

# “Belt and Road”: One Decade of Successful Global Cooperation

This thematic issue of the journal *Progress*, published by the Foundation “For the Serbian people and the state”, is dedicated to the tenth anniversary of the beginning of the implementation of the “Belt and Road”, which was initiated by President of the People’s Republic of China Xi Jinping.

Looking back at the decade since the successful beginning of the project implementation, we may state that it is the greatest multilateral project ever, not counting, of course, the creation and development of the Organization of United Nations, which includes more than 150 countries. Although there have been attempts to present this project primarily as an economic, infrastructural and investment one, it cannot be reduced only to that dimension because it has marked China’s great opening up to the cooperation with the whole world and in all spheres: from investments in infrastructural projects, via cooperation in the fields of virology and public health, which was particularly pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic, to

cooperation in the fields of ecology and culture. Therefore, it is a comprehensive cooperation at the global level, closely connected with President Xi Jinping’s vision about *three global initiatives*. Most importantly, the basic principle of this cooperation is its voluntariness: every sovereign country which believes that it will have interest in participating in the “Belt and Road” initiative is welcome and it will participate in those fields subject to its interests. The inclusive characteristic of the “Belt and Road” has extraordinary significance for small countries, often used to being forced to participate in an international initiative or not, regardless of how they would choose of their own free will. We believe this is exactly the reason for the large success of this initiative.

By expressing our honour to President of the People’s Republic of China for initiating this global initiative and by publishing the texts of Chinese and Serbian authors in this issue dedicated to the “Belt and Road” implementation, we would like to welcome President Xi Jinping to Serbia.