



***17+1 BRI'S Jingchu Spirits* Western Balkans Headings: Hubei - Macedonia After Pandemic Estimation Paths**

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Abstract. *BRI'S Jingchu Spirits* in the past nine years of the *17 + 1* headings have developed the innovative, creative, integrative roots of those countries win-win growings. By extending the *17 + 1* channels to the regional pedestal, 2018 the visit of the representatives of *17 + 1* of Wuhan has brought the creation of *CEECs-Hubei Channel*. The exploration done on the relevant research outcomes is carrying out the certainty of the estimated destination for the better mutual right understanding of China and the Balkans, and placing the regional collaboration of Hubei and Macedonia in an enriched closer multi-field cooperation framework on the onward path of *17 + 1*. By screening the overall state of these regions this work is excavating the pandemic time opportunities and drafting the being foreseen further directions.

Keywords: Jingchu · Hubei · Macedonia · Headings · Pandemic · paths

1 Introduction

*BRI'S Jingchu*¹ *Spirits*² in the past nine years of the *17 + 1* headings have developed the innovative, creative, integrative roots of those countries win-win growings; and have continued the same walks of the predecessors found somewhere in the 6 century BC, four centuries before the silk took its way on its routes, when was made the first trade exchange between the *East* and the *West*, more specifically with the *Chu*³ people - in the foreseeing of the *Road of the Silk – The Boli Dao* or *The Glass Road* – the earliest

¹ The concept of *Jingchu*; originate from the *Jingchu culture* or the culture of Hubei province; refers to everything related with Hubei.

² “*The spirit for forging ahead with hard work and self-improvement, The spirit for being enterprising and innovative, The spirit for embracing everything that is useful and The spirit for advocating armed and loving patriotism for the motherland* were the four spiritual characteristics of *Chu* and the main stream of the self-confidence of the culture of *Jingchu* - the nowadays metaphor of the realization of *BRI*.” (Frosina Vitkovska, 2018).

³ The people of the *State of Chu* - the very first and oldest, longest (for more than 800 years) existed country in the human history.

trade road in the history of mankind; and during the times of the 1st era of the Chinese migrations in Europe (18/19 century), along the route of the *Trans-Siberian Railway*, or by sea, and following the 13000 km north *Road of Tea and Horses – The China – Russia Tea Horse Road in Hankow*⁴ - known around the world as the '*Tea Port of the Orient*', the people of *Jingchu* from Tianmen in inland Hubei were among the other Chinese from the second migration group that walked from China expanding those walkings into Western Europe and CEECs.

Taking in consideration in the possibly broadest sense, among the Balkan countries, *Western Balkans* (hereinafter *WBs*) from the economic and political perspective is being singled out as the sub-region, that with its geostrategic location has always been attracting the surrounding regional powers' interest.

2012 in China's agenda, after the launch of the *16 + 1 Mechanism* for cooperation and the *BRI* one year later, the Balkan countries suddenly appeared as potential partners in concrete projects and beneficiaries of funds intended for infrastructure development, which has marked an important turn in the relationship between China and *WBs*.

For boosting the *Jingchu* "Walk Out" walks as its "*Image of China*" and its "*Visit Card*" to the world have been implemented various measures and included different approaches by the *Hubei Provincial Department of Culture* and *Hubei Provincial Government* in the following of the *17 + 1* pace, that has resulted in the conduction and overtaking of amount of various projects by the devoted scholars to the carrying on the message of *The Silk Road* and the experts engaged in the *BRI*'s ongoing dialogue between those countries and nations.

"*Jingchu Culture Walk Out*" has been taken as the foundation for building platforms in education, tourism, economy, investments, agriculture, science and technology, youth, local cooperation and all the fields being taken as the telling *The Stories of China* main medium and the essentials for providing the climate pleasant for the *Jingchu* buds blossoms in CEECs.

