

## Summary of event

# EU India S&T Cooperation Days 2011

**Biotechnology and Health**  
***Together for the advancement of science and innovation***  
[www.euindiacoop.org/2011](http://www.euindiacoop.org/2011)

The second edition of the EU - India Science & Technology Cooperation Days was organized on 1-2 December in Vienna, Austria. The event, jointly organized by three EU funded projects, EUINEC, New INDIGO and INDIA GATE and hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research, brought together 150 stakeholders from Europe and India: scientists, policy makers as well as industry representatives.

The rich programme contained a scientific conference, panel discussions, a dedicated session on doing business and innovation in India, as well as a brokerage event for match making – the Vienna Researchers' Café. Accompanying cultural events and the networking dinner contributed to the vivid atmosphere, in which participants discussed needs and opportunities, current cooperation and the way forward for science and innovation between India and Europe.



Audience

*This event is co-financed by the European Commission via the Seventh Framework programme*



### Lessons learnt and results from support projects

Following opening remarks from high representatives from the Government of India, (His Excellency Ambassador of India to Austria), the European Commission (Ms Sigi Gruber) and the Austrian Ministry (Ms Barbara Weitgruber), the first session presented results from ongoing support activities for EU India S&T Cooperation: policy recommendations from New INDIGO, EUCLID, INDIA GATE, Synchroniser & Euro-India Spirit. The European Business and Technology Center in India (EBTC) and EURAXESS Links India presented their services.



EURAXESS Links India

### Scientific conference and poster session

Projects funded by the New INDIGO Networking Pilot Programme's first call presented their first results. The response to the calls and the quality of the implemented projects have been much above expectations and the event gave the opportunity to the Indian and European coordinators to expand their networks and prepare new activities. Project summaries, interviews of coordinators and much more is available on <http://stories.newindigo.eu/> Young scientists, selected by renowned experts, also had the opportunity to present posters to the audience in a dedicated session.



Poster session

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### **Business and Innovation in India: Opportunities for European entrepreneurs**

The session “Doing Business and Innovation in India: Opportunities for European entrepreneurs” was moderated by Ms Micol Martinelli, Senior Advisor International Affairs, EUROCHAMBRES. Ms Martinelli kicked off the discussions by presenting challenges and opportunities for European companies starting business in India and how the EBTC in India can help them overcome such challenges, as it has also experienced itself the difficulties of setting up a business in India. The audience from private sector, academia and representatives from the European Commission discussed many aspects of cooperation such as legal issues, practical hinders and cultural differences between the two regions. Ms Martinelli concluded: *In India you need patience, but things can happen over night!* Which goes well with the official slogan; *Incredible India – land of opportunities!*



EBTC Session

### **The Vienna Researchers' Café – matchmaking between European and Indian**

The Researchers' Café attracted much interest. More than 100 participants took part in the networking event between Indian and European researchers interested in Health and Biotechnology. 220 meetings were organized in 20 parallel tables to allow European and Indian participants to discuss potential cooperation and exchange of information. The catalogue which comprises almost all the profiles of conference participant, was distributed and is available online at the event site [www.euindiacoop.org/2011](http://www.euindiacoop.org/2011)



Vienna Researchers' Café

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### **International Cooperation - matching scientific and political needs**

The political context and evolution of the modes of cooperation were presented to the audience. Mr Stephan Neuhäuser introduced the concept of the European Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation and Mr Frej Sorento Dichmann presented the event planned by the Danish Presidency of the European Council. Ms Gruber explained the state of play in the development of a joint strategic agenda for research and innovation between Europe and India. Dr Martin Goller presented the concept of opening bilateral programmes to other interested countries.

The following panel discussion on International Cooperation: matching scientific and political needs was moderated by Dr Minh-Hà Pham-Delégue, CNRS Director for International Cooperation and the panel members represented both the political level with Dr. Shailja Gupta, Joint Director, Department of Biotechnology, Indian Ministry of Science and Technology, Ms Sigi Gruber, European Commission, and Dr. Bauluz , Spanish Ministry for Science and Innovation as well as high level scientists with long experiences of EU India cooperation; Prof. Olivier Blin, NPP project coordinator, Dr. Suman Dhar, FP7 project participant and Focal Point, Prof. Dan Ostrowsky, scientist involved in bilateral cooperation. The rich discussions covered mainly how Europe can become more attractive for Indian scientists, obstacles and the importance of exchanging scientists for the benefit of both regions.



Panel discussion on International Cooperation

The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive and the next edition of the EU – India S&T Days will be organized in India in the end of 2012 and focus on water related challenges. To learn more about this major event and other aspect of science and innovation between Europe and India, visit [www.euindiacoop.org](http://www.euindiacoop.org)!

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