

## *Client's Assignment to Student Research/Consulting Group*

# China's Belt and Road Initiative: Assessing China's Projects in the Electricity Sector in Asia and Europa

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## **I. Client Institution:**

***Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, (SWP)***

### **a. Client Representative(s):**

Dr. Kirsten Westphal and Maria Pastukhova (M.A.)

## **II. Client's Abstract**

### **a. Topic's Significance**

The Chinese Belt and Road initiative is defining connectivity worldwide, but in particular across the Continental Heartland of Asia / Europe. A centerpiece of BRI are its energy projects and within that, electricity projects.

First, the team will examine how energy projects fit into the overall Belt and Road initiative. Then it will analyze more energy projects in a more detailed manner: to what degree projects are directed to fossil fuel trade and transport, how much emphasis is put on electricity grids and power generation capacities?

From this informed background, the team will then zoom in to examine various indicators and aspects of the implementation to-date. To what extent is connectivity pursued in a concerted manner? Do energy projects follow specific energy corridors, transport routes and the expansion of IT and telecommunications?

Finally, to what extent is China acquiring shares in critical infrastructure along the corridors? Is Chinese investment in line with the Paris Agreement?

### **b. Particular Questions &/or Goals**

The Goal is to map the energy projects of the Belt and Road Initiative and the actors involved and in particular to get an understanding of the strategic relevance (engagement/ investment into critical infrastructure).

## **IV. Client's vision of interaction, advice & supervision**

The theme will be presented during the first meeting, a second meeting will take place to discuss preliminary results and a third meeting will be dedicated to discussing the results.

### **a. Anticipated oversight/viewing of "Project Research Notebook"; frequency & forms of other interactions?**

See Syllabus. Details

### **b. Contact protocols, methods, frequency, etc.**

To be established on the first day of class, when meeting with the research team.

## **V. Deliverables & Deadlines**

### **b. Written Report**

Yes. Details to be determined with client by second meeting.

### **c. Presentation &/or Executive Consultation**

Yes. Details to be determined with client by second meeting.

## **IV. Background Materials &/or References from Client**

Instructor will provide guidance.

### **c. Models from om Work (if applicable)**

The research and commentary of a previous Hertie group with Dr. O'Donnell on the BRI for Eclareon consultancy is freely available.