By extending the *17 + 1* channels to the regional pedestal, 2018 with the visit of the *17 + 1* representatives of Wuhan and the *17 + 1* channels extending to the regional level, the creation of *CEECs-Hubei Channel* has been brought out and with it the opportunity for Hubei and the *WBs* and Macedonia for getting each other to a closer distance.

President Xi's legacy is deeply rooted in the *BRI*, that holding one of the main heading spots of the *Constitution* of the *Communist Party*, from the political point of view matters for the leadership of China. And "as a complex, multifaceted and malleable endeavour" [3] its "transcends conventions, taxonomies and typologies" [3] are easily refitted and adjusted to changing realities – including the engagement being shaped by the ongoing *COVID-19* pandemic [3] worldwide and in the Balkans, in which, as Prof. Huang Ping has said "is needed a new world order, and in order to work out this new order, the sharing of knowledge and the mutual understanding is crucial."

The exploration done on the relevant research outcomes is carrying out the certainty of the estimated destination for the better mutual right understanding of China and the Balkans, and placing the regional collaboration of Hubei and Macedonia in an enriched closer multi-field cooperation framework on the onward path of *17 + 1*. By screening

⁴ One of the three towns that in 1927 completed Wuhan - Hankou, Hanyang and Wuchang.

the overall state of these regions this work is excavating the pandemic time opportunities and drafting the being foreseen further directions.

2 Balkans' 17 + 1 BRI'S Jingchu Spirits

“Chinese authorities have not concealed their ambition to (re)establish Eurasia as the largest economic market in the world and to pursue a shift away from the dollar-based global financial system.” [21] “Nonetheless, Chinese foreign policy, through its basic principles of harmonious development and mutual benefit, indirectly acknowledges that any bilateral initiative is condemned to fail unless it is grounded in win-win cooperation.” [1] The “bilateral cooperation between China and other countries and multilateral cooperation on broader platforms go hand in hand, and the two complement and reinforce each other” [14] by developing bilateral relations, “but on the basis of strengthening the development of bilateral relations, consensus points are formed to promote the development of multilateral cooperation, and further feed and promote the development of bilateral relations through the achievements of multilateral cooperation.” [14] Thus, “the essence of the *BRI* is to create favorable conditions for economic cooperation by tackling several fronts at once – infrastructure, logistics, trade facilitation, investment promotion, tourism etc.” [1] and “develops in a loose and flexible way in order to integrate different countries and stakeholders that find common areas of interest.” [1].

Although is being seen “by many as an ambitious game-changing plan devised by China to project its increasing economic and political power worldwide – even if in geographical terms it covers ‘only’ Eurasia and eastern Africa” [20], since its birth the *BRI* predominantly is being understood as an associated infrastructure megaprojects plan, that in its expanding framework is being locking the “partner countries into long-term complex relationships with China”. [20].

By investing in infrastructure *BRI* has allowed China’s support to the own economic development itself for the purpose of the better promotion of the Chinese companies on the global market and the facilitation of the Chinese exports. It has also resulted in the creation of the win-win cooperation framework for the all countries along the *Belt and Road*, “providing that their interests and abilities align with what China and its companies need.” [1].

“It is expected that in a few years, China-funded transport infrastructure will criss-cross the southeast Europe, connecting ports, capitals and vital economic hubs.” [20] “China’s increasingly active presence in central and eastern Europe, largely through the so-called ‘16 + 1’ format, is part of Beijing’s global ‘going out’ strategy. At the same time, this engagement has also been welcomed by the governments of these countries, as China pumps much-needed capital into national and regional economic development efforts” [20] and “rather emphasizes the functionality and gradualism of cooperation” [14] by aiming “to make the cooperation open, inclusive and beneficial to all through the concept and practice of practical cooperation.” [14] “China has developed its relations with CEECs in an inclusive way, accommodating the interests and aspirations of all parties and highlighting the aspirations of CEECs for cooperation, thus opening a new model of practical cooperation between the two sides.” [14] “These relationships are centred on comprehensive, connectivity-based development, facilitated through newly

created China-led (quasi) institutional coordinating mechanisms, as well as burgeoning people-to-people exchanges.” [3].

