



## WINNERS OF SECOND EDITION OF TOURISM AWARD MARCO POLO

### **Tourism Award Marco Polo for cooperation with the Chinese market in 2019 - 2nd edition**

The Tourism Coordination Centre of 17+1 cooperation is pleased to announce the winners of the second edition of Tourism Award Marco Polo. By the decision of the international jury, the GOLD winner of the international competition is the Polish travel agency Funclub Sp. z o.o. from Poznań, while the Sheraton Grand Warsaw hotel was awarded Honorary Mention.

The Tourism Award Marco Polo was launched in 2019 to acknowledge the contribution of tourism stakeholders of the 17 CEE countries to creating the *best joint tourism product* for the Chinese market.

The GOLD winner of 2020 is the Polish travel agency, Funclub Sp. z o.o. with its round tour called "*Best of Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia & Hungary*".

The Sheraton Grand Warsaw Hotel was awarded HONORARY MENTION of Marco Polo, which is granted to the best hotel accommodation with specific services for Chinese tourists. The Sheraton Grand Warsaw introduced numerous amenities for Chinese guests in 2019, thus earning the prestigious title.

The Tourism Coordination Centre of 17+1 congratulates the winners on their success, the more so because - due to Covid-19 pandemic - the applications were elaborated amidst very difficult conditions for international tourism.

At the same time, it is important to mention the winners of the previous year - The gold winner Fly Montenegro Travel, the silver awarded CT Poland and the bronze winner, Long Teng Hungary Ltd.

The 17 countries of the CEE region received 1.9 million Chinese guests in 2019, a 315% increase compared to the figures of 2014. With these rocketing popularity rates, Central and Eastern European countries had good chance to rival with the most well-known Western European travel destinations. We sincerely hope that the post-COVID recovery in CEE will be fast and spectacular.