

**EU-INDIA THINK TANKS TWINNING INITIATIVE  
2022 - 2023  
CALL FOR JOINT ONLINE RESEARCH COLLABORATION BETWEEN  
CONSORTIUMS OF EU-INDIA THINK TANKS**

17 January 2022

On behalf of the Delegation of the European Union to India, the project EU Policy and Outreach Partnership in India (EUPOP India) is inviting applications of EU and Indian think tanks to participate in the Joint Online Research Collaboration under the EU India Think Tanks Twinning Initiative 2022 – 2023.

Be informed, the deadline for applications has been extended. The last date to receive your application, co-signed by both Indian and European leading consortium partners, is 6 PM CET on **01/02/2023**.

The application should be sent to the following email address: [eupop@altairasesores.es](mailto:eupop@altairasesores.es)  
We remain at your disposal for any questions and queries.

Yours sincerely,



Hema Singh Rance  
EU Policy and Outreach Partnership in India  
Email: [eupop@altairasesores.es](mailto:eupop@altairasesores.es)

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## EU-INDIA THINK TANKS TWINNING INITIATIVE 2022-2023 CALL FOR JOINT ONLINE RESEARCH COLLABORATION FROM CONSORTIUMS OF EU-INDIA THINK TANKS

### 01. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

India and the EU, as long-standing partners are committed to dynamic dialogue in all areas of mutual interest as major actors in their own regions and as global players on the world stage. The world's two largest democracies share key values and principles such as freedom, the rule of law, human rights, and the promotion of peace and stability.

EU-India relations cover many areas, including cooperation on regional, global and security issues, close trade and economic ties, sectoral dialogues on sustainable development and modernisation, research and innovation as well as people-to-people contacts.

In this scope, the EU-India Think Tanks Twinning Initiative (TTTI) was launched with the support of the European Union in 2015, with a view to promoting better understanding and stimulating joint research between the Indian and EU think tanks. The initiative feeds into the EU-India strategic relationship by suggesting concrete ideas and recommendations on how the EU and India can further strengthen their cooperation in the fields of foreign and security policy and global governance. This initiative is organized in the scope of the EU-funded project EU Policy and Outreach Partnership in India (EUPOP India), implemented by Stantec and Altair Asesores S.L.

### 02. OBJECTIVE:

The aim of this initiative is to promote joint research between EU and India in the selected topics through think tanks, universities, political foundations or research institutes from the EU and India. The completed research paper is expected to spark wider public debate in the EU and India via academic discourse and media coverage on the topic under discussion and where possible, feed into relevant policy-making processes.

### 03. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- The call is open to think tanks, universities, political foundations, and research institutions registered and based in one of the EU 27 Member States or in India.
- Each consortium should be formed by at least one Indian and one EU-based think tanks. Entities must submit the names and CVs of the research team members who will be directly involved in the initiative. The joint application must be signed by the respective Head or Authorized Signatory of both participating leading organizations.
- The research team of each participating organisations must have the following characteristics:
  - One leading senior researcher-who has published at least one research/policy paper on EU – India relations or on a technical/ strategic issue of significance to the EU,

India, and EU-India relations. It is not necessary that the paper was published in the scope of previous EU India Think Tanks Twinning Initiatives. The senior researcher cannot participate in two consortiums simultaneously. She/He must have a post-graduate degree.

- At least one junior researcher with relevant experience for the assignment.
- The global consortium team must be comprised of 50% EU and 50% Indian members.

#### 04. SUBJECT AREAS:

The applicant should draft a research proposal on the topics below:

1. *India is experiencing third-country interference from Russia and China, mainly in the fields of information<sup>1</sup>, but also with regard to media, academia, research, think tanks, culture, etc. What is the extent of this interference, India's response, and prospects for EU-India cooperation in countering it?*
2. *Innovations in healthcare are currently driven by digital and mobile technologies, and data processing. What are the prospects, and what would be the requisites and conditions to develop a mutually profitable collaboration between EU and India in this field?*

#### 05. THE APPLICATION:

The application should be submitted by each Consortium following the template established in Annex 2.

Deadline for submission of applications is 6 PM CET on 18/01/2023. The deadline has been extended to 6 PM CET on 01/02/2023.

Each applicant can send one application per each subject area.

#### 06. SELECTION PROCESS:

The evaluation committee will assess the applications once received, following the evaluation grid in Annex 1. The four proposals with the highest scores will be awarded the call. The assessment process is technical and impartial, the decision reached cannot be challenged. In order to promote equal treatment of applicants the applications will be anonymised.

The Consortium will have to comply with the eligibility criteria established in point 3 to be evaluated.

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<sup>1</sup> Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), also often labelled as “disinformation, is mostly non-illegal pattern of behaviour that threatens or has the potential to negatively impact values, procedures and political processes. Such activity is manipulative in character, conducted in an intentional and coordinated manner. Actors of such activity can be state or non-state actors, including their proxies inside and outside of their own territory (EEAS - Tackling Disinformation, Foreign Information Manipulation & Interference).

The consortia can submit requests for clarifications to [eupop@altairasesores.es](mailto:eupop@altairasesores.es). Those send until the 12/12/2022 will be respond within three working days from that date.<sup>2</sup> Clarifications received after the 12/12/2022 will be answered by the 06/01/2023. Questions received after this date won't be replied.

## 07. REQUIRED OUTPUT:

Each selected consortium is required to produce:

- One joint research paper of 5.000 – 10.000 words on one of the topics indicated above following the template in Annex 3. Each paper must provide an EU and India perspective. English language proofreading must be performed ahead of submitting the final research paper and it has to be ready for publication.
- Organize one peer-to-peer discussion on the research to be held virtually.
- A final activity report regarding the implementation of the activity and the participation of the stakeholders will need to be submitted to [eupop@altairasesores.es](mailto:eupop@altairasesores.es). It must include all materials produced as part of the action (e.g., research / position papers, videos, media coverage reports, etc.). This activity report should contain the signed timesheets of the experts who have worked on the elaboration of the paper (template will be provided). It will be shared with each consortium a set of guidelines on both the format and on the content to draft the research paper. The consortium is requested to strictly conform to the deadlines and the guidelines.

The research paper has to be submitted four months after the residency programme has started, once the call has been awarded.

## 08. PUBLICATION:

Research papers will be published on the EU India Think Tanks Twinning website ([www.euindiathinktanks.com](http://www.euindiathinktanks.com)). The publication will give due credit to the authors and their respective institutions. Participating think tanks will ensure the visibility and communication of the research by dissemination of the joint papers through their own communication channels (emails, newsletters, websites, social media channels), giving due credit to the EUPOP TTTI initiative. The copyrights of the research paper will belong to the EU Delegation to India. Authors can use the papers for non-commercial purposes.

## 09. METHODOLOGY:

Both teams in the consortium will be researching the subject individually and jointly, as per a pre-agreed timetable, to produce new research papers which are innovative and add fresh knowledge and insights on the given subject. For this purpose, the teams should outline in their application how they plan to work together in the process of drafting the research papers. The research must also include virtual interviews with key

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<sup>2</sup> Anonymised questions and clarifications will be published on the website [euindiathinktanks.com](http://euindiathinktanks.com) and sent to our known mailing list. If you wish to be put on this mailing list, please contact us via the email address listed in this document.

Please note: individual situations cannot be commented on, answers will be general

stakeholders. Each paper must involve active engagement and contribution of all team members.

#### 10. BUDGET AND PAYMENTS:

Each consortium will be provided with a total of 30.000 Euros, equally shared between the Indian and EU think tanks.