Because of its geostrategic position in this one core regions of the *BRI* on the EU-China pathway, just in the course of several years has been striking how in the Balkans the position of China has changed, which presence before a decade almost was negligible. “*The Maritime Silk Road* in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, and the *Silk Road Economic Belt* spanning through central and eastern Europe and Turkey” have created the region into “a seamless fit for developing new transportation routes, economic corridors and China-centred supply chains.” [3] *17 + 1*, as one of the associated mechanisms of the *BRI* for the global vision implementing, at all policy levels immensely have upgraded the interaction *Sino-Balkan* platform, by coordinating developmental agendas have “introduced various policy measures to boost economic exchange (including the overseeing of direct investments), created a web of nascent quasi-institutions and associations, and facilitated numerous exchanges between non-politicians, i.e. scholars, entrepreneurs, professionals from fields spanning from tourism and culture to health care and youth, among other areas.” [3] “At the same time, it is questionable whether China’s efforts to promote a cooperative experiment can sustainably provide interconnected regional public goods. At present, the construction of connectivity has only produced certain effects in the *WBs*, so it is not representative enough and the theoretical coverage is limited.”[14].

“Infrastructure construction plays an important role in driving economic growth. China has made unremitting efforts to this end through the *Belt and Road Initiative* and other initiatives. China is ready to work with all parties to uphold the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, uphold openness, green and clean governance, and strive for high-standard, people-centered and sustainable development, so as to deliver more fruitful outcomes of high-quality *Belt and Road* cooperation.” [7] For the impact of Global China, the Balkans are being considered as the countries that are having very important role for the *BRI*, “which was not the case until recently.” [3] There are being several well known infrastructure megaprojects for transport as the tangible outcomes under the tied-loans scheme of it that are embracing the highways constructions and bridges in Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. Another ones are the *CMEC* investment in *Varna* in Bulgaria and the *COSCO* investment in the *Piraeus Port* in Greece. In August 2015 with the capacity expansion of the *Suez Canal*, those being seen as the very ambitious projects are helping the Chinese commodities promoting in central and southeast Europe. Towards the continent heart, the *Piraeus-Budapest* upgraded transport corridor is expected to shorten and speed up the China containers journey by at least reducing ten days the overall travel time to the western Europe major ports. As well, the brownfield investment by *Hebei Steel* - the *Smederevo Steel Mill* and the investment by *Zijin Mining* - the *Bor Copper Mine* are being important equally, same as the energy infrastructure projects investments.

China and CEECs in the process of cooperation insist on the principle of voluntarism without being limited by the cooperation form and content, and are being maintaining a certain regional stability and flexible and open regionalism cooperation way. [14].

With the Balkans, “the cooperation is loose but not scattered, flexible and orderly, focused on specific regions and open and coordinated” [14], and the advanced technology transfer from China is being one of the major objectives in the latest years. It is estimated that in the upcoming years, through the launched in 2017 the so called *Health Silk Road*, the main goal of China will be the global facing with the *COVID-19* consequences by enhancing the healthcare cooperation with the pharmaceuticals and medical equipment supplying, and the coordination in terms of the policies. For the *Sino-Balkan* shared future, being built by companies from China, the 5G powered infrastructure - the e-commerce, fintech, biotech, smart cities development, artificial intelligence and alike, are already being taken as the very needed parts.

