

Enhancing the Impact of Euro-India Policy Dialogue and Promotion of Joint Research in Information & Communication Technologies

“While the increasing joint research projects and academic interchanges between India and the EU countries prove that there has been a real take-off in this field, the statistics indicate that those efforts are still behind the ones undertaken in the other large emerging economies.” - Country Report India. An Analysis of EU-Indian Cooperation in S&T by Jan Peter Wogart, Brussels, December 2008

Since the early 1960s the European Union and the Republic of India have been collaborating to promote and encourage research cooperation. The EU-India Joint Action Plan established in 2005 provides an agreed measure of progress, a mechanism for coordination and a spur to stronger cooperation.

The EU is a long-standing and trusted partner in India’s development effort and growth with both sides cooperating in many fields including Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Euro-India SPIRIT, an initiative funded by the European Commission, supports these cooperation endeavours acting as a facilitator and connector to open up a window of opportunities to bring together European Union (EU) and Indian ICT stakeholders and to boost the impact of EU-India Policy Dialogue in the field of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT). Furthermore, Euro-India SPIRIT offers an important opportunity to consolidate existing research cooperation in ICT and put in place durable foundations for the future.



“Euro-India SPIRIT is key to building an international dimension into the research agenda of Indian ICT initiatives by helping to leverage international funding for projects and channelling the views of Indian and European ICT stakeholders to craft mutually beneficial joint ICT research policies”

Florence Pesce, Euro-India SPIRIT Coordinator

Euro-India SPIRIT & SYNCHRONISER – Working together for the benefit of EU-Indian ICT



Euro-India SPIRIT has developed a synergy with the SYNCHRONISER project to strengthen links within European and Indian communities and report on the impact of EU-India policy dialogues on ICTs.

SYNCHRONISER aims to enhance the impact of EU-India policy dialogues on ICT through appropriate forms of involvement with scientific communities and stakeholders. The project provides a research dimension to the existing priorities and identifies long term research perspectives and areas for co-funding opportunities.

It also gives substance to policy by organizing an effective cooperation multiplier through events, publications and services to the scientific community of India. The project strives to increase the participation and effectiveness of Indian organisation in FP7 projects.

Collaboration between Euro-India SPIRIT and SYNCHRONISER will ensure a clear and combined voice for the EC on the ground in India in order to ensure that the Indians are informed and up-to-date on EU-India Policy Dialogue and funding issues for joint ICT research collaboration. Collaboration activities between the projects will include meetings, workshops and conferences. Indeed, a joint Euro-India SPIRIT Networking Session and Information Stand will be held at ICT 2010 in Brussels, Belgium in September. More information on this and other events can be found below.

Web Link – <http://www.euroindiaresearch.org/synchroniser/>



Coordinating ICT Research Policy between India & Europe

Collaborative international research is an essential ingredient to achieve India's ambitions in ICT, both at home and abroad. The European Union is a valuable partner in this endeavour which could scale up the research potential in India and foster ICT innovations to address technological, economic and societal challenges for mutual benefit. Euro-India SPIRIT is carrying out a comprehensive analysis of Indian ICT research policy and priorities which will then be mapped against the EU's ICT research objectives, policies and implementation strategy. This will enable EU and Indian policymaker to identify common research challenges and align their respective policies to attain shared goals.

"The policy analysis is supported by three Working Groups with renowned experts from India and Europe. It will highlight opportunities, identify challenges, make recommendations for alignment of policy instruments, and set out joint action plans to achieve mutually beneficial technological, economic and societal objectives."

Ashok Kar, Infra Technologies and Working Group Coordinator



The Euro-India SPIRIT Working Groups are made up of ICT experts from India and Europe who are identifying and validating long term common research perspectives in three key areas:



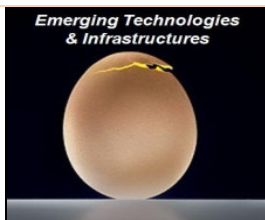
ICT Addressing Societal Challenges (eGovernment, government & public services, eHealth)

Dr. Anita Gurumurthy, IT for Change, Bangalore, India
Prof. Mogens Kuehn Pedersen, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
Prof. Krithi Ramamritham, Computer Science & Engineering, IIT-Bombay, India
Ms. Nicole Turbe Suetens, eWork Expert, France



Audio Visual, Media & Internet

Prof. Jim Clarke Telecommunications Software & Systems Group / Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland
Mr. Pierre-Yves Danet, Orange Labs, France Telecom R&D, France
Dr. Hiranmay Ghosh, Multimedia Research Group, TCS Innovation Lab, Delhi, India
Mr. Subu Goparaju, SET Lab, Infosys Technologies, Bangalore, India
Prof. Thorsten Herfet, University of Saarland, Germany



Emerging Technologies and e-Infrastructures

Dr. Vinay Deshpande, Encore Software, Bangalore, India
Dr. Fabrizio Gagliardi, Microsoft Research, UK
Dr. Ashok Jhunjunwala, Tenet Labs, IIT-Madras, India
Mr. Manoranjan Mohapatra, Comviva, Delhi, India
Prof. Neeraj Suri, TU Damstadt, Germany

ICTs are an important tool in tackling societal challenges. In little more than two decades, ICTs have demonstrated, beyond doubt, their transformative power to provide improved and equitable delivery of services, to facilitate complex planning processes and coordination across sectors, and to enable increased information sharing, outreach and monitoring of key efforts. Europe and India must join forces to continue momentum and share technological excellence and power.

