



**EU Public Diplomacy in India through Policy and Outreach Partnerships**

# **EU-India Think Tanks Twinning Initiative**

## **2020 - 2022**

**CALL FOR ONLINE RESEARCH COLLABORATION  
FROM CONSORTIUMS OF EU-INDIA THINK TANKS**



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The European Union



Implemented by  
AETS



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EU PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN INDIA  
THROUGH POLICY OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT

(EUPOP INDIA)

Contract No: 2017/387-787

## EU-INDIA THINK TANKS TWINNING INITIATIVE 2020 - 2022

### CALL FOR JOINT ONLINE RESEARCH COLLABORATION FROM CONSORTIUMS OF EU-INDIA THINK TANKS

14 July 2021

Dear Madam/ Sir,

On behalf of the Delegation of the European Union to India, EU Policy and Outreach Partnerships (EUPOP India) project is inviting applications from consortiums of EU and Indian think tanks to participate in the Joint Online Research Collaboration under the EU India Think Tanks Twinning Initiative 2020 – 2022.

The last date to receive your proposal, co-signed by both Indian and European leading consortium partners, is 8.30 PM IST on **Monday 13 September 2021**.

The proposal should be sent to the following email address: Ms Stefania Benaglia, EUPOP Think Tanks Twinning Initiative Coordinator at [stefania.benaglia@eupublicdiplomacy.in](mailto:stefania.benaglia@eupublicdiplomacy.in) with a copy to Mr. Anil Patni, Team Leader of EUPOP, AETS at [anil.patni@eupublicdiplomacy.in](mailto:anil.patni@eupublicdiplomacy.in) and Ms. Deepakshi Vashishth, Senior Executive [deepakshi.vashishth@aets-consultants.com](mailto:deepakshi.vashishth@aets-consultants.com) .

The selection process will be carried out by an internal selection committee to be nominated by the EU Delegation and the successful consortium shall be notified shortly after. The selected works and activities should be carried out from October 2021 onwards. On November 15, a peer-to-peer review discussion will be organized by the selected consortiums. The deadline to present the final research is on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

We remain at disposal for any questions and queries.

Yours sincerely,

Stefania Benaglia

Think Tanks Twinning Initiative Coordinator

EU Public Diplomacy in India project

AETS, 1C/2, Taj Apartments, Sector 12 R K Puram, Rao Tula Ram Marg, New Delhi 110021

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## Contents

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT: .....	4
OVERALL CONCEPT: .....	4
ELIGIBILITY: .....	5
SUBJECT AREAS: .....	5
SELECTION PROCESS: .....	7
BUDGET:.....	7
ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS:.....	8
METHODOLOGY: .....	8
FINANCIAL OFFER.....	8
ANNEX 1: Evaluation grid .....	9
ANNEX 2: TEMPLATE FOR APPLICATION.....	10
Annex 3: Template for Research Paper .....	12



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### CALL FOR JOINT ONLINE RESEARCH COLLABORATION

### FROM CONSORTIUMS OF EU-INDIA THINK TANKS

#### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

The EU-India Think Tanks Twinning Initiative (TTTI) was launched with the support of the European Union in 2015 with a view to promoting better understanding and stimulating joint research between the leading Indian and EU think tanks. The first edition of the TTTI was carried out between 2015 and 2017, and the second one between 2017-2020. Building on the results from previous editions of the initiative, TTTI 2020-2022 will aim at consolidating Think Tanks exchanges and seek to contribute to strengthening of the EU-India relations.

In particular, this call for joint online research collaboration is the component of the TTTI 2020 aiming at sponsoring original research. This initiative is organized under the EU Public Diplomacy in India through Policy and Outreach Partnerships project (EUPOP India), implemented by AETS.