3 WB'S and Macedonia 17 + 1 BRI'S Jingchu Spirits

The birth of the *16 + 1 Mechanism* in 2012 and after on the *BRI* has been one of the most remarkable turning point for China's relationship with the *WBs*, that have become the very potential partners for China's intended infrastructure development concrete projects and beneficiaries of funds. The already grown presence of China in the *Western Balkans* with its infrastructure development has benefited and contributed the integration of the region and has increased the trade flows and the economic growth, which is being the strategic priority of the coming into power governments in those countries, and for the infrastructure building for facilitating the transport, communications, energy supply, the tourism development and for the exports promotion, and for the attraction of the foreign direct investments (FDI) have been made huge efforts. In this region those infrastructure projects have offered the Chinese construction companies the acquiring Europe's track record and the help for their overcapacity challenges mitigating, and the job opportunities creation. The limited size and the purchasing power lack is being the characteristics of the *WBs*, but the *BRI*'s major transport corridor connecting the Mediterranean and Europe acting is being a fact.

Along with this in all the countries of the *Western Balkans* participating in the *Initiative*, that anticipated tangible benefits naturally raised the expectations for their exports to China by increasing Chinese FDI and the cheap loans for building the very needed infrastructure projects, especially for the transport and energy. In the last years the Chinese investments in the *WBs* have been increasing, that has been satisfying the region's governments and the EU interest for steering them in the “sustainability, environmental compliance, respect for the rule of law and good governance standards” [17] direction. And the synergies creating with China and other external actors has brought the economic growth of this region and the reinforcement of the reform agenda of EU.

Being the milestone country that leads from Athens to CEECs, and even further to the countries in Western and Northern Europe, Macedonia in the implementation of the *BRI* is having central geographical importance with its landlocked country location, that is sitting on the prospective commercial route of the transport corridor “connecting the port facilities that the Chinese are operating in Piraeus (Greece) to Budapest (Hungary)” [21], which has become the gateway to western and central Europe's markets. Macedonia is one of the first countries that has accepted the *BRI* and *16 + 1* cooperation embracing, which has increased its reflection in China, precisely among the big Chinese companies

and policy makers, and has created avenues new for the cooperation in the economic direction and has speed up its economy development. In the 16 + 1 framework, placed by the Chinese state-owned banks, Macedonia was the first country in CEECs that has made use of the US\$ 10 billion for infrastructure projects. In the amount of US\$ 677.3 million (to be paid back over 20 years, with 2% interest rate and 5 years grace period), the concessional loan from the *Chinese Export Import Bank* has been used by the Macedonian government for the construction of the highway section linking Kichevo and Ohrid (57 km) and the other one linking Skopje and Shtip (50 km). In the latest years Macedonia through grants or loans by Chinese funding has implemented several projects. Generally in the WBs region and including Macedonia in the energy sector is being the first major project built by the *China Water Electric* company on the river Treska in 2004 with a US\$ 413 million from the *China Development Bank* - the *Kozjak* hydropower plant. Another important completed first project built by the Chinese company *IPPR*, following Chinese standards and financed with Chinese aid funds is the construction of the primary school *Rajko Zhinzifov* in Drachevo, Skopje. For the implementation of the so-called *e-Education* project, with the purpose of connecting all the education institutions in the country have been used the Chinese development cooperation funds in the amount of US\$ 7 million. *Huawei* following a public tender has been chosen for being the implementing party. As well, the capital city of Skopje for replacing the fleet of the *Public Transport Company* has purchased 202 *Zhengzhou Yutong* buses in the amount of US\$ 38.5 million. Alike, the electric trains and locomotives from *China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation* have been brought for modernizing the rail transport by using the loan from the *EBRD* in the amount of US\$ 29.5 million. As the most prominent for the *BRI's* initiative is been seen the Macedonian section railway reconstruction along *Corridor X* - the US\$ 2.4 billion project for linking Athens and Budapest for facilitating and making easier the goods transit from the Chinese-owned *Port of Piraeus* beyond the CEECs countries. But despite the improved cooperation between China and Macedonia, there is still being a significant untapped potential in the further getting to each other closer pace.

