

## **Draft summary report of session D1, D2, D3:**

### **India-EU/Member States collaboration initiatives and frameworks**

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#### *Preamble:*

*We share communalities between Europe and India amongst many, just to mention :*

*Water quality changes every 20 km,*

*Language and dialect changes every 50 km*

*And culture changes every 150 km*

#### **Common ST&I challenges and needs**

- One of the major challenges in India is how to develop rural India as rapidly as urban India
- One major challenge in Europe is how to create more and better jobs, how to provide answers and solutions to our major societal challenges
- India and Europe shares the challenge on how to convert research outcomes into a) *commercial value* involving business investments and b) *social value* involving state investment

The different sessions touched upon:

- How to strive for coherent synergy, complementary policy frameworks and synchronised India-EU/Member States research and innovation alliances?

How to identify the most effective mechanisms that are flexible enough to provide solutions to the major societal challenges?

How to take advantage of the many already existing networks and cooperative activities in India and Europe and how to crosslink them?

How to create better framework conditions to promote innovation in India and Europe: Public procurement, standardisation, regulatory environment, IPR, access to finance, for the benefit of mutual learning?

**State of play of current cooperation: existing competence and deployment solutions (like centres of excellence, research teams, and innovation hot spots)**

- We were listening to many interesting examples of successful ongoing cooperation activities in research and innovation between India and the EU, or at bilateral level between India and individual Member States ,
- Many lessons can be learnt and we have to build on them, scale them up whenever possible and explore their potential for this strategic partnership
- Time does not allow to go into listening them all, but they will be mentioned in the full report
- The Lead market initiative, Enterprise Europe, Water coordinated call, are all valuable initiatives ,
- However it is essential to bring all the various initiative in a coherent package that can be easily understood by the research and innovation community in order to reach added value and impact.

**What the EU/MS and India could do better together to find the most efficient, sustainable and affordable solutions to major challenges and type of instruments best suited**

EU/MS – India to work towards the creation of an Indo-European innovation arenas to connect and mobilise public and private stakeholders such as:

- People (entrepreneurs, researchers, investors, etc)
- Enterprises, in particular micro, small and medium sized enterprises

- Clusters, incubators, science and technology parks, etc
- Networks, (European Enterprise Network, Clusters' cooperation platform, ETPs, etc.)
- Policy Makers.
- **We can :**
  - Work towards more coherent synergies of India-EU/Member States existing institutions, programmes and practices;
  - Improve overall framework conditions to empower people and entrepreneurs to get ideas to society and market;
  - Involve end-users from Europe and India in the research and innovation activities
- Prospect for a CEFIPRA-like initiative in the field of innovation
- New INDIGO framework emerging as a new effective model of partnership between India and Europe, MS, EU and India, the consortium to consider broadening and reinforcing this framework, and to strengthen the innovation dimension.
- Participants welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the EU (through the Framework Programme) to open the bilateral initiatives to researchers from other EU MS, as well as the launch of fully fledged multilateral cooperation frameworks.
- It was stressed that EU programmes are most effective when they are focussed and not fragmented. It is essential to have a long term perspective in the relation with key S&T partners, like India.
- We need to secure and exploit the existing instruments like the international ERA-NETs and the thematic ERA-net, creating interfaces and necessary links to cross-fertilise their experiences. Not to re-invent the wheel by creating new instruments.

## **Concrete actions to be included into the strategic roadmap for ST&I cooperation (strategies, programmes, resources)**

- Strong wish from EU side for India to become a full partner in Enterprise Europe Network. (a network with 500 organisations – 4000 people involved, purpose of network: assist SMEs to become more international);  
Concrete example: matchmaking of existing programmes such as the “power of ideas” with European business/research organisations.
- European Business Technology Centre to reinforce links with Indian Networks, to contribute to a level playing field for example to consider possibility of setting up of an EU-India IPR help desk.
- Twinning of India – EU/MS initiatives on inclusive and sustainable innovation (best practices on social innovation in areas of health care, livelihood, water and sanitation, etc),
- Organise an India-EU/MS annual contest on power of ideas (enablers of innovation), so that we can tap into the hidden potential we have.
- To consider funds for India - EU/Member States support for SME led innovation projects.
- National Indian knowledge portal (IKP) could be linked and twinned to equivalent mechanism in Europe.
- Existing schemes and initiatives such as the ERA-NET schemes, (New Indigo,) are effective instruments for coordination and should be reinforced and opened to new partners. To link international ERA-NET such as New INDIGO with Intra EU thematic Era-NET such as SPLASH; thematic ERA-NETs to open to India participation
- Enhance and promote mobility schemes for Indian and European researchers.
- Build sustainable research and innovation partnerships through:
  - Synchronising priorities, topics and deadlines of future planned India-EU/Member States coordinated/joint calls

- Scale up existing India- EU level of co-funding for joint research and innovation projects with potential of high impact on society and wealth creation

**Important concluding remark:**

This new strategic India-EU and Member States partnership is not a questions of bilateral versus multilateral. Both models are valid, but they are complementary and will continue to co-exist. Bilateral MS-India cooperation will continue and synergies at multilateral level will be created.