

# Securing Science: Understanding EU Research Security Initiatives towards China

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# Outline

- EU research policy
- China in global science
- Implications for European universities



# 1. EU research policy: 2014-2019

- „3O“ approach: Openness
- EU in China
  - Growing S&T role in EU-China relationship
  - Horizon 2020 etc. welcoming Chinese
  - Member States' projects and programmes
  - Joint calls and thematic priorities
  - IPR, reciprocity but not security



Carlos Moedas (Wiki 2024)



**European Commission - Speech**

**Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World**

22 June 2015

Carlos Moedas – Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation

Brussels, 'A new start for Europe: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation' Confer

**„I am convinced that excellent science is the foundation of future prosperity, and that openness is the key to excellence. Europe is a global leader in science, and (to) remain relevant and competitive (...) we need to engage more in science diplomacy and global scientific collaboration.”**

Carlos Moedas (2015) Commissioner DG Research and Innovation

# 1. EU research policy: *After 2019*



Mariya Gabriel (EC 2023)

- **EU Strategic Outlook on China (2019)**
- **Global Approach to R&I (2021)**
- „strategic, open, reciprocal“
- Values and principles, closer to other policies
- Proposal for Council recommendations on enhancing **research security**
- „as open as possible and as closed as necessary“

**„(O)penness and collaboration are part of the DNA of great science, but they can also make it vulnerable to malign influence and the undesirable transfer of critical technologies. This can undermine our security.”**

Iliana Ivanova (2024) Commissioner DG Research, Innovation, Education Youth and Sport

# 1. EU research policy: *After 2019*

EU Security Union  
Strategy (2020/7)

EU Strategic  
Compass for  
Security & Defence  
(2022/3)

European Economic  
Security Strategy  
(2022/6)

EC List of critical  
technology areas  
(2023/10)

Defence of  
Democracy  
package (2022/12)

White paper on  
European R&D dual  
use of home-grown  
tech. (2024/1)

EU Green  
Diplomacy (2024/3)

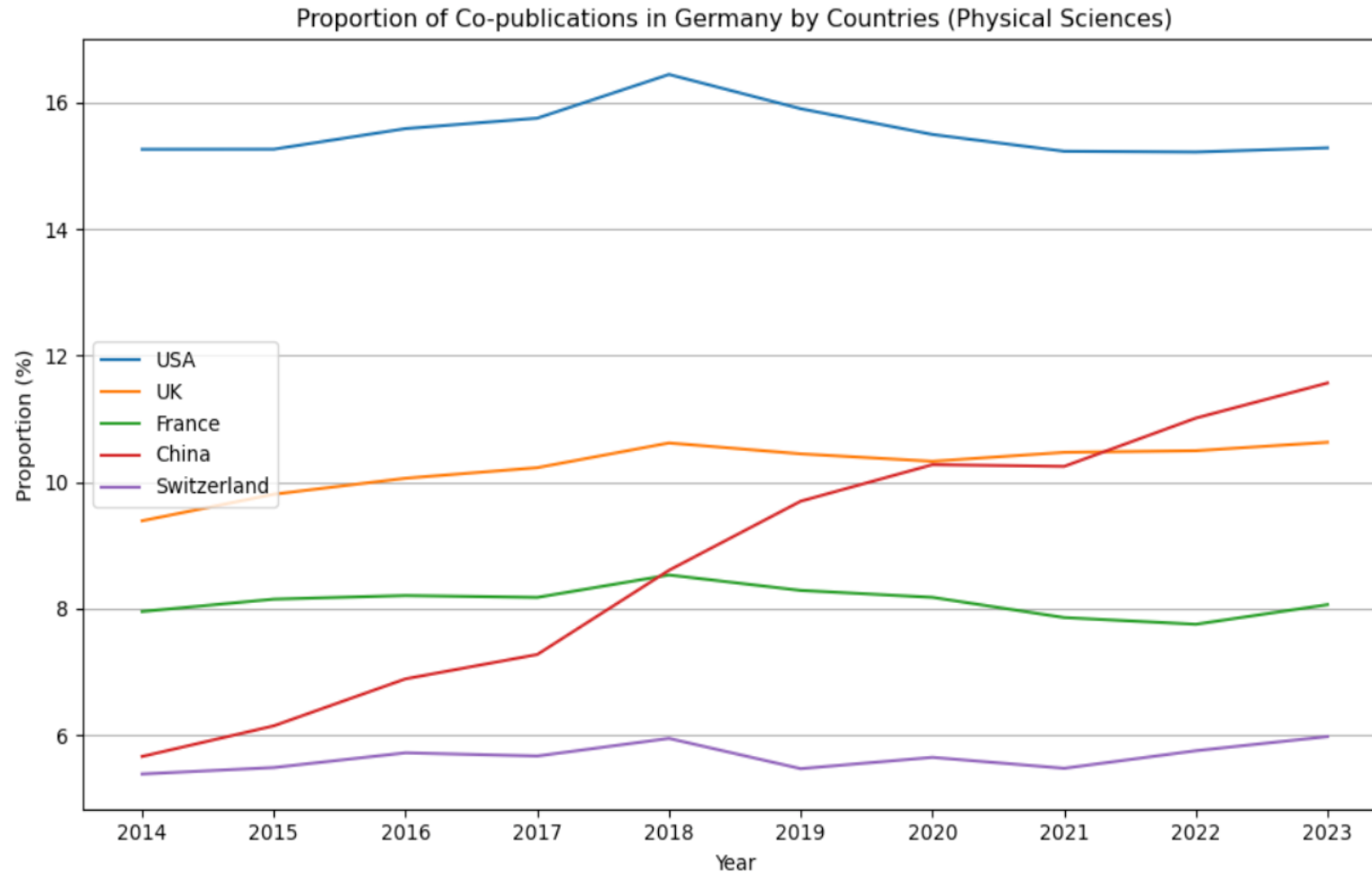
EU Science  
Diplomacy (tbc  
2024)

