

Innovation financing scale-up: what can EU learn from China

9 April 2026, 12:15-14:00

@ FEPS, Avenue des Arts 46, Brussels

Europe is in search of ways to finance innovation scale-up. While start-up creation in the EU is at par with the US, their subsequent growth in the EU is hampered by the lack of financing. While many analysts in Europe suggest emulating the US experience, with its market-based financing of venture capital, the US model is not the only possibility. China has managed to finance its innovation at large scale using government venture funds (GVF). The Chinese model is interesting in its use of directionality and missions and a blend of public and private financing. It also has a strong regional component.

As a part of the project “EU Investment capacity” FEPS and FES commissioned a paper to Professor Cornel Ban, a leading expert on Chinese industrial policy and financing, to draw insights from the Chinese innovation financing that the EU could possibly use, notably, their experience with GVFs. In this panel discussion Professor Ban will present his findings, which will be followed by comments from experts and discussion with participants.

Agenda

11:45-12:15

Registration and lunch

12:15 – 12:20

Opening remarks by

Laszlo Andor, FEPS Secretary General

Tobias Mörschel, Head of EU Office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

12:20 – 12:50

Chinese model for innovation financing - lessons for the EU

Presentation of the Policy Brief by **Cornel Ban**, Associate Professor at Copenhagen Business School

12:50 – 13:15

Expert comments

- **Calin Danilescu**, Policy Officer, Access to Finance, DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
- **Lorenzo Moretti**, Research Fellow, European University Institute (EUI), and Italy Lead and Head of Advisory, Luiss Hub for New Industrial Policy and Economic Governance (LUHNIP)
- **Luuk Schmitz**, Senior Researcher, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne
- **Anca Dumitrescu**, Policy Officer, DG GROW (Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs), European Commission
- **Philipp Lausberg**, Senior Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre



13:15 – 13:45

Open discussion and Q&A with participants

13:45 – 13:50

Final remarks and next steps