EU India Think Tanks Twinning Initiative

ADDENDUM TO

Call for Concept Notes for Joint Research Projects 2018

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR CLARIFICATION

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AETS
NOTE TO SELECT EU AND INDIAN THINK TANKS
EU INDIA THINK TANKS TWINNING INITIATIVE:
ADDENDUM TO
CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS 2018
- QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR CLARIFICATION -

Dear Madam/ Sir,

Following the publication of the Call for Concept Notes for Joint Research Projects 2018 under the EU India Think Tanks Twinning Initiative on 22 Dec 2017, we have received a number of queries for clarification from think tanks interested in participating in the Call.

We have provided the answers to these queries to explain and clarify the rules governing this Call in the following pages of this document.

To recap, this Call invites you to collaborate with a counter-part think tank from the EU / India to undertake joint research in key areas of strategic significance for the EU and India from the fields of foreign and security policy, international relations and global governance. The overall concept, objectives, subject areas, format and methodology, and budget and time lines are given in the Call for Concept Notes published on the website of the Delegation of the European Union to India at the link given below:


The last date to receive your proposal, co-signed by both Indian and European partner, is 5.30 pm IST on 15 February 2018. The proposal should be sent to the following email address: anil.patni@eupublicdiplomacy.in with a copy to Mr. Sanjay Dhawan, Project Manager, AETS at sanjay.dhawan@aets-consultants.com

The selection process will be carried out by mid-March 2018 and the successful candidates shall be notified shortly after. The selected works and activities should be carried out from April 2018 onwards.

Please send me an email if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,
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1. 
Q: Senior and Junior researchers: The Call asks each think tank to nominate 1 senior and 2 junior researchers. Do these researchers also have to be the authors for the 3 papers? Or can we rope in experts outside of this ‘core team’ to write a particular paper suited to their expertise?

A:

Since the CVs of experts both senior and junior are going to be part of the evaluation criteria as per the Evaluation Grid given in Annexure 2 of the Call, it is expected that the same researchers would be involved in researching and writing the first paper on the theme selected in the Concept Note in the proposal. For subsequent papers, the selected think tanks are free to engage other researchers from within the same institution or outside in agreement with the Contracting Authority.

2) Researcher exchange: The Call mentions each think tank will have to host a researcher from the partner think tank in their consortium.

- Will this exchange take place for each of the 3 papers? If so then organizing and hosting the exchange will take up a significant amount from the €3000 allocated to each think tank, leaving fewer number of research days in the budget per paper.

Please refer to Article 8 of Annexure 3 the Call:

'Each proposal must be accompanied by a financial offer for up to a maximum of €6000 per consortium per paper to be shared equally between the Indian and EU TT (up to €3000 each). This amount (up to €6000 per round) covers all inputs and costs related to the research and writing of the paper including:

- Production of a joint research paper in line with the Call criteria on the subject areas;

- Cost of travel and stay during visit of one of their researchers to the other region for one week or so. This means one visit of EU TT researcher to Indian TT to be paid for by EU TT. Additionally, one visit of Indian TT researcher to the EU TT to be paid for by the Indian TTs. It should include the cost of travel and stay (accommodation, per diems, other costs) for around 5 days.

- The host TT is responsible to assist logistically the visiting TT researcher for the duration of the visit.
- TTs will enable the visiting TT researchers the use of their own office facilities including digital/online communications;
- Publication of the research papers/ any other publications/ webpages
- Communication and visibility activities by the respective TTs'

This indeed means that the exchange is planned for each round of the research papers. Lessons-learnt discussions with the selected think tanks are, however, planned after the first round of the exercise, in order to assess if improvements are possible to ensure that the process truly serves its main purpose.

3.

Q: Would it be possible to combine these research exchanges with the conferences you are planning to organize in Delhi and Brussels? This would give researchers the opportunity to interview policy makers in Brussels, and not just other capitals where participating European think tanks are based. Moreover, researchers can use these thematic workshops to get feedback and test ideas developed in draft papers from the strategic community in Delhi/Brussels, before publishing them. We tested this approach successfully in our workshops last year.

A:

3 workshops are planned to take place after each round of the exercise (1st workshop after the 1st round, etc.), in addition to 2 annual conferences and one final event. We leave it up to the selected think tanks if they wish to prolong their stay after such events for the purpose of research exchange, or to organize separate exchanges.

4.

Q: I was wondering whether a think tank could collaborate with several think tanks simultaneously. For instance, if let's say the ---- (think tank name) has already planned to collaborate with a European think tank A, can other researchers from ---- (think tank name) create a consortium with a European think tank B? If this is not the case, how can one know which think tanks in Delhi are still available to create a consortium? Might it be possible to have a list of last year's consortium to know which pairs are likely to be suggested this year?

A: The ToR does not specifically limit the number of projects per TT. However, the primary purpose of the exercise is to widen the network of TTs in India and Europe working together, rather than allocating several projects to the same think tank on either side.

