



EU Public Diplomacy in India through Policy and Outreach Partnerships

EU India Think Tanks Twinning Initiative

Call for Concept Notes for Joint Research Projects 2018



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The European Union



Implemented by
AETS



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NOTE TO SELECT EU AND INDIAN THINK TANKS
EU INDIA THINK TANKS TWINNING INITIATIVE:
CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS 2018

Dear Madam/ Sir,

On behalf of the Delegation of the European Union to India, AETS is pleased to invite you as one of the leading think tanks in the EU / India to participate in the Call for Concept Notes for Joint Research Projects 2018 under the EU India Think Tanks Twinning Initiative.

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 pages that follow.

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,

Anil Patni

Team Leader

EU Public Diplomacy in India project

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**EU INDIA THINK TANKS TWINNING INITIATIVE:
CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS 2018**

Table of Contents

CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS 2018 4

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT: 4

OVERALL CONCEPT: 4

OBJECTIVE: 5

ELIGIBILITY: 5

SUBJECT AREAS: 5

FORMAT AND METHODOLOGY:..... 6

 1. Agreement on creating a consortium 6

 2. Identification of two teams of researchers for each consortium: 6

 3. Proposals:..... 6

 4. Methodology:..... 7

 5. Selection process: 7

 6. Eligibility criteria: 7

 7. Required Output: 7

BUDGET:..... 8

 WORKSHOP: 9

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS:..... 9

ANNEXURE 1: TIME TABLE: DESIGNING THE WORK PLAN 10

ANNEXURE 2: Evaluation grid: 11

ANNEXURE 3: TEMPLATE FOR APPLICATION 12

 Cover letter: 12

 Proposal: 12

ANNEXURE4: Milestones for payment.....14

EU INDIA THINK TANKS TWINNING INITIATIVE: CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES FOR JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS 2018

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

The EU-India Strategic Partnership is moving forward in line with the direction and pace set forth by the political leaders at the 13th and 14th India-EU Summits held in Brussels (March 2016) and New Delhi (October 2017) respectively¹. The best of minds from both sides are needed to take this relationship forward to the next level.

The Delegation of the European Union to India launched the 'EU India Think Tanks Twinning Initiative' which has successfully organized networking and working together of some leading think tanks from India and the EU during 2015-16.

This Call for Concept Notes for Joint Research Projects 2018 is aimed at taking forward this initiative over the next 1.5 years and is being organized under the EU Public Diplomacy in India through Policy and Outreach Partnerships project (EU POP India) being implemented by AETS.

OVERALL CONCEPT:

The aim of this exercise is to enable consortia of leading think tanks from the EU and India to undertake joint research and produce joint papers on key themes of interest to the EU and India, listed below. These research papers/ publications are expected to stimulate wider public debate in the EU and India via academic discourse and media coverage on the topics under discussion and possibly feed into the policy making processes both in the EU and in India.

Through this Call five consortia of India-EU think tanks will be selected to enable the production of minimum three research papers per consortium over the next 1.5 years. There will be three rounds of report writing interspersed with EU-India Workshops, Annual Conferences and a final workshop to discuss and analyze the papers produced. All the papers will be brought together under one or more publications to be compiled and published by the EU Public Diplomacy project. 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, events, Facebook pages and Twitter handle etc.

¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-3728_en.htm

OBJECTIVE:

The aim of this exercise is to enable enhanced linkages and exchanges among European and Indian think tanks and research institutes so to promote deeper reflections on key policy areas from the domains of foreign and security policy, international relations and global governance. The outputs of this exercise (research papers) are to contribute towards enhanced awareness and understanding of key issues pertinent to the EU-India strategic partnership among the key opinion-formers, multipliers, and decision makers in the EU and India.

Think tanks serve to bridge the gap between the daily, quick, short and factual reporting of newspapers and voluminous academic production. Because think tanks produce independent opinions of subject matter experts who speak with their expertise and experience, they are expected to contribute new knowledge and insights to the discussion and inform, enrich and shape public opinion and sometimes even mold public policy decisions through their research and writing.

ELIGIBILITY:

The application for participation in this assignment must be made by a pair consisting of one Indian and one EU based think tank. The Indian think tank must be registered in India and the EU think tank must be registered in any of the 28 EU Member States. Both must deploy their professional experts in the joint research to be carried out as mentioned below.

SUBJECT AREAS:

The selected Think Tanks are required to work together on topics of mutual interest and importance to the EU and India from the fields of foreign and security policy, international relations, and global governance, as listed below for reference. These are generic topics that you are requested to elaborate upon and further refine or merge.