4 WBs Covid-19 17 + 1 BRI'S Jingchu Spirits

Not clearly can be predicted the severity of the *COVID-19* pandemic consequences for the humans and the society, neither the extend of its negative impact on the global economy and politics. As the pandemic is continuously being repeated the changes in climate is becoming the prominent challenge with the frequent occur of the regional issues and the fragility of the world economy recovering. The *Rome Summit "People, Planet and Prosperity"* theme has expressed the determination of the international community for keeping united in revitalizing the world economy and defeating the pandemic by demonstrating the *G20's* mission for leading the transformation of the governance of the global economy. So far, with 700 million doses initial annual production, China has been conducting with 16 countries the joint vaccine production and has provided more than 1.6 billion doses of vaccines to more than 100 countries and international organizations and has being providing more than 2 billion doses during last year.

Holding the *International Cooperation Forum on COVID-19 Vaccines* last year in May has been proposed at the *Global Health Summit* and has been successfully held

in August, with participating countries agreeing to cooperate on more than 1.5 billion doses of *COVID-19* vaccines. *The Belt and Road Vaccine Partnership Initiative* with the other countries launched by China's "calling on the international community to jointly promote the equitable global distribution of vaccines" [7] has increased the vaccines accessibility and affordability in the countries and has made positive contributions for "building a global vaccine defense line" [7]. And along with it China has become the major supplier of medical and protective equipment, tests and diagnostic kits, as for the other countries same in the Balkans, with the best known case of Serbia, where has sent team of doctors, has built laboratories, has delivered ventilators and masks and have sent the most substantial assistance for fighting the pandemic "– a combination of donations and commercial exports – to all of the countries in the region as well". [3].

But still, even during those pandemic ever-growing geopolitical uncertainties, the *BRI* in the Balkans as for the other countries has furthered the future cooperation. The *17 + 1* platform with the Balkan countries and China on several occasions has convened for the joint pandemic respond discussions, and China's led initiatives is being facilitating the coordinated pandemic response. In spite of the dependency of the inflow of external capital that is not being met by the international suppliers, the Balkan countries with their geopolitical tensions and making the cooperation with China more controversial are keeping on the active involvement in it, and the rationale is being "solely economic in nature" [3] with the provided time for the *BRI*'s necessary remodeling in order "to fit the emerging global landscape." [3].

5 *17 + 1* After Pandemic Estimation Paths

Since the emerge of *Covid-19* the *BRI* is not being the same and the healthcare is remaining the core policy area. Its digitalization and the technology usage for the diseases combating is being the inevitable part of the *Digital* and *Health Silk Road* crossing, that are serving the being advancing standardization and communication policies and the facilitation of the digital infrastructure expansion of China. Even further, the *BRI* has become the medium that has occurred with the worldwide lockdowns for the increased promoting of the technological digital cooperation. Certain private technological companies, like *Alibaba*, *Tencent*, *Huawei* have become the stages for the expanded scope of the being involved in the *BRI*'s actors.

Meanwhile, China and *CEECs* are helping the strengthening of the upgraded cooperation and coordination between them. After the outbreak, the Chinese president Xi Jinping proposed that "*COVID-19* vaccines should be made a global public good" [7] and has proposed an action initiative for the vaccine cooperation on the global level. With it has been initiated the strengthening of the cooperation for the developing the research on vaccine and the support for the joint developing countries *R&D* and the production between vaccine companies. Along with it has been met, set by the *World Health Organization*, the global 2022 vaccination target and the supply of vaccines to the other countries. The *World Trade Organization* decision for the vaccine intellectual property exemption has been supported and the technology transfer to the developing countries has been encouraged. The cross-border trade has been strengthened as well for ensuring the vaccines, auxiliary and raw materials unimpeded trade. Based on the

WHO Emergency Vaccines List, all the vaccines have been treated fairly and has been promoted their mutual recognition and for the global vaccine cooperation and its access in the countries has been provided the very needed financial support.