#### OVERALL CONCEPT:

The aim of this exercise is to select two consortiums of EU-India think tanks to carry out joint research and produce original research papers. Each consortium will be composed of four to six leading experts from think tanks/ universities/ political foundations/ research institutions from the EU and India (minimum two experts from the EU and minimum two from the Indian think tank) to undertake joint research and produce one joint innovative research paper on a selected issue of interest to the EU and India. This research paper is expected to stimulate wider public debate in the EU and India via academic discourse and media coverage on the topic under discussion and possibly feed into the policy making processes both in the EU and in India.

In view of the travel restrictions due to the pandemic it is expected that the researchers from the EU and India will collaborate online for their research and writing and no international travels are foreseen.

Each project partner will be expected to ensure visibility of their activities undertaken under this project and of outputs produced through their respective outreach channels including newsletters, emails to their mailing lists, website, Facebook pages and Twitter handle etc., in coordination with the EUPOP project team.



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## ELIGIBILITY:

- The call is open to think tanks, universities, political foundations, and research institutions registered and based in one of the EU 27 Member States or in India.
- Entities must submit names and CVs of the research team members who will be directly involved in the initiative. The joint application must be signed by the respective Head/ Authorized Signatory of both participating leading organizations.
- The research team fielded by the EU and Indian partner must each have the following characteristics:
  - One leading senior researcher. The leading senior researcher must have published at least one research/policy paper on EU – India relations or on a technical/ strategic issue of significance to the EU, India, and EU-India relations. She/He must have a post-graduate degree.
  - At least one junior researcher
  - The consortium team must comprise of 50% European and 50% Indian members.
  - Minimum 40% of the researchers must be female.

## SUBJECT AREAS:

The applicant should draft a research proposal on ONE of the topics below:

- **EU-India cooperation on “sustainable modernisation”:** how can the EU and India best help one another to accelerate climate action, improve resource management, smart urbanisation and mobility, sustainable production and consumption, and the protection and restoration of ecosystems, while fostering socio economic development? How could Indian strengths and upcoming Industrial Transition best support the EU Green Deal’s goals and strategies and vice versa?

OR

- **Opportunities and challenges for the implementation of the EU-India Connectivity Partnership:** EU and Indian leaders agreed at their meeting on 08 May 2021 to build a sustainable and comprehensive Connectivity Partnership. The goal is to work together on regulation and support for private investments in high-standard physical infrastructure across all sectors: digital, transport, energy, and people-to-people. What are the opportunities and challenges in the implementation of building a new partnership for connectivity between the EU and India and with third countries and regions (including Africa, Central Asia, and the Indo-Pacific)?



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## METHODOLOGY:

Two consortia will be selected. Each consortium should be formed by at least one Indian think tank plus one European think tank. Each consortium should appoint one leading expert acting as single-entry point. Each research team should be composed of four to six experts, equally representing the EU and India. Preference will be given to proposals providing geographical representation and inclusivity. Both participating think tanks will propose one senior researcher and one junior researcher to undertake the research.

Each consortium will submit a joint research proposal to produce one joint innovative research paper of about 5000 – 10 000 words, on one of the topics indicated above. Each paper must provide a European and an Indian perspective.

The consortium – with the support of EUPOP - will organize a peer-to-peer review discussion of the paper to be held virtually during the week of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The draft paper to be discussed during the peer – to – peer review, has to be submitted by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The research team will be researching both individually and jointly, as per pre-agreed time-table. Research must include online/phone interviews with relevant policy-makers and subject matter experts and field visits if possible.

The deadline for submitting the final draft is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The final draft must include a language proofreading and the overall editing.

Research findings will be presented at a public event to be held in the second half of January 2022, while the research papers will be published online in the [euindiathinktanks.com](http://euindiathinktanks.com) website.

