

Euro-India SPIRIT Launch Working Groups to Align EU-Indian Policy Priorities

Information Communication Technologies (ICT) are a vital tool in tackling societal challenges both in India and the European Union - providing improved and equitable delivery of services, facilitating complex planning processes and coordination across sectors, enabling increased information sharing, outreach and monitoring of key efforts. Collaborative international research is an essential ingredient to achieve India's ambitions in ICT, both at home and abroad. Research in ICTs, important for its own sake, has also become the thread that runs through the innovative efforts across numerous domains and sectors of activity.

Since the early 1960s the European Union and the Republic of India have been collaborating to promote and encourage research cooperation across a number of scientific, technological and societal domains. The partnership has seen a rise in the collaborative research potential in India and has fostered ICT innovations to address technological, economic and societal challenges for mutual benefit.

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 relating to joint research activities in ICT.

“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, ERCIM

It is widely felt among Indian experts across industry, academia, research, government and NGOs, that policy makers in India do not fully grasp the potential of ICTs as a platform for development and that policy making is yet to decisively influence the fostering of widespread innovation in critical areas where ICT can make a real difference such as governance, social and pervasive education and balanced economic development. Euro-India SPIRIT is therefore 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 policymakers to identify common research challenges and align their respective policies to attain shared goals. The policy analysis is supported by three Working Groups made up of renowned experts from India and Europe. Ashok Kar, Infra Technologies, one of the partner organisations in this initiative, is leading the **Working Groups** which will focus on three key areas:

- **ICT Addressing Societal Challenges – Governance, Public services, Health, Inclusion, Mobility, Environment, Energy...**

With both the European Union and India promoting dialogue and cooperation in areas such as education, health, environment, energy and transport, EU-India collaboration can play a critical role in leveraging the benefits of ICT in many of these domains in a durable manner.

Members

- Dr. Anita Gurumurthy, IT for Change, Bangalore, India
- Dr. Mounib Mekhilef, Ability Europe Ltd, India
- Prof. Mogens Kuehn Pedersen, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
- Prof. Krithi Ramamritham, Computer Science & Engineering, IIT-Bombay, India
- Ms. Nicole Turbe Suetens, eWork Expert, Distance Expert, France
- Ms. P.N. Vasanti, Centre for Media Studies, New Delhi, India

- **Audio Visual Media & Internet**

The Media and Internet arena for India is immensely important with the country being the second largest market in the world for the printed press and one of the most vibrant and widespread multi-lingual

audiovisual environments. Internet access and usage is on a constant rise, although way below potential, in particular compared with the proliferation of a parallel phenomenon, mobile telephony. Content remains another major challenge in the digital era. India can leverage knowledge, technologies and innovations being harnessed in Europe to mitigate the technological challenges in this vast domain while bringing in a rich and complex perspective, unique to this country, to enrich the overall research effort and innovation potential.

Members

- 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 & e-Infrastructures

Future Internet Architectures and Network Technologies and Converged Infrastructures in support of Future Networks are among key research challenges in the ICT domain. Future Internet based enterprise systems need to be conceived and architected. Although the pace of research varies considerably between the EU and India, the technological challenges are almost identical in these domains and can be best addressed by pooling ideas, resources and approaches.

From physics to climate change, shared distributed computing provides a powerful resource helping scientists worldwide to deliver the latest cutting-edge research and to meet some of the grand challenges being faced by society at-large today. International collaborative research is dependent on the successful development of e-Infrastructures which connect scientists around the world and lead to far-reaching developments that have huge impact on citizens globally. Connecting Europe to research and education networks of countries across the globe including India's National Knowledge Network (NKN) is a priority for Europe and can have far-reaching effects for Indian research communities.

Members

- Dr. Vinay Deshpande, Encore Software, Bangalore, India
- Prof. Soumitra Dutta, Roland Berger Chair, INSEAD, France
- Dr. Fabrizio Gagliardi, Microsoft Research, UK
- Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Tenet Labs, IIT-Madras, India
- Mr. Manoranjan Mohapatra, Comviva, Delhi, India
- Prof. Neeraj Suri, TU Darmstadt, Germany

“The Working Groups, composed of renowned experts from India and the European Union, 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.” says Ashok Kar who will also chair the first working group meeting to be held in collaboration with eIndia – 4-6 August 2010, Hyderabad, India, where the project will also conduct a workshop dedicated to EU-India ICT cooperation. For more information contact – info@euroindia-ict.org