

# **New INDIGO: Networking Pilot Program (NPP)**

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***For information about New INDIGO and the 2nd NPP Call for Applications, please go to [www.newindigo.eu](http://www.newindigo.eu). We advise you also to call your respective National Contact Point for questions on national eligibility rules, partner search, budget issues or anything else. Contact details are annexed to the Call text and listed in the leaflet.***

## General

### 1. What is an ERA-NET scheme?

ERA-NET is an instrument that was introduced under the EU's Sixth Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (FP6). Its main purpose is to support transnational activities between EU Members States and Associated countries in order to coordinate national research policies.

### 2. What is New Indigo and what does it stand for?

New INDIGO is a consortium of European and Indian S&T organisations involved in promoting research cooperation between Europe and India. It is intended to strengthen the international dimension of the European Research Area (ERA) and to provide a gateway to European S&T for networking with Indian S&T platform.

The name New INDIGO refers to the full title of the program: Initiative for the Development and Integration of Indian and European Research. It is new because it is the continuation of earlier initiatives leading up to this program.

### 3. What are New INDIGO's aim and main activities?

The aim of New INDIGO is to help provide **the most relevant framework to allow the scientific community and institutions** of India to access the European Research Area, and the Euro-Indian S&T cooperation to fully benefit from the new networking tools which have been set up, notably the FP7.

There are **three main activities** by which New INDIGO will attain this goal:

1. The **identification of research hotspots** in Europe and in India from the point of view of common scientific interest and complementary expertise.
2. A **call for research projects** and their evaluation and follow-up by a committee of highly qualified scientists will pave the way to the structuralisation of high quality collaborative research.
3. **Sharing experience** with other geographic Era-Nets and comparing their respective outputs

### 4. The aim of the Networking Pilot Program

Goal of the NPP is to bring together Indian and European researchers to collaborate on a joint topic of mutual interest, and thereby pave the way for long-lasting cooperation between research institutions from the European Research Area (ERA) and Indian partner organisations. This goal is achieved by enhancing bi-regional communication and cooperation, knowledge exchange, and networking leading to new partnerships and stronger existing ones.

The program aims both at European and Indian scholars experienced in collaborating together and at those with little or no previous experience of working together in India and/or Europe.

## 5. What has been changed since the first NPP Call?

The first NPP Call for applications within the NPP framework was launched in January 2010 in the field of Biotechnology and Health. In this topic 47 projects were submitted of which 13 could be funded by the participating funding agencies. Following the Call an external evaluation has been performed amongst researcher-applicants and evaluators, so assess their views on the process. Based on this report and the experiences of the National Contact Points, the following steps have been taken to improve the Call implementation:

- the support documents have been revised
- the eligibility rules per country will be made available online on the New INDIGO website
- the budget format has been revised, in order to improve the accumulation of amounts
- the criteria for assessment of projects are simplified and clarified
- the online web tool has been revised to make it shorter and more to the point

## 6. What is the scope of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NPP?

The programme offers opportunities in the field of **Water Related Research**. More specifically this NPP targets:

- Wastewater Management including applications to Industry and Agriculture
- Green Chemistry applied to Water Purification including Drinking Water Purification

The maximum amount available per project depends on the number of participating partners. Each European funding country contributes up to € 50.000 per project, while this is matched by an Indian contribution. It is expected to fund approx.10 projects within this Call.

Research projects will be funded for a period of two years.

## 7. Is a NPP proposal similar to an FP7 application?

No. New INDIGO is a different programme that follows separate rules and regulations for application, submission and evaluation of research proposals.

### Research team

## 8. Who can apply?

In general applications can be submitted by legal RTD entities located in the NPP-funding countries. In general academics, higher education institutions and/or non-university research establishments located in the countries of the partners participating in the call are eligible. Since **eligibility** criteria are subject to national regulation, all applicants are strongly advised to take a close look at the details given in the *country specific requirements* and contact the respective National Contact Points in their home countries prior to submitting a proposal.

Researchers in selected research projects can be funded if they are eligible, which means they come from the following countries and are eligible according to the rules applied by the funding agencies.