As for sharing the list of last year's participants in the exercise, please see Annex 1 at the end of this document.
5.

Q: Do all three members of the team of each think tank have to be from one and the same institution? Or would you allow for two persons from one think tank and one from another?

A: Each proposal must be sent by a consortium of EU-India think tanks which must comprise one Indian think tank registered in India and one EU think tank registered in any of the EU Member States. We need to understand which Indian and EU think tank is applying (e.g. Indian think tank ABC and EU think tank DEF), however it is up to the applicants to decide whether you want members of other think tanks (e.g. Indian think tank XYZ, EU think tank UVW) to participate in the team. It is up to think tank ABC/DEF to determine how to distribute funds among the 3 members of the think tank team and which member attends the exchange visit, as the project will not divide the funds per individual members but per team (i.e. EUR 3000 for the Indian think tank, and EUR 3,000 for the EU think tank per round).

Please also note that the composition of the research team for the first paper has to be declared in the proposal. Also, the profile of only the lead think tanks from India and from the EU (ABC and DEF in the above example) will be considered and not that of a third think tank (XYZ or UVW in the above example) even if it is supplying a researcher and his/her name is declared upfront in the proposal.

6.

Q: What kind of legal status is actually required? Could it be a university or should it be a separate legal think tank entity (legal subsidiary) for submission and funding (or both could apply)? Would financial reports be required and if so what kind?

A: Each proposal must be sent by a consortium of EU-India think tanks which must comprise one Indian think tank registered in India and one EU think tank registered in any of the EU Member States. The ToR does not specify the criteria for what constitutes a think tank, therefore University institutes etc. are likewise eligible. The applicants will need to submit a proof that they are registered in the EU or India, but no financial reports will be required. As you can see from the evaluation grid, applicants will be assessed as per the organizational profile (history, areas of work, expertise) of the think tank.

7.

Q: Is it OK to have a partner from UK? (any Brexit effect on proposal?)

A: There is no immediate effect, however, please be aware that after the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU, the rules of access to EU procurement procedures of economic operators established in third countries will apply to candidates or tenderers from the United Kingdom depending on the outcome of negotiations. In case such access is not provided by legal provisions in
force at the time of the contract award, candidates or tenderers from the United Kingdom, could be rejected from the procurement procedure.

8.

Q: Do we need to have one common theme for the proposal or the team can also produce three papers on three different themes?

A: Please refer to Point 7 of Annexure 3 of the Call for Concept Notes for Research Papers (copied below):

7. CONCEPT NOTE:

Please attach a jointly written Concept Note in 1500-2500 words which must include the following elements:

Elaboration of a proposal for the research work to be jointly developed over three rounds of report writing interspersed with workshops and annual conferences and a final workshop over the next 18 months in 2018-19. The concept note should include:

a. the choice of the topic of research (for paper I) 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 appropriate), and their relevance and importance for the EU, India, or EU-India relations

c. research methodology to be used (see below for details)

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 for the research produced

f. possible topics of research for papers II and III if already known.

9.

Q: Will the submission and funding for the papers will be through University? Call suggest the proposals will be have to be signed by authoritative representative (In our case it is registrar)

A: Yes, each partner has to be represented by the authorized representative who has the legal and financial authority to take ownership of the proposal on behalf of the institution.
Annex 1:

EU-INDIA THINK TANKS TWINNING INITIATIVE 2015-16:

Four consortia of think tanks from the EU and India were supported under the EU Public Diplomacy and Outreach in India and in the SAARC project during 2015-6, and they carried out the research work as follows:

a) ORF, Chatham House and EUISS produced three Background Papers covering West Asia, Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism and Countering Radicalisation. These papers were grouped together as one well produced paper publication. The consortium also held a Workshop and a Public Event in New Delhi in September 2016, as well as a final Public Event in Brussels in November. The public events were well attended by a mix of officials, academics and think tank representatives.

b) GPPI and Carnegie India held both an EU-India Policy Dialogue on Global Governance & Security, and a public event on the wider topic of EU-India relations in Brussels in September, produced one Policy Paper on “Regional Connectivity in Asia: New Avenues for EU-India Partnership” and another one on “Securing Afghanistan: Prospects for India-EU Cooperation” in November, and held another EU-India Policy Dialogue on Global Governance & Security, as well as another public event, this time in Delhi, on that same month. The last two Policy Papers, respectively on “Global Conflict Management and Scope for EU-India Cooperation” and on “EU-India Cooperation for Securing the Indian Ocean Region” are expected to be delivered by the end of January.


d) GRF and FES India delivered a Seminar on “EU-India Cooperation on Sustainable Urbanisation” in Pune, India, in September 2016, and produced a Policy Brief on “Charting a Sustainable Future: EU-India Platforms on Energy and Climate Change and Urban Development”, as well as one on “India’s View on Human Security: Citizens First, Holistic Urbanisation and Cooperation with the European Union”. 