RECONNECT CHINA: GENERATING INDEPENDENT KNOWLEDGE FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE WITH CHINA FOR EUROPE AND ITS CITIZENS

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Online courses on China for everyone

In 2024, the Horizon Europe project "ReConnect China" will launch four China-related online courses accessible to all. **These Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) aim to impart fundamental knowledge about China** to a broad audience, specifically tailored for European students. However, civil servants, journalists, teachers, and similar professionals will also find them valuable.

Structured around five to six thematic modules, each course incorporates diverse learning materials, including short video lectures, slide decks, podcasts, digital stories, and various reading materials. The learning experience is enhanced with versatile, automatically-graded assignments, concluding each thematic module with a multiple-choice exam. **Each course carries a value of 3 ECTS, equivalent to approximately 80 hours of work.**

The course syllabi are crafted by leading European China experts, and the materials are developed in collaboration with European China scholars. The Centre for East Asian Studies (CEAS) at the University of Turku, Finland, spearheads the course development, led by Dr. Outi Luova, Vice Director of CEAS.

Learners can autonomously engage with the courses in the DigiCampus learning environment without direct supervision, completing coursework flexibly within their schedules throughout the course period.

Upon successfully completing a ReConnect MOOC course, learners can freely download an automatically generated course certificate from the DigiCampus learning platform, with a verification code provided.

The course "Introduction to Chinese Politics and Society" underwent a pilot phase during the autumn term of 2023 across eight universities in five different European countries. Depending on the university, students received credits for the completed course, or the course was integrated into existing curricula.

"The opportunity to offer students to learn about these relevant topics at their own pace was highly appreciated! Around 30 3rd and 4th year students majoring in Chinese language, literature and culture at the University of Belgrade chose to take part in the pilot, and they were impressed with the wealth of information and contemporary significance of the content. They felt very engaged and enjoyed setting their own schedule while at the same time having the chance to share their experience with others taking the same online course. This content can be seamlessly integrated into courses that deal with similar topics or added as an optional learning opportunity for students who want to learn more than what more traditional Chinese studies curricula offer or who are majoring in other areas but have an interest in China."

Jelena Gledic, Senior Instructor, Faculty of Philology University of Belgrade

Courses available:

- Introduction to Chinese Politics and Society: Open to everyone during spring 2024, 2025 and 2026.

  Course period in 2024: January 15 – May 12, Registration opens on January 15, 2024. More information

- Introduction to EU-China Relations: Open to everyone during spring 2024, 2025 and 2026.

  Course period in 2024: February 12 – June 16, Registration opens on February 12, 2024. More information

- Introduction to Chinese Economy: Open to everyone during autumn 2024, 2025 and 2026

  First course forthcoming in autumn 2024

- Introduction to Chinese Popular Culture: Open to everyone during autumn 2024, 2025 and 2026.
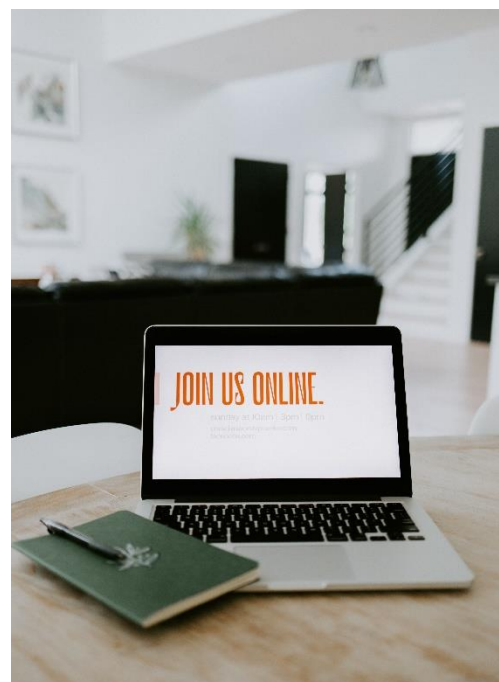
  First course forthcoming in autumn 2024

More information:

Link to the ReConnect China MOOCs on the ReConnect China (including the link to the DigiCampus platform)

Link to the announcement of first start dates for MOOCs: The first ReConnect China online courses (MOOCs) start in January and February 2024!

For more information or any questions, please contact Dr. Outi Luova from CEAS at the Universiy of Turku at outi.luova@utu.fi

Picture from Samantha Borges on Unsplash