## 2. China in global science

- China boasts world's second biggest R&D expenditures (83% of USA)
- In 2023, that was 3 trillion RMB (459 billion USD), 2.55% of its GDP
- S&T of highest relevance of Chinese pol. economy
- Self-reliance, talent cultivation, military-civil-Party integration
- Pragmatic approach based on country's needs + regional implementation



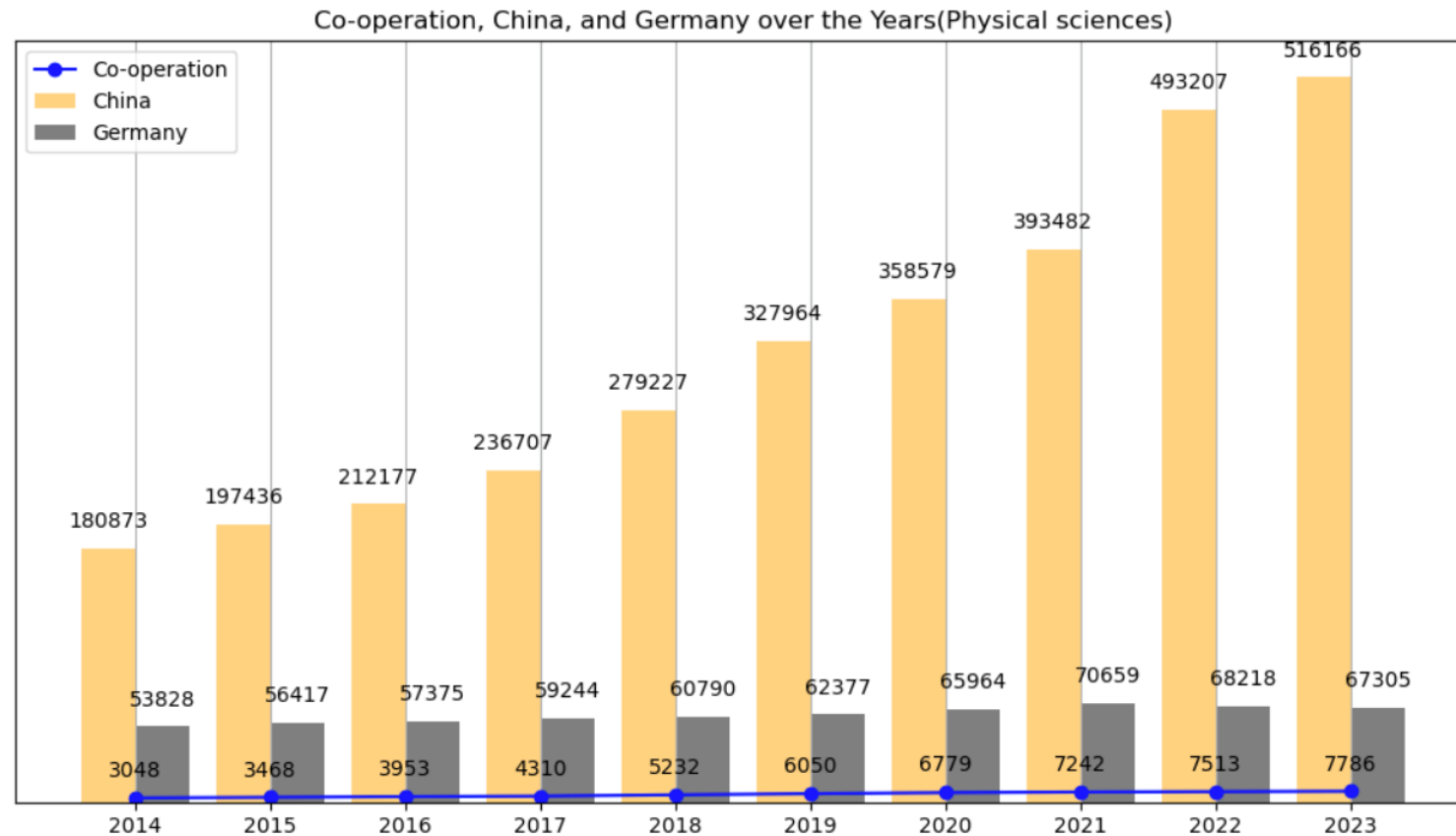
## 2. China in global science



Sino-German co-authorship in physical sciences

Data: Scopus (2024)

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Sino-German co-authorship in physical sciences

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# 3. Implications for European universities

- **Research security:** An approach protecting research ecosystems and legitimate national security and economic interests (OECD 2024)

Compliance

Export  
Control and  
Dual Use

Security  
Architecture

Regulatory  
Framework

Cybersecurity

# 3. Implications for European universities

- Risk management: New tensions

Autonomy and  
control

Administrative  
and academic  
staff

Diversity and  
unity in the EU

# Conclusions

- Shift from openness to address risks
- Structural turn in research policy
- Risk management as the new normal
- New dilemmas for European universities
- More research needed!

# Kiitos!

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