## PROPOSAL

The proposal must contain a Concept Note (maximum 1500 words) outlining:

- b. the title of the research project
- c. main thesis to be researched.
- d. its relevance and importance to the EU, India and EU-India relations and strategic partnership
- e. methodology
- f. the scope of work of each partner institution
- g. detailed list of interviews
- h. basic bibliography
- i. communication and visibility plan, including social media strategy
- j. CV of all the members of the research team along with a note on their suitability for the assignment. (Each CV not more than 2 pages).
- k. Organizational profile of the applicant organisations (not more than 500 words)
- l. Name and contact details of the lead researcher who will act as single point of contact
- m. The organisational superior's support letter for participating in this initiative



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## Required Output

Each consortium is required to produce:

- One joint research paper of about 5000 – 10000 words. The draft paper has to be submitted by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021. The research paper must follow the template in annex 2.
- Organize one peer to peer review discussion of the paper to be held virtually during the week of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- One executive summary including recommendations of maximum 2 pages
- A final report with all the materials produced as part of the action (e.g., research, videos, media coverage reports, etc.)
- Time sheets of the experts who have worked on the project (template will be provided).

An English language proofread must be performed ahead of submitting the final research paper. Each consortium will be provided with guidelines on both the format and on the content to draft the research paper. The Consortium is requested to strictly conform to the deadlines and to the guidelines.

Research papers will be published in the EU India Think Tanks Twinning website ([www.euindiathinktanks.com](http://www.euindiathinktanks.com)). Research findings will be presented at other events organized by TTTI 2020-2022. Participating think tanks will be encouraged to disseminate the joint papers through their own communication channels such as emails, newsletters, websites, social media channels giving due credit to the EUPOP TTTI initiative. Copyrights to the research paper will belong to the EU Delegation to India. Authors will be free to use the papers for non-commercial use with due credit.

## SELECTION PROCESS:

An ad hoc selection committee appointed by the EU Delegation to India will assess the proposals following the evaluation grid in Annex 1. The two proposals scoring the highest will be awarded the project. Decision of the selection committee will be final and cannot be challenged.

## BUDGET:

Each consortium will be provided with a total of 30 000 euros, to be distributed between the consortium members. This amount will cover all the expenses related to the initiative, including (non-exhaustive list): drafting of the reports (including the research paper and the executive summary), final language proofread, final editing, administrative support in organizing and hosting the peer-to-peer review, communication and dissemination, and printing of the research.

Out of this amount, an advance amount of 30% will be given at the start of the project, additional 30% will be disbursed upon submission of the draft paper and completion of the peer-to-peer review. The balance amount will be disbursed upon publication of the research paper in the EU India think tanks website.



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Unjustified delays as well as papers not respecting the guidelines and quality, will not be published. Balance will not be paid in case a paper is not found to be of publishable standard.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS:

- The papers once submitted will be the property of the EU Delegation to India. However, the EU Delegation will always give due credit to the authors and their respective institutions in any public communications including publications or websites etc.
- A final report on the action will also need to be submitted officially to Ms. Stefania Benaglia, EUPOP Think Tanks Twinning Initiative Coordinator, with all the materials produced as part of the action (e.g., research / position papers, videos, media coverage reports, etc.) with copy to Mr. Anil Patni, Team Leader, EUPOP project.
- Processes related to payments will be carried out by the AETS team under the supervision of the Team Leader.

## METHODOLOGY:

Both teams in the consortium will be researching the subject individually and jointly, as per pre-agreed timetable, to produce new research papers which are original and add fresh knowledge and insights on the given subject. For this purpose, the teams should outline in their proposal how they plan to work together in the process of drafting the research papers. The research must also include virtual interviews with key stakeholders. Each paper must involve active engagement and contribution of all team members.

Inclusion of a mix of research work and exchanges, and opportunities for experts' debates or discussions with a wider public, within the available budget are given preference.

## FINANCIAL OFFER

Each proposal must be accompanied by a financial offer for up to a maximum of €30 000 per consortium per paper to be shared equally between the Indian and EU think tank.

This amount of €30 000 covers all inputs and costs related to the research and writing of the paper including:

- Production of a joint research paper
- Production of an executive summary
- Publication of the research papers/ any other publications/ webpages
- Communication and visibility activities by the respective TTs
- final language proofread
- final editing
- administrative support in organizing and hosting the peer-to-peer review
- printing of the research
- Production of the final report collecting all the materials produced.





