

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF LARGE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY PROJECTS: THE CASE OF THE “ONE BELT ONE ROAD”

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Large international energy projects are expected to boost the economic growth of the countries participating in the project, removing or alleviating poverty in underdeveloped areas and creating new markets for goods and services.

This analysis has been recently challenged with respect to China's "One Belt-One Road" project, as some countries begin to regard the considerable debt loads they might incur as financially unsustainable despite the expected economic boost.

A further matter of concern is the negative outcome on the environment due to increased energy demand and electricity generation, industrial activities, transportation. The clearing of forests for highways and railways, the possible destruction or degradation of ecosystems are additional sources of worries.

This presentation aims at providing general considerations about the relation between the expected growth in trade and infrastructures and the amount of investments in energy technologies required to guarantee environmental sustainability, as well as an estimation of whether the relevant financial burden would possibly generate a financially unsustainable debt load.