



## European Union's pan India road-show on Research & Innovation concludes in Delhi

- Endeavoured to inform the Indian research stakeholders about the opportunities in EU & its Member States and create awareness around calls for proposals (invitations to bid for funds) for research under its Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)

**Delhi, 28 September 2012:** The European Union and its Member States pan India roadshow on 'Research & Innovation Co-operation' concluded today in Delhi. The aim of this 31 city roadshow was to showcase European opportunities for association in the area of research and innovation.

The Delhi session was opened by **H.E. Dr João Cravinho**, Ambassador of the European Union to India; **H. E. Mr. Harald Sandberg**, Ambassador of Sweden to India; **H.E. Mr Jaak Aaviksoo**, Estonian Minister for Education & Research and **Mrs S Relia**, Head of Multilateral Co-operation, Department of Science & technology, Government of India.

Commenting on the event, **Dr João Cravinho**, Ambassador of the European Union to India said, "Science & Technology is a very important pillar of our partnership with India and this enormous exercise, in collaboration with our Member States, clearly shows our commitment to this theme. We look forward to a further enhanced co-operation in this field, working together to meet our common challenges."

The campaign was leveraged to showcase the EU flagship scheme in the research & innovation arena - the 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7) - which is open to participation of researchers from across the world, including India, inviting bids from Indian research organisations, universities and industry as well as SMEs.

In total of €8.1 billion (Approx. INR 56,000 crores), this worldwide set of calls will support projects and ideas that will tackle issues such as human health, protecting the environment and finding new solutions to growing challenges linked to urbanisation and managing waste. The funding – open to organisations and businesses in all EU Member States and key partner countries including India- makes up the lion's share of the EU's research budget for 2013. Successful Indian entities can get their research costs reimbursed by the European Union.

Out of the total funding, €4.8 billion is dedicated to thematic research priorities like health, bio-technology, social sciences, transport etc. Special attention will be given to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) with a funding of about €1.2 billion to develop new products or further innovate on their offerings. And around €2.7 billion has been allocated to cement Europe's place as a world class destination for researchers, mainly through individual grants from the European Research Council (€1.75 billion), and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (€963 million) for training and mobility.

**All these calls for proposals are open to Indian researchers and research institutions, public and private.**

The FP7 (2007-2013) has so far already selected 144 proposals involving some 250 Indian research institutions and industry for funding. In addition, there are 18 projects involving funding of €60 million, co-funded equally by the European Union and the India, ongoing or selected for funding. These projects are in the areas of computational materials science, food and nutrition research, solar energy systems, biomass and biowaste and water related research.

The campaign mobilised 57 Science & Technology Counselors and representatives of research organisations from Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, as well as from the Delegation of the European Union, the European Business and Technology Centre, the European Research Council and EURAXESS links India to make presentations in key research and innovation hot spots in India.