



# Synchroniser

## First Think Tank Meeting Report

### 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010, Brussels



## **Introduction**

Synchroniser project successfully organized “Synchroniser Steering Committee (SSC) - First Think Tank Meeting” at Brussels on 30th September 2010 wherein both Indian experts and EU experts were brought together to analyze all the preceding EU-India joint research priorities and Minutes of JWG Meetings and propose recommendations for “precise research paths”. This meeting will facilitate the project by identifying issues that needs to be addressed at the policy level between the EU and for joint research and innovation programmes and projects between EU and India ICT actors.

This meeting familiarized experts of both the regions and enabled them to set the mechanisms to identify and deliberate on research topics and priorities that could be observed jointly by European and Indians. The policy recommendations made by experts of both regions will be provided to the EU and India authorities in order to enhance the scale and value of joint research for both regions.

The outcome of this meeting is “Position Paper” which will be submitted to the JWG in view of adopting recommendations or viewpoints on the inclusion of relevant ICT research priorities in future joint activities by the EU and India. In addition, this Position Paper includes recommendations from the SSC to boost the impact of EU-India Policy Dialogue in the field of ICT, strengthening the international dimension of EU-India ICT research programme.

## **SSC Members: (Present)**

### **European Experts:**

- Mr Latif Ladid
- Mr Julián Seseña Navarro
- Mr Laurent Thomasson
- Mr Albert Sitjá
- Mr Stuart Campbell (Member of TIE)
- Mr Laurent Schwab (Reseau Asie – Fondation Maison des Sciences de l’Homme)

### **Indian Experts:**

- Dr Hiranmay Ghosh
- Dr A.K. Chakarvarti
- Dr Mukul Kumar Sinha

## **Discussion**

The discussion began with the welcome address of experts and introduction of experts and project partners. The first half of the discussion focused on explaining the “Role of the SSC with respect to EU-India ICT cooperation” and also presented the template of the “Position Paper” and asked for the feedback and suggestions from both the EU and Indian experts.

Some general issues discussed were:

- Appreciates EU’s Seventh Framework Programme mechanism which has brought EU-India together & encouraged International cooperation.
- Wider publicity of WP2011-12 is needed in India.
- Some areas of cooperation have to be identified between India & EU & also follow models of EU-Russia & EU-Brazil joint calls for the R&D cooperation between both India & EU.
- Identify topics, make a list of them and make a clear picture of what is convenient for Indian and EU markets which will be the room for cooperation between both.
- Establishment of equivalent centres like ETPs in India.
- Analyzing the already-existing models such as DBT & EU; DST & EU; EU- Brazil; EU-Russia, EU-Australia, EU-Africa, bilateral calls etc models and adapt them to the India needs for ICT area
- Short term and long term goals to be considered.
- Focus should not only on technology areas but also be on social needs such as e-governance, e-learning etc.

## **Priorities of the list from JWG minutes meeting - Experts’ views**

The sixth EU-India Joint Working Group (JWG) on Information Society (the last one till date) met in Brussels in March 2009 and agreed to pursue cooperation in the following areas:

- Standards for e-Governance
- E-Security,
- Knowledge network

- Biometrics
- Telecom: energy efficiency & alternate energy source and automated spectrum monitoring
- Open technologies/open source

The research topics identified for cooperation are:

- IPv6
- NGN
- Open Source Software
- RFID, Biometric and Smart Card
- India-EU research network connectivity and e-Infrastructure
- 3G Deployment
- Frequency Management
- Internet Governance
- Universal Service
- Information Security

Both EU and Indian experts expressed their views on the JWG priority areas.

**EU and India experts Views:**

The topics listed in JWG meeting is mix of political viewpoints with diplomats. Also, needs to be classified according to relevance for academic, research centres, SMEs & large companies.

Some Important suggested are:

- IPv6
- NGN
- RFID
- Cloud Computing
- Biometric and smart cards
- 3G Deployment, 4G Deployment

- Smart education
- Language computing & content
- Digital preservation
- Security/Privacy & monitoring
- ICT for Inclusion
- Societal area would be to consider: Internet Governance, e-health, e-learning , e-governance, cultural heritage, education, India-EU research network connectivity and e-infrastructure etc
- Technology area: multi-lingual tech, Telecom, multimedia, cloud computing etc.

The meeting ended by suggesting some ways of building higher awareness amongst ICT R&D communities from both sides were suggested, such as:

- Creation of web-site for dissemination of information on EU calls with information bullets specific to Indian audience.
- A directory of potential EU partners willing to collaborate with India and Indian partners willing to collaborate with EU, including their project ideas.
- Organisation of workshops in India to present and brainstorm project ideas with participation of EU organizations
- Organisation of seminars and events to demystificate EU FP processes through in major Indian towns.