

# China's 17+1 initiative

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**In news-** Lithuania recently announced that it is quitting the China-led "17+1" grouping by blaming the platform 'divisive' from the European Union's perspective.

## **About 17+1 initiative-**

- It is an initiative by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs **founded in 2012 in Budapest.**
- Its aim is to **expand cooperation** between **Beijing and the 16 Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) member countries**, with **investments and trade** for the development of European countries that are less developed as compared to the Western European states.
- The framework focuses on **infrastructure projects** such as bridges, motorways, railway lines and modernisation of ports in the member states.
- The initiative **includes China, 12 EU member states and 5 Balkan states** – *Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia.*
- Its **secretariat is in Beijing**, with 17 "national coordinators" in each of the partner CEE countries.
- The 17+1 meets annually with the **recent summit held in Dubrovnik (2019).**