This amount will cover all expenses related to the research and drafting of the paper, including (non-exhaustive list): drafting of the reports, final language proofreading, final editing, administrative support for organizing and hosting a peer-to-peer review, communication and dissemination of the research.

The EUPOP project team will make a first payment of 50% to the lead partners from India and the EU. They will guarantee responsible distribution with their respective partners. The second instalment of 25% will be transferred upon submission of the draft paper and completion of the review. The balance amount (25%) will be transferred upon publication of the research paper on the EU-India think tanks website.

Payments will be carried out by the Stantec-Altair Asesores S.L.

Unjustified delays as well as papers not respecting the guidelines and academic quality standards, will not be published. In this case, the final payment will not be made.

ANNEX 1: EVALUATION GRID

	<b>Evaluation Question</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Maximum score</b>
Organisational profile	Does the Indian applicant have good experience?  Is the work well structured?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Areas of work, expertise</li> <li>- Division of responsibilities and collaborative structures</li> </ul>	20
Relevance	Is the proposal relevant to the TTTI call?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One of the key subject areas is addressed</li> <li>- The research questions are relevant and interesting</li> </ul>	20
Methodology	Is the methodology well elaborated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design of the action</li> <li>- Presentation of the activities, outputs, outcomes and impact</li> <li>- Geographical representation and inclusivity</li> <li>- Good mix of research, exchanges, opportunities for expert debates and discussions with the wider public</li> </ul>	30
Innovation	Is the proposal innovative?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The problems/issues are sharply analysed</li> <li>- The research proposes to address these issues properly</li> <li>- The expected outcome of the research contributes to new insights</li> </ul>	10
Team	Are the proposed teams competent?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inclusiveness of the research team</li> <li>- Representation of the research team</li> <li>- CV of Researchers</li> <li>- Gender balance in the team</li> </ul>	10
Communication and Visibility	Does the proposal include a communication and visibility strategy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quality of the Communication strategy (publication, media coverage, etc.)</li> </ul>	10
<b>Total</b>			<b>100</b>

## ANNEX 2: APPLICATION TEMPLATE

### 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:

01. Indian think tank name and address along with name and contact details (email address, office landline phone number, mobile phone) of the contact person.
02. EU think tank name and address along with name and contact details (email address, office landline phone number, mobile phone) of the contact person.
03. Organisational profile of the Indian think tank: (fields of work, expertise; 300 words)
04. Organisational profile of the EU think tank: (fields of work, expertise; 300 words)
05. Profile of the research team fielded by Indian think tank:
  - CV of each researcher (maximum 2 pages per person)
06. Profile of the research team fielded by EU think tank:
  - CV of each researcher (maximum 2 pages per person)
07. Name and contact details of the lead researcher
08. Concept note: Please attach a jointly written Concept Note in 1500 words which must include the following elements:
  - The choice of the topic of research and its relevance and importance to the EU, India, and EU-India relations/strategic partnership
  - Main research questions to be addressed: Analysis of the past and present future status and 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
  - Research methodology to be used
  - 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.).
  - Communication and visibility plan, including social media strategy
  - Initial list of interviews
  - Basic bibliography
  - Timeline



## ANNEX 3: TEMPLATE FOR RESEARCH PAPER

### EU INDIA THINK TANKS TWINNING INITIATIVE 2022 – 2023

Authors, Institutions

Title of the paper

Content:

- Executive summary (max 2 pages)
- Introduction
- Background and conceptual framework. Identification of the problem and relevance to the EU-India strategic partnership.
- Methodology
- European perspective
- Critical analysis of the issue.
- Indian perspective
- Research findings
- Recommendations
- Minimum three policy recommendations to the EU and/or Indian Government/both parties to address the issue. Recommendations must be clear and concrete, indicating gaps and actions that the two parties should focus on to boost their relationship, and suggest the next steps to be undertaken. Clearly indicate whether your recommendation is addressed to the EU, to India, or both.
- Conclusions
- References and bibliography
- List of interviews