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## ANNEX 1: Evaluation grid

	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Max marks</b>
<b>Analysis of research questions &amp; Methodology (50 marks)</b>	Analysis of the research questions to be addressed	20
	Methodology proposed (logical coherence, innovativeness, efficiency and effectiveness)	30
<b>Quality of institutions / Organizational profile (10 marks)</b>	Indian think tank organizational profile (history, areas of work, expertise)	5
	EU think tank organizational profile (history, areas of work, expertise)	5
<b>Quality of the teams proposed (30 marks)</b>	Inclusiveness & representation of the research team	10
	CV of Researchers	20
<b>Visibility plan (10 marks)</b>	Communication and visibility plan in India (using owned media channels and earned coverage)	5
	Communication and visibility plan in the EU (using owned media channels and earned coverage)	5
	TOTAL	100



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## ANNEX 2: TEMPLATE FOR APPLICATION

### Cover letter:

The cover letter should be sent in the email as a scan copy (PDF) of a letter co-signed by the heads/ authorized representatives of both Indian and European think tanks participating in the consortium clearly giving the name and designation of the signatory. The subject /title of the proposed research paper should be mentioned.

### Proposal:

The proposal must contain information in the following format:

1. **INDIAN THINK TANK** Name and address of the Indian think tank along with name and contact details (email address, office landline phone number, mobile phone) of the contact person.
2. **EUROPEAN THINK TANK** Name and address of the Indian think tank along with name and contact details (email address, office landline phone number, mobile phone) of the contact person.
3. **ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE OF THE INDIAN THINK TANK:** (FIELDS OF WORK, EXPERTISE; 300 WORDS)
4. **ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE OF THE EU THINK TANK:** (FIELDS OF WORK, EXPERTISE; 300 WORDS)
5. **PROFILE OF THE RESEARCH TEAM FIELDED BY INDIAN THINK TANK**
  - a. CV of each Researcher (Maximum 2 pages per person)
6. **PROFILE OF THE RESEARCH TEAM FIELDED BY E U THINK TANK**
  - a. CV of each Researcher (Maximum 2 pages per person)
7. **NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS OF THE LEAD RESEARCHER**
8. **CONCEPT NOTE: Please attach a jointly written Concept Note in 1500 words which must include the following elements:**
  - a. the choice of the topic of research and its relevance and importance to the EU, India, and EU-India relations/strategic partnership
  - b. main research questions to be addressed: Analysis of the past and present status and future direction of various issues in the subject area/s under discussion (as



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- appropriate), and their relevance and importance for the EU, India, or EU-India relations
- c. research methodology to be used
  - d. the relevance of the research to the past/ongoing work of the participating think tanks, and the scope of work of each partner institution for the proposed joint research including the responsibility for specific outputs (such as coordination of research work, preparation of papers, report writing, outreach plan using own channels etc.).
  - e. communication and visibility plan, including social media strategy
  - f. initial list of interviews
  - g. basic bibliography
  - h. timeline



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## Annex 3: Template for Research Paper

### **EU INDIA THINK TANKS TWINNING INITIATIVE 2020 - 22**

*Names, Institutions of the authors*

### **TITLE OF THE PAPER**

Executive summary (max 2 pages)

Introduction

Background and conceptual framework. Identification of the problem and relevance to the EU-India strategic partnership.

Methodology

European perspective

Critical analysis of the issue.

Indian perspective

Research findings

Recommendations

Minimum three policy recommendations to the EU and/or Indian Government/both parties to address the issue. Recommendations must be clear and concrete, indicating gaps and actions that the two parties should focus on to boost their relationship, and suggest the next steps to be undertaken. Clearly indicate whether your recommendation is addressed to the EU, to India, or both.

Conclusions

References and bibliography

List of interviews