- Emerging regional orders in Asia/Security in Asia
- Prospects for security cooperation - EU & India
- Evolution of the EU CFSP: Impact on EU India relations
- Cooperation between EU and India on China / One Belt One Road initiative - EU and Indian response
- Cooperation between EU and India on Africa
- Cooperation between EU and India on MENA region/West Asia

- EU – India cooperation on neighboring countries (Afghanistan, Myanmar)
- Indian Ocean/UNCLOS
- Migration and Refugees,
- Counter- radicalization
- Cyber security/Internet Governance
- Future of UN and multilateralism
- Conflict prevention and early warning
- Crisis management /peacekeeping
- Development/stabilization nexus
- Global challenges: Securing India's proactive role after the Paris Agreement and on other common challenges

FORMAT AND METHODOLOGY:

The methodology for collaboration would involve the following elements:

1. **Agreement on creating a consortium** among the pairing TTs (one Indian TT, one EU TT) to work together on specific topic/s which are to be proposed to the EU Delegation from the above mentioned thematic areas OR any other topic of mutual interest and significance for the EU-India strategic partnership (with justification).
2. **Identification of two teams of researchers for each consortium:** Indian and EU think tank teams must both comprise one senior researcher (minimum 07 years professional post-graduate research experience in the fields related to foreign and security policy, international relations, global governance, and similar; preferably with focus on EU-India relations) and two junior researchers (graduates with minimum two years of professional work experience). To summarize: both, the Indian and European TT in the consortium must field a team of researchers comprising one senior researcher and two junior researchers. Names and profiles of proposed researchers need to be submitted as part of the proposal, along with their CVs.
3. **Proposals:** The proposal must contain a Concept Note (maximum 2500 words) outlining the choice of the topic of research and its relevance and importance to the EU, India and EU-India relations and strategic partnership, past, present and future status of various issues in the subject areas under discussion (as appropriate), research methodology, the relevance of the research to the past/ongoing work of the research organizations, the scope of work of each partner institution, and a communication and visibility plan. (See the template of the information to be submitted attached for further details)

4. **Methodology:** Both teams in the consortium (1 Indian, 1 EU TT) will be researching the subject individually and jointly, as per pre-agreed time table, to produce new research papers which are original and add fresh knowledge and insights on the given subject. The teams should outline in their Proposal how they plan to work together in the process of drafting the research papers.

The research process must involve a short-term visit (around 5 days) of an Indian Think Tank researcher to an EU Think Tank as well as one European think tank researcher to an Indian think tank as part of the research and report writing process. This exchange of visits is aimed at ensuring real exchanges of views and collaborative working together between the two institutions.

Such **exchange visits** should be well planned with the receiving institution arranging for meetings and discussions not only within the receiving TT but also external meetings (e.g. with the relevant government officials, subject matter experts, journalists etc.) for the visiting researcher. Each paper must involve active engagement and contribution of both partners.

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.

5. **Selection process:**

An ad hoc selection committee comprising of official staff of EU Delegation to India and the EU Public Diplomacy project team will assess in the first phase the proposals for eligibility as per the eligibility criteria given below (Article 6 below). All eligible proposals will then be assessed for merit ranking as per the Evaluation Grid given at the end of this document.

6. **Eligibility criteria:**

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 proposal is to be sent either by the Indian TT or the EU TT on behalf of the consortium. However, the cover page of the application must be co-signed by authorized representatives of both think tanks.

7. **Required Output:** Each consortium should produce **three new papers** (10-15 pages each) directly as a result of the above collaboration. They are welcome to produce an additional paper(s) if interested within the same budget and time lines. The first paper will be presented at a workshop to be held in Delhi within three-four months from the start of the process. (see the tentative time table and costing sheet at the end of this section). All selected consortiums will present the first of the three research papers at the end of month 03 from the start of the process. The presented papers will be discussed with all other participants at the conference as well as Indian and European officials. Media will be invited to join the discussions. Based on the above discussion the respective teams within the consortia will jointly update and finalize the papers as needed and submit the amended versions to the EU PD project within the end of 4th month from the start of the process.

Each consortium repeats the same process for their respective paper #2 and paper #3 and present those at workshops #2 and #3, to be held in Delhi/ Brussels/ other Indian or EU city. Please see Annexure 4 for milestones for payments.

Once the EU PD project has received all such completed papers, it would compile them in a publication. This book would be launched at an event in Delhi and/or Brussels where the respective co-authors would be invited to present their findings.

BUDGET:

On the basis of the Selection grid given in Annexure 2, the Selection Committee will select the top 5 proposals scoring the highest marks. "Waiting list" of TT consortia ranked 6- 10 will be used if necessary in the rounds II and III of research.