Usha Vyasulu Reddi, Ph.D, Centre for Human Development, Administrative Staff College of India



Euro-India SPIRIT Supporting EU-India S&T Research Cooperation



"...the [European] Research Area must be open to the world. It is the only way to be among the best. The EU has 19 international science and technology co-operation agreements with key partner countries. I want to extend this work during my mandate.",
Máire Geoghegan-Quinn European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Towards an 'i-conomy', Innovation Summit of the Lisbon Council Brussels, 5th March 2010¹

EU-Indian collaboration through ICT research projects funded by the European Commission has seen growing numbers of Indian organisations work closely with both European and international counterparts in joint research projects. Euro-India SPIRIT follows in the footsteps of a number of successful projects dating back to 2004 which aim to further the close working relationship between India and Europe. On 11 March 2010, Euro-India SPIRIT played a key part in an introductory meeting between the new generation of EU-India projects funded by the EC. In a joint presentation between Euro-India SPIRIT and SYNCHRONISER, Mauro Bianchi, TESEO, presented the objectives of both EU-India SPIRIT and SYNCHRONISER and how the two projects complement each other in improving EU-Indian ICT research collaboration.

"EuroIndia SPIRIT is highlighting the importance of identifying common actions that could project the combined strength of the EU R&D funding/projects towards India. This can only be of benefit to the development of ICT not only in India and Europe, but also globally"
Sumeet Gupta, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry



In order to achieve this, Euro-India SPIRIT is building important alliances Science & Technology Research projects and in particular with four umbrella projects that are leading the way for EU-Indian collaboration:

 <p>EUINEC² works to improve Scientific and Technological cooperation between India and the EU by increasing awareness among Indian and European stakeholders about cooperation opportunities as well as capacity building activities for more successful collaboration.</p>	 <p>INCONTACT³ facilitates greater transnational cooperation among INCO NCPs (International Cooperation National Contact Points) with the ultimate goal of improving the overall quality of NCP services.</p>
 <p>New INDIGO⁴ is a consortium of European and Indian S&T organisations involved in promoting research cooperation between Europe and India.</p>	 <p>INDIA GATE⁵ improves EU-Indian scientific and technological cooperation through a comprehensive platform for EU organizations interested in obtaining funding from Indian sources.</p>

¹ <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/10/68&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

² <http://www.euinec.org/Home/euinechome.jsp>

³ http://www.ncp-incontact.eu/nkswiki/index.php?title=Main_Page

⁴ <http://www.newindigo.eu/>

⁵ <http://www.indiagateproject.org/>



Euro-India SPIRIT – On the road



“eIndia event has emerged as the leading ICT event in India which examines the use of ICT for improving the quality of life of the citizen in the country. With its focus on e-Governance, digital LEARNING, eHealth and eAgriculture, eIndia showcases the exciting breakthroughs being done in India which directly impact the lives of millions of common people. Thought leaders from the government, academia, private sector and civil society get together at eIndia to discuss the opportunities and challenges in bridging the digital divide through innovations for India.” **Ravi Gupta, CSDMS**

6th e-INDIA 2010 India's Largest ICT Event

e-India 2010, 4-6 August, Hyderabad, India

This three-day international conference and exhibition is a unique platform for knowledge sharing in different domains of ICT for development and facilitates multi-stakeholder partnerships and networking among governments, industry, academia and civil society organisations of different countries, including the host country- India. The objective is to bring together ICT experts, practitioners, business leaders and stakeholders of the region onto one platform, through keynote addresses, paper presentations, thematic workshops and exhibitions. In short, the event provides an excellent opportunity for participants to interact with a wide and diverse development community. **Web Link: <http://www.eindia.net.in/2010/>**

“The Who’s Who of ICT in Europe will attend ICT 2010 from 27-29 September 2010, it is the largest European gathering of the ICT community. Organised by the European Commission, it usually attracts over 4,500 participants to the conference, exhibition and networking events. Attending ICT2010 will offer organisations, particularly Indian ones, the opportunity to meet the players, understand how the European Commission works, how to get involved in EU funded initiatives as well as keep up to date on the most advanced technological research and deployment. ICT players should not miss this gathering.”

Hilary Hanahoe, Trust-IT Services Ltd. United Kingdom



2010 ict event

ICT 2010 - 27 – 29 September, Brussels, Belgium

India has become a valuable partner for the EU in major international Science & Technology initiatives and projects. The strong complementarities between the EU and India, their longstanding traditions of excellence in science and technology as well as the impetus provided by political leadership are now being translated into ambitious, high quality, mutually beneficial co-operation Programmes, Projects, Dialogues and Exchanges.

Euro-India SPIRIT and SYNCHRONISER will hold a Networking Session and Information Stand at the ICT 2010 event which takes place in Brussels, Belgium in September 2010 in order to boost the impact of EU-India Policy Dialogue in the field of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) leading to better policy coordination and enhanced collaborative research activities. This biennial event has become a unique gathering point for researchers, business people, investors, and high level policy makers in the field of digital innovation. ICT 2010 will focus on policy priorities such as Europe's Digital Agenda and the next financial programme of the European Union for funding research and innovation in ICT.

Web Link: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ict/2010/index_en.htm

