



# Czech-China Relations in Comparative Perspective: How Smaller Countries Cope with Rising China

## Policy Workshop

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The Central European Institute of Asian Studies (CEIAS) and the University of Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs, in collaboration with Palacký University Olomouc, and partner institutions of two Horizon Europe projects – 'EuroHub4China' and 'Reconnect China' – will organize a high-level policy workshop bringing together academic and think tank researchers, policymakers, diplomats, journalists, and other key stakeholders.

The workshop will examine how smaller states navigate their relationships with a rising and increasingly assertive China. Discussions will focus on strategies to enhance their autonomy and advance strategic interests while engaging with a significantly more powerful global actor. The policy workshop will also explore broader geopolitical shifts, including evolving transatlantic relations under the new US administration, US-China rivalry, and their implications for the EU. The idea is to review various cases of smaller countries in Europe and beyond to generate lessons learnt for the Czech Republic and its foreign policy.

The discussion will be conducted under Chatham House rule.

## Program

**Date:** 20 May 2025, 13.30-17.00 (followed by an evening social event on a boat)

**Venue:** Kaiserstein Palace, Malostranské nám. 23/37, 110 00 Malá Strana

### Registration (13:00-13:30)

### Welcome Remarks (13.30-13.40)

Richard Turcsanyi, Palacký University Olomouc, Central European Institute of Asian Studies

Joshua Eisenman, University of Notre Dame, Keough School of Global Affairs

### Keynote (13.40-14.00)

Irena Gotzová, Head of Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

### Panel 1: How smaller EU countries cope with China amid a fractured transatlantic alliance (14.00-15.15)

**Moderator:** Richard Turcsanyi, Palacký University Olomouc, Central European Institute of Asian Studies

**Discussants:**

Gerlinde Groitl, University of Regensburg

Mikael Mattlin, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Victor De Decker, Egmont Institute

Marek Libřický, Head of Asia and Pacific Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Finbarr Bermingham, South China Morning Post

**Coffee Break (15.15-15.45)**

**Panel 2: How countries in the Global South assert their interests amid China's expanding reach (15.45-17.00)**

**Moderator:** Joshua Eisenman, University of Notre Dame

**Discussants:**

Shaun Breslin, University of Warwick

Tabita Ebbesen, Lund University

Jeremy Garlick, Prague University of Business and Economics

Zdeňka Šubrová, Deputy Head of The Sub-Saharan Africa Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Marek Libřický, Head of Asia and Pacific Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

**Evening River Cruise and Dinner (19.00-21.00) (*upon a separate invitation*)**

**Keynote speech:** Patrick Rumlar, Deputy Director of Asia and Pacific Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic