

INDIA EU JOINT HOUSE
FOR SCIENCE & INNOVATION
INDIA S&I HOUSE

**The vision of experts:
Brainstorming Outputs**



Expert Round Table Discussions



- **June 2013:** External Advisory Board (EAB) Workshop in New Delhi – validated methodology used & provided expert input.
- **September 2013:** Roundtable brainstorming in Bangalore with Indian EAB members and external Indian experts.
- **October 2013:** Roundtable discussion during the India-France Technology Summit with European experts working in India and two EAB members (Indian & European).
- **December 2013:** Roundtable brainstorming in Paris with European EAB members and external European experts.

And of course **today** with your input!



Expert views: format of the House



- Should be a long-standing structure to allow for sustainable partnerships.
- A physical structure has more visibility (it should become a label / brand) – can work on creating a buzz.
- Should be a reciprocal, win-win collaboration format.
- Advantage to a physical structure is its autonomy to decide - for example of IPR and follow-up rules for funded projects.

Expert views: types of governance

- The future House must have two co-locations: office in India and office in Europe.
- Could offer shared facilities in India to European stakeholders – cost effective and would facilitate exchanges.
- The governing board should have two co-chairs – European and Indian.
- Have minimum bureaucracy – this is key for attractiveness.
- The core staff could administer the platform on a rotational basis, with positions either part-time or full-time for a shorter time. This would help to hand over responsibilities smoothly, keeping a good overlap in the rotation of personnel.

Expert views: operational mode

- Procedures need to be simple, efficient and flexible.
- A user-friendly, interactive internet platform should be used for the whole project submission, evaluation and funding steps.
- Define clear rules for contractual obligations of funded researchers and who decides if the contracts are breached.
- Require signed Consortium Agreements – provide models of IPR agreements between Europe & India, but the model must not be enforced, it should stay up to the researchers.
- Funding: virtual joint funding pot where each country just funds own side. Real joint funding pot agreements should be avoided as too complicated.
- Long-term : impact assessment to evaluate the work of the future House by a high-powered independent committee.

Expert views: activities – general

- Multilayered set of objectives with different activities: solving of large societal problems, capacity building with new forms of mobility, building new kinds of research synergies, risk finance for ventures, and bridge financing for technology development, etc.
- Clearing house for ideas.
- Common place of interest for all kinds of stakeholders: research lab, industry, PhD, etc.
- The *House* should bring not only the European & Indian public research organisations & universities together, but also industries in Europe & India and the private higher education institutions in India.
- Create and facilitate collaborations: provide seed-money to get key people together.
- Should connect with funding agencies and other entities and function as an umbrella platform – single entry point.

Expert views: activities – visibility & information



- In India: create a common European face that will be recognizable and will emphasize and promote the quality of European research and innovation.
- In Europe:
 - coordinate European efforts for communication & promotion towards India.
 - build a better image of India by providing more information about India's current and future strengths in research and innovation.
- Mapping research / researchers / resources for sharing knowledge.
- Develop a taxonomy of all Indo-European collaborations and have a web-portal where all the data is centralised and easy to find with an alert system and constant updating.
- Single point of entry to find information on funding sources, find partners, achieve synergies and do a broad range of research.
- First place European / Indian researchers or industry go to when looking for cooperation (with India / Europe), partners, funding sources & opportunities.

Expert views: activities – networking



- Create meeting places.
- Provide a good online tool for bringing people together.
- Bring people and ideas together regularly in a large meeting on specific focus sectors – present ideas to a panel with seed funding for the best ideas.
- Organize forums for young researchers to create connections at early career stages.
- Organize brokerage events to foster connections.
- Nodal point where existing networks (European & Indian) can meet.
- Multilateral approach to mobility with a richer and wider spectrum of tools, involving several countries.
- Disseminate information on existing mobility schemes and collect the needs of potential recipients for more advanced perspectives and further funding?
- Promote inclusivity to involve new sets of researchers from both regions – “make the bidders pool bigger” → have some meetings in more remote places.

Expert views: activities – focus



- Social sciences must be included from the start for the whole process.
- In favour of bottom-up / open:
 - The future House should be flexible and it should provide scope for accommodating new ideas and new ways of doing things.
 - Receptive to bottom-up ideas from young scientists working at grass-roots.
 - Grand challenges are more global rather than just Indo-European.
- In favour of pre-defined focus themes:
 - Notions of grand challenges, global common goods & sustainable development problems are common to both India & Europe.
 - The House should achieve something that is not possible at a bilateral level, by focusing on large problems that require a high level of ambition.
 - Solution-driven research around societal needs - focus on grand challenges that Europe and India are both facing, e.g. urban planning, healthcare.
 - Define themes: ask stakeholders what big questions, either scientific or societal, could be effectively answered by an ambitious dedicated Indo-European program – involve them from the start, increase visibility.

Expert views: activities – project funding



- Support joint projects of mutual cooperation and benefits.
- The added-value of the collaboration should be an evaluation criteria – complementary approaches, win-win.
- Mechanism for low-budget pre-project studies (complementary to the main project funding). Two-stage process with a small funding amount at the first stage to help take the idea further. Then more focused and serious proposal evaluated in 2nd stage.
- Both aspects must be kept:
 - bottom-up approach where the best research can be funded;
 - priority topics to encourage collaborations in focused themes.
- Set up a call for joint Europe-India proposals in 3/4 defined challenges – in each focus area, have all three kinds of projects: Fundamental research projects, R&D projects and Applied research projects (one of each per focus area).



Expert views: activities – PPP

- All experts agreed that PPP must be included.
- Cooperation between research institutes, higher education organizations & industry must be encouraged to lead to the transfer of high technologies.
- Have a fund dedicated to projects with co-funding by companies - attract not only government funding but also private funding.
- Take research outputs closer towards commercial attractiveness (refinement, validation, product development) – 10-20% of project funding budget should be reserved for innovative ideas that come out of research projects to take forward towards setting up start-ups.
- Risk-finance for innovation SMEs: provide initial start-up capital? Help to find financial institutions?
- Create business linkages: connect European and Indian companies, and also legal / regulatory structures (IP) and financial institutions.