



Portugal's Belt & Road Think Thank

NSRF NEWSLETTER

NEW SILK ROAD FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

ANRS EVENTS

From January until December, 2023

Chinese New Year Celebration Lunch

On February 7th, at the invitation of the Bank of China representatives, the President, and Vice-Presidents Maria Fernanda Ilhéu, Choi Man Hin, Filipa Arantes Pedroso, Mário Matos dos Santos, Mário Godinho de Matos, Un I Wong, Bernardo Mendia, Bao Hong, and Associates João Pedro Farinha, João Franco and Mário Rui Martinho, celebrated Chinese New Year at a friendly lunch that took place at The Old House restaurant.



Participation in the Spring Conferences at Macao Scientific and Cultural Centre (CCCM)

It was at the beginning of March that the President of the Board, Maria Fernanda Ilhéu, the Vice-Presidents Mário Matos dos Santos and Maria Teresa Cid, and the Associates Anabela Santiago, Paulo Brardo Duarte, Gabriela (Xuechun) Yu and Ambassador José Duarte de Jesus, spoke at the Spring Conferences, the annual event where all researchers on Asia come together and share their research.



Lunch-Conference “Use of Medicinal Plants in a Cultural Vision of Disease Prevention and Cure in Portugal and China”

On March 28th, in the Noble Hall of the Restaurant Círculo Eça de Queiroz, NSRF Associate, Professor Ana Varela, held an interesting presentation on the importance of medicinal plants in Portuguese and Chinese traditions, which was followed by an interesting moment of discussion among those present about the relevance of this topic.



Network Lunch “CPLP Economic Market – Commercial Relations with China”

On April 28th, in the Noble Hall of the Restaurant Círculo Eça de Queiroz, the President of the CPLP Business Confederation, and NSRF Associate, Dr^a. Nelma Fernandes, provided those present with an interesting intervention on commercial relations between China and the PLPs, their challenges and opportunities.



Network Lunch “The Indo-Pacific Space and International Security”

On May 31st, NSRF organized a Network Lunch in the Noble Room of the Restaurant Círculo Eça de Queiroz. The distinguished speaker was Ambassador Mário Godinho de Matos, Vice-President of NSRF, who gave everyone present an interesting presentation on the current geopolitical and geo-economic importance of the Indo-Pacific space.



Co-organization of *Belt and Road Conferences: Health and Sustainable Development – Comparison of European and Chinese Systems*

NSRF, the Confucius Institute of the University of Aveiro (ICUA) and the School of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ESMTC) co-organized the Conference *Health and Sustainable Development: Comparison of European and Chinese Systems*, where several experts, from different areas, spoke about this interesting theme and possible point of interest in Sino-Portuguese relations. In addition to the participation of the President of the Board, Maria Fernanda Ilhéu, Associates Anabela Santiago and Ana Varela also intervened with their investigations.



Visit of the Delegation of the International Department of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

It was on June 16th, at the premises of Fundação Casa de Macau (FCM) that a Delegation from the International Department of the PCC presented the *Global Civilization Initiative* to members of the Board and Associates of ANRS.



Participation in the Portugal-China Intercultural Dialogues

Between the 27th and 29th of September, members of the Board and Associates of NSRF participated, at the invitation of the Confucius Institute of the University of Aveiro (ICUA) in the Portugal-China Intercultural Dialogues, an initiative that promotes the meeting and discussion on various themes in the scope of Sino-Portuguese relations.



Participation in the Seminar *Belt and Road CEO Conference*

On the 17th and 18th of October, the President of the Board of NSRF, Maria Fernanda Ilhéu, was in Beijing and participated in the *Belt and Road CEO Conference Seminar*, where she had the opportunity to share the work of NSRF, and also to make some contact with researchers and businesspeople from different countries.



Participation in the *Seminar for China Issue Experts of B&R Countries*

The Secretary General of NSRF, Carla Melo, was in Guangzhou and Beijing between the 7th and 22nd of November, as a representative of the NSRF, participating in the *Seminar for China Issue Experts of B&R Countries*, an initiative promoted by the University of the Academy of Sciences of China (UCASS) and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (MOFCOM).



Co-organization of the *BRI Conferences: 10 Years of the Belt and Road Initiative*

NSRF and the Confucius Institute of the University of Aveiro (ICUA) co-organized the 10 Years of the Belt and Road Initiative Conference with the aim of creating a space for discussion and reflection on what the last 10 years of the Belt and Road Initiative have been like, both in Portugal and around the world.

Members of the NSRF Board of Directors – President Fernanda Ilhéu and Vice-Presidents Mário Godinho de Matos and Un I Wong – as well as their Associates – Diogo Cardoso, João Rodrigues, Albertina Dias, Maria Sousa Galito and Paulo Brardo Duarte participated in this event.



Network Lunch “China and MENA: A new paradigm of cooperation within the scope of the Belt and Road Initiative”

The NSRF and the Macau Scientific and Cultural Center (CCCM) co-organized the Network Lunch on China and MENA, at the CCCM facilities, which featured brilliant interventions by Professor Maria Teresa de Almeida e Silva and Master Diogo Cardoso .