<i>Belgium/Flanders</i>	-	<i>Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)</i>
<i>Finland</i>	-	<i>Academy of Finland (AKA)</i>
<i>France</i>	-	<i>National Center for Scientific research (CNRS)</i>
<i>Germany</i>	-	<i>Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)</i>
<i>India</i>	-	<i>Department of Science and Technology (DST)</i>
<i>The Netherlands</i>	-	<i>Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)</i>
<i>Spain</i>	-	<i>Ministry for Science and Innovation (MICINN)</i>

### **9. What does a New INDIGO research team look like?**

Each team group must involve a minimum of two researchers/research groups from two different participating European New INDIGO member states as well as a minimum of one researcher/research group from India.

There is no maximum number of project partners nor a maximum of partners per country. Keep in mind that the composition of the consortium is one of the criteria for assessment in the second phase.

### **10. Can non New INDIGO partners join?**

Eligible research groups from non New INDIGO countries may participate in projects if they secure their own funding (confirmed by binding Letter of Commitment in the full application stage).

### **11. Can enterprises join?**

No. Under this Call Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) and industries are excluded.

### **12. Where can I find Indian partners?**

On the New INDIGO website you can find relevant information on both Indian and European organisations and scientists. To find an Indian partner, you can check:

- the Indian S&T Landscape document (<http://www.newindigo.eu/info/india.html>)
- the Partner Search Tool

Also you can contact your NCP or the Indian NCP. They might be able to help with further contacts or more information.

### **13. Where can I find European partners?**

On the New INDIGO website you can find relevant information on both Indian and European organisations and scientists. To find a (additional) European partner, you could check:

- Information on European Union (<http://www.newindigo.eu/info/eu.html>)
- The Partner Search Tool

### **14. Is a Consortium Agreement required?**

No, such an agreement is not required. However, New INDIGO recommends to sign a consortium agreement if you feel this is necessary, for example in case there are specific or additional IPR issues you need to agree upon.

## **Application**

### **15. What can be applied for?**

Funding can be applied for the following activities within the thematic scope of the NPP :

- **Mobility:** research visits by European and Indian scientists between Europe and India, of which the maximum duration for the stay is according to national regulations. Travel costs and living expenses of scientists are eligible for funding.

Please note that in case of inter-European travel these costs are paid for by partners in the sending country. In case of Indo-European exchange the travel costs are paid for by the partner in the sending country while the living expenses are paid for by the partner in the hosting country.

- **Workshops:** organisation costs, including the invitation of external experts.
- **Other costs:**
  - o European participating partners can apply for a maximum of 10 % (depending on national regulations) of the budget in a flexible mode as "other costs". These costs could consist of small equipment, consumables and other project related miscellaneous expenses.
  - o Indian participating partners can apply for a non-fixed maximum of personnel and equipment costs, as long as the funding for internationalisation of research is not diminished.

**Table 1: Summary table of costs included in the budget of project partners**

	<b>(International) travel</b>	<b>Subsistence (incl. meals &amp; local travel)</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>
<b>From India to EU (workshop and exchange)</b>	paid by Indian sending organization	paid by EU host	paid by EU host
<b>Exchange from EU to India (workshop and exchange)</b>	paid by EU sending organization	paid by Indian host	paid by Indian host
<b>Inter-European (workshop and exchange)</b>	Paid by the sending organization	Paid by the sending organization	Paid by the sending organization
For any workshop additionally to be paid by the host:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Costs for organization</li> <li>- Travel, accommodation and living costs for external guests</li> </ul>			

**16. How can I apply?**

Application is done in two stages – pre-registration and full proposal submission – both to be inserted directly into the designated webtool. This tool can be found on the New INDIGO website ([www.newindigo.eu/npp/](http://www.newindigo.eu/npp/)).

- Pre-registration: consisting of basic information in order to have a pre-check on eligibility. The pre-registration module will be open from 18 April until 20 June 2011.
- Full proposal: the principal coordinator submits a full proposal in the name of the joint trans-national research group. Only pre-registered proposals are eligible. The full proposal module will be open from 18 July until 7 September 2011.

