we should envisage both a horizontal coordination, when dealing with crosscutting and overarching elements as well as integration with other policy fields, and a vertical coordination, when using different arena's within and outside the CEWP network. These two types of coordination are essential for the individual contracts, as they are crucial for the overall CEWP-PI program.

Every CEWP-PI project has developed a specific policy dialogue process matching the PI objectives and identifying or organizing the relevant arenas for this dialogue. This is certainly not a 'one size fits all' structure since the different focus area's deal with various policy fields and institutional settings. For the policy dialogue under CEWP-PI the processes developed under the projects are leading and are the responsibility of the Lots, informing and cooperating with the secretariats. The role of the Chinese and European CEWP secretariats is to manage and take control of the policy dialogue process at JSC Meetings, for CEWP conferences and at High Level Events. In this role the secretariats will facilitate and coordinate the overall CEWP policy dialogue process and provide guidance for the lots for timely and correct handling of policy documents.

Both secretariats should also within the CEWP policy dialogue process ensure involvement of and uptake of policy guidance and recommendations by a wider range of stakeholders, such as relevant ministries or research institutes in China and European Member States, that play a critical role in some of the Focus Areas' prioritized issues.

Since the policy dialogue process can take place in various arena's and all produce recommendations, we suggest categorizing these recommendations at three institutional levels:

- Policy Report as output at project level, based on technical aspects from the pilot projects
- Policy Guidance as output and endorsement at CEWP-JSC level, a condensed reflection of the policy reports and integration with broader policy aspects.
- CEWP Policy Recommendation, as part of the CEWP High Level Declaration, validated and endorsed by the JSC, to the attention of policy makers and the political level



This figure depicts the three levels working on policy recommendations. It also illustrates the process of abstraction and integration of policy recommendations, as well as the increasing outreach of the policy recommendation process outside the CEWP arenas.

The entire process of CEWP Policy Dialogue is schematized in the figure annexed to this document.



As already said the Policy dialogue is an essential goal of the CEWP. Since early stages of the establishing and designing of the common work between Chinese and European teams on the several different defined actions, the outputs production was always having in mind the need of sharing lessons and good practices aiming to improve the performance on every possible domain.

So, each output produced must trigger a dialogue process among the Focus Areas, resulting in a policy report. The outputs of this report can be disseminated or, through a process of consultation with Secretariats, and between the two Secretariats, be evaluated in order to proceed to a higher level of decision. In case both secretariats agree on the merit of such output it should be included in the agenda of the JSC for decision. When decided at the JSC, it becomes a policy guidance. In this moment it can be disseminated or can be leveled up to the High-Level Dialogue Conference of CEWP for decision. In case the High-Level Dialogue Conference agrees on its merit, it becomes a policy recommendation that will be integrated in the policy making of each region and it can be further disseminated.

It should be noted that the outcomes of the CEWP Policy Dialogue are non-legally binding for CEWP members.

3. The broader process outside CEWP

The work of CEWP, in general, and specially the outputs and deliverables of the common activities, can constitute an add value demonstration on a bilateral cooperation of a multilateral Platform that can share lessons learned and good practices, not only to be developed and applied internally, but also strengthening the common capacity to go together externally.

Namely, CEWP deliverables or recommendations can be seen as important contributions to any international water policy forum, as to environmental discussions taking place in several organizations worldwide.

Finally, the success of CEWP and its capacity of delivering political and technical contributions are key elements for the overall success of the China-Europe relationships at the highest political level, which are materialized in the EU-China Annual Summit.