The top five consortia will be contacted to agree on the service contract for the research and production of research papers. Payment will be made as per global price service contract in which the maximum amount to be allocated to each think tank consortium for production of each joint paper and the related logistical costs (see below) is €6000 (that means, €3000 for each think tank). Out of this amount, an advance amount of 50% will be given at the start of the project (€1500 to each think tank) and the balance amount at the end of the first round of paper writing after the first joint paper has been produced and delivered to AETS. Each consortium needs to submit the financial offer (along with the concept note) for the requested below outputs which does not exceed €6000.

Against the amount received the consortium jointly and each think tank severally is responsible to deliver the joint research paper on the agreed theme. 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 (accommodation, per diems, other costs) during visit of one of their researchers to the other region for around 5 days. This means one visit of EU TT researcher to Indian TT to be paid for by EU TT. Plus, one visit of Indian TT researcher to the EU TT to be paid for by the Indian TT
- The host TT is responsible to assist logistically the visiting TT researcher for the duration of 5-day visit.
- Host TTs will enable the visiting TT researchers the use of their own office facilities including digital /online communications;
- The visiting TT researchers will bear the costs of holding local meeting with government officials, subject matter experts/ journalists during the visit etc.
- Publication of the research papers/ any other publications/ webpages
- Communication and visibility activities by the respective TTs

Each of the five consortia must submit the financial offer along with the concept note amounting to maximum €6000 (giving breakdown of the budget needed). The produced research papers will be presented at three workshops and annual conferences as well as at the final conference/ workshop at the

end of the project. The cost of organizing these events is covered by AETS and does not need to be budgeted by the participating TTs in the financial offer.

WORKSHOP: The first papers of all consortia will be presented at workshop #1. The organization of these and the participation of one researcher from each of the 5 EU TTs to Delhi (or Brussels) to present the paper, will be organized and budgeted by AETS (not by TTs). The person to present the paper may be the same one who earlier visited India (or EU) to prepare the research or another (senior) member of the team. (In case the workshop is held in Brussels/EU, the Indian TTs will be invited).

Once the workshop #1 has been held and all 5 papers presented, the same 5 consortia will be invited to go for their 2nd paper. In case any of the consortium drops out, that slot would be offered to the top most wait-listed candidate from the selection process. Same funding conditions apply for each round.

In this way, at the end of the exercise there will be at least 15 new, original papers, each having been researched and written jointly by Indian and EU TTs working together. These 15 papers will be published as given above.

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 AETS with all the materials produced as part of the action (e.g. research / position papers, videos, media coverage reports, etc.).
- While the first 50% will be given as advance payment at the start of the cycle, the balance payment will only be made against submission of a bill that contains the accompanying vouchers including proof of travels (boarding passes) and time sheets of experts working on the project etc.

ANNEXURE 1: TIME TABLE²

Week 1	The Call for Concept Notes is issued. The Call is published on the EU Delegation website. Emailers sent out to EU and Indian TTs. Notes sent to EUMS reps. Mails sent to last year's participants.
Week 2	TTs invited to start looking for partners for pairing with.
Week 8	Deadline for receiving proposals from EU India TT consortiums
Week 12	Selection of winners and announcement
Week 14	Agreement with AETS.
Week 15	TTs start project implementation. Advance payment.
Week 23	First paper done. Balance payment.
Week 27	First workshop to bring together the first set of joint papers X 5 papers. Media outreach.
Week 28	Announcement of Call for Paper #2: Expressions of interest received from all participating TTs. In case any of the TTs not interested in paper # 2, that slot will be offered to the highest ranking waitlisted TT consortium (and then to the 2 nd highest ranking one if the 1 st one is not interested, and so on)
Week 29	Contracts signed/ confirmed. Advance payment. TTs start project implementation.
Week 37	Second paper done. Balance payment.
Week 41	Second workshop to bring together the second set of joint papers X 5 papers. Media outreach
Week 42	Announcement of Call for Paper #3: Expressions of interest received from all participating TTs. In case any of the TTs not interested in paper # 3, that slot will be offered to the highest ranking waitlisted TT consortium at that stage (and then to the 2 nd highest ranking one if the 1 st one is not interested), and so on
Week 44	Contracts signed/ confirmed. Advance payment. TTs start project implementation.
Week 52	Third paper done. Balance payment.
Week 56	Third workshop to bring together the third set of joint papers X 5 papers. Media outreach
Week 60	Selection of publisher finalized. Manuscript of the book finalized. Foreword from the EU Ambassador.
Week 65	Publication comprising a collection of all the papers prepared during the TTTI completed.
Week 70	Launch of the book at a high profile public event. (Annual conference)
Week 75	Closing event: lessons learned and ideas for the future.

