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Abstract of the doctoral dissertation entitled:

*DETERMINANTS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN CITIES AND REGIONS OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE WITH CHINA*

The aim of my doctoral dissertation entitled "Determinants of Cooperation between Cities and Regions of Central and Eastern Europe and China" was to map and characterize the relations between CEE and China at the level of cities and regions, to create a list of universal conditions for sub-state cooperation and to examine their role at the sub-state level in the context of CEE-China relations. My dissertation filled a research gap in the literature concerning non-state international relations in the CEE region towards China, particularly identifying the factors determining these relations.

I based my research on quantitative and qualitative methods, such as surveys and interviews with officials, politicians and experts on CEE-China relations.

The dissertation consists of five chapters. In the first, I indicated the theoretical framework of the international activity of cities and regions and characterized the term paradiplomacy and city diplomacy, as well as multi-level governance in the context of multi-level policy coordination.

In the second chapter, based on existing literature, I assigned sixteen determinants of sub-state cooperation to four categories: external and internal, subjective and objective. Then, I defined and characterized each of these conditions.

Then, in the third chapter, I described the multi-level relations of CEE with China at the supranational and national levels. First of all, I characterized the perception of the People's Republic of China on the CEE, which affects the way the PRC conducts foreign policy towards this region. Then, I defined the supra-state format 16+1 as a multilateral Chinese initiative towards the CEE countries, which de facto operates based on bilateral relations with each country separately. Finally, I indicated the reasons according to which the current 16+1 format is already a dying initiative. For this purpose, I also stated the superficial significance of the subnational dimension of cooperation within the 16+1 framework.

In the next fourth chapter, based on my empirical research, I analyzed the subnational relations of CEE with China. Here, I made a detailed list of city and regional partnerships, presented the formation of partnerships over time and indicated the significance of cooperation with China compared to other partnerships. Moreover, I described the influence of the city or region's size on cooperation, characterized the patterns of multi-level coordination of policy towards China, and indicated which local partners participate in cooperation with the PRC and the forms of this cooperation. Finally, I presented the

benefits and obstacles resulting from this subnational relationship. I also described two case studies, cooperation with China by Prague and Ostrów Wielkopolski, to draw attention to the conditions of subnational cooperation, such as multi-level policy coordination and the role of the human factor in paradiplomacy.

In the last chapter, I created a model of cooperation between CEE cities and regions and China based on the list of determinants of subnational cooperation in the universal dimension created in the second chapter. I, therefore, assigned these factors to the most important, moderately important and least essential categories in the context of only the relations between CEE cities and regions and China.