“In the face of profound changes and the pandemic unseen in a century”, “for the future of mankind and the well-being of its people” [7] 17 + 1 has been upholding openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, by promotion of creating the community with a shared future for mankind and the practicing of true multilateralism, that is being carried out with the help of specific organizations and platforms. “The 17 + 1 cooperation is being “based on bilateral relations, while multilateral relations are strengthened to promote and coordinate.” [14] “China-CEECs cooperation, featuring the “*bilateral + multilateral*” theory, is one body with two wings, with bilateral and multilateral cooperation flying in the same direction” [14] and “it is entirely possible to build platforms to solve the bilateral relations under the multilateral framework.” [14] “China holds high the banner of multilateralism in the international community, firmly opposes hegemonism and power politics, and actively promotes democracy and multipolarization in the international order” [14] and “without the background and experience of China’s diplomacy, many understandings are bound to be subjective and lack practical foundation.” [14].

“No one is immune to the *COVID-19* pandemic, and solidarity is the most powerful weapon.” [7] During these pandemic years, the international community in a scientific manner is making concerted efforts for tackling and defeating the *COVID-19*. The origin of the virus politicizing and stigmatization has awakened the solidarity spirit for fighting the pandemic and has increased the cooperation strengthening on its prevention, control, diagnosis and treatment, and is enhancing the capacity to the major public emergencies respond. The pandemic is continuing the world economy very complex and far reaching impact, and the macro-economic policy coordination has been strengthened for ensuring its continuity, stability and sustainability and the prevention and avoiding the rising inflation, exchange rate fluctuations and high debt on the developing countries, and their maintaining sound operation of the international financial and economic systems. The brought pandemic multiple crises to the world has caused the 800 million number of hungry people, posing unprecedented challenges to the implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The world has realized that “should put people first, make global development more equitable, effective and inclusive, leave no country behind” and that “innovation is the decisive factor in promoting economic and social development and addressing the common challenges of mankind.”

China and the CEEC countries are being working on tapping the potential of innovation-driven growth, formulating rules on the basis of full participation and broad consensus, and are being fostering a sound environment for innovation-driven development. Their key to the success is being the upholding of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the promotion of the full implementation of the *Paris Agreement on Climate Change*, *The 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* and *The 15th Conference of the Parties to*

the Convention on Biological Diversity. The developing countries are being setting the example on the emission reduction, by fully accommodating the special difficulties and concerns, and are being fulfilling their commitments on the climate financing and the technology and capacity building support providing to the developing countries.

Having the fact that the “digital economy is an important frontier of scientific and technological innovation”, “China is being working with all the parties in order “to promote the healthy and orderly development of the digital economy.” [7] *17 + 1* is being shouldering the digital era responsibility, the speeding up of the new digital infrastructure development, the promoting of the deeper digital technologies integration with the real economy, and is helping the developing countries bridging the “*digital divide*”. Alike, China has put forward the *Global Data Security Initiative* for the formulation of international rules on digital governance, that reflect the wishes and respect the interests of all the countries and foster an open, fair, just and non-discriminatory digital development environment, and is being attaching a great importance to the digital economy international cooperation, after deciding to apply for accession to the *Digital Economy Partnership Agreement*.

6 *Jingchu Sino-Macedonian After Pandemic Directions*

“Even if implemented via video-conferencing” [3], the *BRI’s Jingchu Spirits* are “here to stay – and must be accounted for when thinking about the trajectory of the Balkans in the post-*COVID-19* era” [3], including Macedonia.

Being seen as the inevitable China’s frequency for *China’s voice* hearing for the innovations in environmental technology, water, sustainable city development, medicine, bio-engineering, new materials, steel, information technology, modern manufacturing, logistics, water, and in addition holding the leading place of China’s *R&D* and *Optoelectronics and Global Positioning Systems*, and its pillar industries, including electronic information, automotive, steel and iron, equipment manufacturing, food processing, petrochemical, and textiles, together with its power in metallurgical industry, hydropower, shipbuilding and logistics, “Hubei is the place for integrations of different minds from different walks of life from all over the world devoted to the walking of the ‘*Roads of Hubei*’⁵” [9], that with its capital of Wuhan in the fight with *COVID-19* has proved itself for being the right model that the world should be following since its very first spread worldwide.