² Indicative, subject to change

ANNEXURE 2: Evaluation grid:

The Evaluation Grid below gives due weightage to the quality of the Concept Note, organizational profile and CVs of the Research teams fielded by the Indian and EU TTs, and the visibility plan proposed.

	Indicator	Max marks
Quality of the Concept Note Subject/topic of research, Methodology (30 marks)	Importance and relevance to the EU/India/EU-India relations of the subject/ topic of research proposed (as explained in the note)	10
	Analysis of the research questions to be addressed	10
	Methodology proposed (logical coherence, innovativeness, efficiency and effectiveness)	10
Quality of institutions / Organizational profile (20 marks)	Indian think tank organizational profile (history, areas of work, expertise)	10
	EU think tank organizational profile (history, areas of work, expertise)	10
Quality of the teams proposed (30 marks)	team proposed by Indian Think Tank - CV of the Team Leader/ Senior Researcher	10
	team proposed by Indian Think Tank - CV of Junior Researcher (I)	2.5
	team proposed by Indian Think Tank - CV of Junior Researcher (II)	2.5
	team proposed by EU Think Tank - CV of the Team Leader/ Senior Researcher	10
	team proposed by EU Think Tank - CV of Junior Researcher (I)	2.5
	team proposed by EU Think Tank - CV of Junior Researcher (II)	2.5
Visibility plan (20 marks)	Communication and visibility plan in India (using owned media channels and earned coverage)	10
	Communication and visibility plan in the EU (using owned media channels and earned coverage)	10
	TOTAL	100

ANNEXURE 3: TEMPLATE FOR APPLICATION

Format for the proposal for joint research papers by India-EU consortium of think tanks

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; 500 WORDS)
4. **ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE OF THE EU THINK TANK:** (FIELDS OF WORK, EXPERTISE; 500 WORDS)
5. **PROFILE OF THE RESEARCH TEAM FIELDDED BY INDIAN THINK TANK**
 - a. CV of Team Leader/ Senior Researcher
 - b. CV of junior researcher (I)
 - c. CV of junior researcher (II)
6. **PROFILE OF THE RESEARCH TEAM FIELDDED BY E U THINK TANK**
 - a. CV of Team Leader/ Senior Researcher
 - b. CV of junior researcher (I)
 - c. CV of junior researcher (II)
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.

METHODOLOGY:

Both teams in the consortium (1 Indian, 1 EU TT) will be researching the subject individually and jointly, as per pre-agreed time table, 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 process must involve a short-term visit (around 5 days) of an Indian Think Tank researcher to an EU Think Tank as well as one European think tank researcher to an Indian think tank as part of the research and report writing process. This exchange of visits is aimed at ensuring real exchanges of views and collaborative working together between the two institutions.

Such exchange visits should be well planned with the receiving institution arranging for meetings and discussions not only within the receiving TT but also external meetings (e.g. with the relevant government officials, subject matter experts, journalists etc.) for the visiting researcher. Each paper must involve active engagement and contribution of both partners.

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.

8. FINANCIAL OFFER

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

ANNEXURE 4: Milestones for payment³

Phase 1				
		Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18
		Advance payment	Balance payment	
1	EU TT	1500	1500	Workshop 1
	Indian TT	1500	1500	
2	EU TT	1500	1500	
	Indian TT	1500	1500	
3	EU TT	1500	1500	
	Indian TT	1500	1500	
4	EU TT	1500	1500	
	Indian TT	1500	1500	
5	EU TT	1500	1500	
	Indian TT	1500	1500	
	Total	15000	15000	

³ Indicative, subject to change

Phase 2				
		Jul-18	Sep-18	Oct-18
		Advance payment	Balance payment	
1	EU TT	1500	1500	Workshop 2
	Indian TT	1500	1500	
2	EU TT	1500	1500	
	Indian TT	1500	1500	
3	EU TT	1500	1500	
	Indian TT	1500	1500	
4	EU TT	1500	1500	
	Indian TT	1500	1500	
5	EU TT	1500	1500	
	Indian TT	1500	1500	
		15000	15000	

Phase 3					
		Oct-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Total for TT (all 3 phases)
		Advance payment	Balance payment		
1	EU TT	1500	1500	Workshop 3	9000
	Indian TT	1500	1500		9000
2	EU TT	1500	1500		9000
	Indian TT	1500	1500		9000
3	EU TT	1500	1500		9000
	Indian TT	1500	1500		9000
4	EU TT	1500	1500		9000
	Indian TT	1500	1500		9000
5	EU TT	1500	1500		9000
	Indian TT	1500	1500		9000
		15000	15000		90000