Participation in the *China in Sight: Global Insight Forum 2023*

Between November 29th and December 8th, NSRF was represented by Associate Albertina Dias at the *Global Insight Forum 2023*, an initiative promoted by China Contemporary World Studies and IDCPC, where experts from around the world gathered to discuss the most recent events in China, both domestically and internationally.





Belt and Road News

China's Trade Balance with the World

In 2022, China recorded a trade surplus of USD 879 billion, which represented an increase of USD 525 billion compared to 2018 and USD 200 billion compared to 2021. The rate of coverage of imports by exports stood at 132.3%, which meant 7.1 pp more than that recorded in 2021.

Year	Exports (USD Bi)	Imports (USD Bi)
2016	2,1	1,6
2017	2,3	1,8
2018	2,5	2,1
2019	2,5	2,1
2020	2,6	2,1
2021	3,4	2,7
2022	2,0	3,4
2023	3,3	2,5

Source: [AICEP](#) and [China Briefing](#)

China's Trade Balance with Portugal

In 2022, China was the 17th customer of Portuguese exports of goods with a share of 0.8%, occupying the 4th position in terms of imports (5.1%). In 2023, Portugal was the 3rd country in the group of Portuguese-speaking Countries with which China traded the most. The trade balance of goods was unfavorable to our country, having presented a deficit of 4,947 million euros in 2022 and of 2,880 million euros in 2023.

Year	Exports (€ mM)	Imports (€ mM)
2016	0,7	1,8
2017	0,8	2,1
2018	0,7	2,3
2019	0,6	3
2020	0,6	3,1
2021	0,7	3,9
2022	0,6	5,5
2023	2,9	5,7

Source: [AICEP](#) and [Macao Forum](#)

A Decade Down the Belt and Road

China's foreign aid activity began in the 1950s and went through different stages before entering a new phase of "scaling up" in the early 2000s, when its development financing charted a more than ten-fold increase from less than \$4 billion dollars a year in 2000 to over \$50 billion in 2010.

Source: [The Diplomat](#)

China-Portugal Relations

Vasco Rocha Vieira highlighted that the history of Macau gave "privileged knowledge" of China to Portugal, which can "influence destinies, give opinions and advise" Brussels in its relationship with Beijing.

Source: [Observador](#)

EU-China Summit

The summit was an opportunity to engage with China at the highest level and to pursue constructive and stable EU-China relations. Discussions at the summit revolved around the state of EU-China relations, including the trade and economic relationship, and international issues.

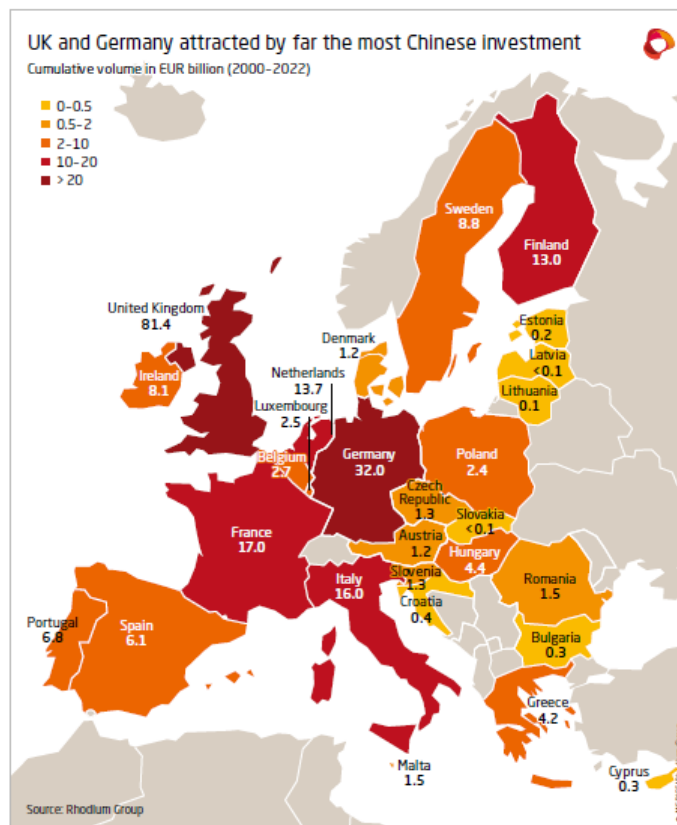
Source: [European Council](#)

Analysis of China's Main Economic Indicators in 2023

In this [article](#), we look at how China's recovery has developed throughout 2023, examining the trends that have emerged, as well as the government's ongoing efforts to address lingering issues and foster sustainable growth in the post-COVID era.

Source: [China Briefing](#)

Chinese FDI in Europe: 2022 Update



Source: [MERICS](#)

www.anrs.pt

info@anrs.pt

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