The Jingchu Sino-Macedonian ties “can only be gradually discussed through exchanges, insisting on seeking common ground while shelving differences and promoting practical cooperation.” [14] Joining united in working together along the *Health Silk Road* by strengthening the coordination for promoting the recovery and inclusive development should become the *Jingchu Sino-Macedonian Spirit* for taking Hubei and Macedonia to the shared win-win future. Enhancing the cooperation in the development of e-commerce platforms, fintech, biotech, artificial intelligence and smart cities should become the *Jingchu Sino-Macedonian* vision for the Hubei-Wuhan-Macedonia relationship. By mirroring the *Digital* and *Health Silk Roads* the *CEECs-Hubei Channel* should

⁵ *The Boli Dao* or *The Glass Road* and *The Road of Tea and Horses – The China – Russia Tea Horse Road* in Hankow.

expand the direction of *The Jingchu Sino-Macedonian Channel* for the digital economy healthy and orderly development.

Keeping shouldered in this digital new world order, developing and creating new digital infrastructure, deepening the digital technologies integration will lead to the realization of the “healthy and green” shared future that will serve the multifield cooperation and exchange between the two under the platform *Digital Jingchu Sino-Macedonian Channel*. The reflection of it will showcase the *Jingchu* intangible cultural heritage, *Jingchu* science and technology culture (*Optics Valley* and other high-tech culture), Hubei excellent traditional arts, local operas, etc.; the intangible cultural heritage and tradition of Macedonia and the CEECs. Will let Hubei become the center for the 17 + 1 cooperation between China and Europe; Macedonia become the center of the 17 + 1 cooperation between Europe and China. Will deepen Macedonia's understanding of *Jingchu* culture, and at the same time deepen the Hubei people's understanding of Macedonia and CEECs. Will be in charge of strengthening the cooperation in tourism, supporting trade and investments. Will serve the economic collaboration; the science and technology collaboration; the agri-trade and forestry cooperation; the health cooperation; the exchanges and cooperation in the areas of youth, sports and education; people-to-people exchange; the enhancement of exchanges between think tanks, film workshops, libraries, publishing houses and journalists.

7 Conclusion

Accompanied by the enhancement of Hubei and CEECs getting along with each other this work is framing the importance of the need of the creation of a *Digital Jingchu Sino-Macedonian Channel* on the path of *The Health Silk Road*; enlightens the 17 + 1 BRI's *Jingchu Spirits* headings of those 18 countries by shedding light on the *Western Balkans* and Macedonia; suggests the implementing of this idea in practice; foreseeing the results and the multilateral benefits of *Telling the China and CEECs Stories*; emphasizes in the fight with *COVID-19* taking Hubei and China for being the right model that the world should be following since its very first spread worldwide; by excavating the pandemic time opportunities and drafting the being foreseen further directions is placing the regional collaboration of Hubei and Macedonia to an upper dimension of their walks towards their shared “*healthy and green*” future.

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Author's Contributions. Frosina Vitkovska is a linguist, sinologist, court interpreter (Chinese, English); in the Ministry of Justice of RN Macedonia, Kriva Palanka Municipal Court; recipient of the Special Recognition Award “*MKarta*”, awarded by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of RN Macedonia, Mr. Bujar Osmani (2021); with 10 + years of inter-disciplinary research experiences in Sinology, Macedonian and Chinese Linguistics and Applied Linguistics, Chinese Culture with the focus on *Jingchu Culture* promotion in Central and Eastern Europe in the frame of the BRI “17 + 1” Cooperation Mechanism. Currently, she is professor (Associate) in Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, School of Foreign Studies.

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