

INITIATIVE TO CONNECT INNOVATION AND START-UP ECOSYSTEMS BETWEEN EUROPE AND INDIA



The Europe-India Innovation Partnership (EIIP) was launched as a pilot initiative in April 2018 with the aim to strengthen the **innovation dimension of Europe-India cooperation**. Running until January 2021, it promoted the exchange of ideas and a mutual understanding of each side's innovation ecosystems. This facilitated co-creation and the development of new and innovative products and services. The initiative targeted mainly **start-up incubators and accelerators from India and the 27 EU Member States and countries associated to the EU's R&I framework programme Horizon 2020** and those associated with Horizon 2020.

Key milestones

Five networking events were organised between 2018 to 2020. The **first** was held in **Bengaluru, India** in October 2018. The **second** was organised in **Tallinn, Estonia** in May 2019. A **third** meeting was held in **Delhi, India** in November 2019. The **fourth** was a **virtual networking event** held in May 2020. The **final event** was also virtual and held in December 2020. Approximately 50 start-up incubators and accelerators from both regions participated in these networking sessions.



Key results

Through this pilot initiative, the **EIIP network created an active community of incubators, accelerators, start-ups, investors, corporates and public sector organisations.**

400+ stakeholders

29+ bilateral and multilateral incubator-incubator partnerships

95 incubators and accelerators

50+ benefitting start-ups

Key initiatives



EIIP food waste platform

This platform brought together start-up incubators, corporates, investors and governments from Europe, India and beyond for collaboration, co-creation and funding of initiatives addressing food waste and loss. A total of 44 start-ups (27 from India and 17 from Europe) participated in the initiative. They were divided into groups based on the following 5 subthemes: Smart Farming, Food Processing, Logistics and Packaging, Supply Chain Management and Waste Management and Recycling. This initiative was supported by Rabobank, a Dutch agricultural cooperative bank.

Molecular start-up competition

The international [molecular start-up competition](#) for Europe, Africa and India, was organised by **Incubateur Descartes** from France, **Technoport** from Luxembourg, **Atal Incubation Centre-Aartech**, **IIM Calcutta Innovation Park & SRIX (SR Innovation Exchange)** from India, and **Innovus & Afrilabs** from Africa.

The aim of the competition was to match start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises in the same sector and to develop similar products and services. After analysing 40 applications submitted from Europe, Africa and India, three winners were chosen to receive support for matching and co-innovation plus a travel allowance to move on to the next steps. The winning trio are all in the field of Education Technologies.

They are [IOGA \(France\)](#), [TALENTO \(New Delhi, India\)](#) and [ANEPEN \(Tanzania, Africa\)](#).



Tools to facilitate the EU-India innovation cooperation: European Innovation Zones in India (EIZI) and Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)



EIZI

The European Innovation Zones in India (EIZI) consist of two separate soft-landing platforms hosted by the [C-Camp](#) incubator in Bengaluru and by [T-Hub](#) in Hyderabad, respectively. The aim is to facilitate the entry of European start-ups into the Indian market and to promote co-creation with Indian counterparts. A virtual roadshow promoting India's innovation ecosystem for EU start-ups was organised in November 2020. More than 100 organisations participated, following which several start-ups and innovation enablers connected to leverage their ideas and technologies. The EIZIs are open to all innovators from Europe seeking to enter the Indian innovation ecosystem.



EEN

The [Enterprise Europe Network \(EEN\)](#) is a service organised by the European Commission for internationalisation of SMEs (including startups). The Indian nodal partner (from EIIP) supported, and can continue to do so, European and Indian start-ups by leveraging market access in both regions. EIIP network members can search for research or business partners through the Indian nodal partners, as well as engaging under the EU's research and innovation framework programme (Horizon 2020) and now Horizon Europe. Through the Indian nodal partner, connections on Agritech, Health, Smart Systems etc. are possible and Indian start-ups can find partners and customers for internationalisation into the EU and vice versa.

Corporate Challenges and Investor Involvement

Several corporate, investment and network partners to the EIIP used the network to explore opportunities for collaboration with European and Indian incubators and start-ups.

- Key actions by Accenture, EDF and Rabobank to scout for EU and Indian start-ups
- Key Investor opportunities announced by:
 - Indian Angel Network (IAN)
 - Nasscom and Enterprise Europe Network's EU VC Connect for Indian start-ups
 - Crossspring, the Netherlands

Testimonials by Europe-India Innovation Partnership participants



Sreedevi Devireddy, CEO, SR Innovation Exchange (Telangana)

I am confident this initiative will break silos and promote cross-border synergies between incubators and accelerators, which in turn will expedite the growth of start-ups due to easy access to international markets through soft landing and other advantages.



Jean-Christophe de Tausia, Director, Incubateur Descartes (Paris)

The EU-India service facility pilot project provides us the possibility to initiate cooperation with Indian partners. This is a clear added value of DG RTD and the actions we are planning will reinforce our visibility and open up new horizons for start-ups on both continents.



Vaska Stoyanova, CEO, Mahatma Gandhi IT UNI, Plovdiv Tech Park Technology Park (Bulgaria)

My participation in the EU-India Innovation Partnership Network has opened up new horizons and introduced me to partners from both continents. This opportunity is already being used by my incubator, Mahatma Gandhi IT UNI, Plovdiv Tech Park. As the only representative in the Network from Bulgaria, our participation is also very important for the development of Indo-Bulgarian relations.



Piotr Nędzewicz, Head of Sales & Research Commercialisation Department, Poznan Science and Technology Park (Poland)

It's an extremely valuable initiative that not only prepares the ground for the cooperation of young technology companies between India and Europe, but also provides a starting point for exchanging experiences, sharing knowledge and good practices between incubators and innovation centres. The companies gathered around the Poznan Science and Technology Park have found out about a real possibility to start their business in the Indian market.



Dr Manisha Acharya, CEO, Indigram Labs Foundation (India)

It was an amazing experience to be a part of the EU India Innovation partnership platform. This platform was an excellent resource for exploring businesses in Europe and India for Start-ups from both regions. With an objective to harness the power of synergies, the platform endeavored for soft-landing of Start-ups in both geographies. It also facilitated close interactions between Indian incubators and their European counterparts, that catalysed an active exchange of ideas on good incubation practices. The multiple events, those were conducted successfully by incubators from both regions, helped in convergence of views, ideas and threw lights on possible ways forward as well. Last but not the least, the program offered an excellent opportunity to develop strong bonds and friendships with people in the incubation space that shall surely go a long way towards promoting Incubation and promote Start-up connect in both our regions.



Hardik Joshi, Director - Entrepreneur Engagement & Training, Science and Technology Park, Pune (India)

I particularly appreciate the genuine efforts to bring leading ecosystem partners from respective regions on a platform that enables sharing experiences, lessons learned and growth strategies to promote a culture of innovation. I have met some amazing people and I'm looking forward to future collaborations.



Shubham Singh, Program Executive at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) (India)

It was a successful runoff ! We are very happy to have been selected as one of the incubators to host the European Innovation Zone in India (EIZI) at C-CAMP. It has been wonderful to interact with European incubators and few new Indian incubators as well. Newer insights, ideas, strategies, bigger network, global platform for Indian Innovations, etc.- All inclusive package from EIIP. Hoping for faster, better return of the program. Thanks to entire team!!



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