For full proposal submission, information inserted for pre-registration can be re-used and, if necessary, altered when submitting the full proposal. The process of inserting data for pre-registration and full proposal submission can be completed in several sessions. The inserted data can be saved (please make sure to always press the save button!) and be re-used or altered in the next session.

All information must be inserted in English.

#### **17. What is the difference between a project coordinator and a principal coordinator?**

Each research team submitting a project proposal has two project coordinators, one Indian and one European. These project coordinators represent the project externally and they are jointly responsible for the management of the project internally.

For technical reasons there is only one project coordinator that can submit the proposal and thus gets access to the webtool. This project coordinator is called principal coordinator for his purpose only.

#### **18. In addition to the online submission procedure, should I submit a paper copy of the proposal?**

- For European partners there is no need to have paper copies of the project proposal signed.
- For Indian partners it is required that the head of the applying research institution sends the (signed) full project proposal to the Indian National Contact Point. Advanced copies of the proposal are accepted.

#### **19. When can I apply?**

Deadline for pre-registration: 18 April 2011 12:00 CET; 15.30 IST

Deadline for full proposal submission: 7 September 2011 12:00 CET; 15.30 IST

Submission periods:

Pre-registration: 18 April – 20 June 2011

Full project proposal: 18 July – 7 September 2011

#### **Pre-registration**

#### **20. What does Pre-registration mean?**

Pre-registration of application means that the research group wanting to apply provides information about the composition of the consortium, the basic project idea and an estimate of the costs. These data will be checked for eligibility and adherence to the formal requirements.

This means that while the pre-registration of the consortium is not yet a full proposal, it still is a key part of your application. It forms the basis for the decision to keep your application in the competition by inviting you to submit a full project proposal.

**21. What partners can be included in the Pre-registration?**

The whole consortium should be identified and included at this initial stage of the project. It is very important to ensure that the minimum participation requirements are met (please check the call text) and that all consortium partners are eligible for funding based on the national rules and regulations of each partner.

Please be advised to contact your National Contact Point for further assistance and advise on eligibility of the project partners.

**22. What happens if one of the partners is ineligible?**

After pre-registration of the proposal the eligibility of the partners is assessed on the basis of national regulations. This is an administrative step which does not contain a judgement on the merit of the proposal.

In case one of the partners is not eligible, the principal coordinator of the project will receive a notification by the NPP Secretariat, with the choice either to step out of the competition and refrain from submitting a full project proposal, or to stay in the competition and submit an adapted full project proposal.

Please keep in mind that eligibility of all partners will be assessed again after submission of the full project proposal. By then all partners must be eligible.

**23. What happens when more than one of the partners, or the Project Coordinators, are ineligible?**

In case more than one of the project partners are ineligible, the abovementioned remarks under 22. are applicable also.

In case one of the project coordinators is ineligible the pre-registration will not be accepted. Also individual applications, including applications that involve only one eligible partner will be rejected immediately.

**24. Do I have to specify and justify the budget estimate in the pre-registration phase?**

No. In this early phase only a rough estimate per partner is requested. This gives an idea of the planned activities as well as of the overall distribution of budget.

**25. What is the minimum threshold to be invited to submit a full project proposal?**

There is no threshold based on scoring in the pre-registration stage as the quality of the consortium or the research idea is not yet evaluated. Only eligibility is checked. Consortia that are eligible are invited to submit a full project proposal.

**Full project proposal**

**26. What is the evaluation procedure for the full project proposals?**

Each full project proposal will be checked for eligibility again. No changes in the composition of the research team are allowed anymore at this stage.

If eligible the proposal will be evaluated by two evaluators, who can be from any country in the world. In India all proposals will be presented by the Indian project coordinator in front of an ad hoc Expert Committee, appointed by the Department of Science & Technology.

The evaluators and members of the ad hoc Expert Committee will base their evaluation on the Evaluation Criteria set out for them in the Guideline for Evaluators. They will score the proposal (1-10) and give written comments to substantiate their scoring. All criteria will be weighed equally.

**27. What happens if the evaluators do not agree?**

If the review reports and outcome of the ad hoc Expert Committee are very different, the Scientific Council consisting of experts in the thematic field of the Call, will look at the application, the review reports and the motivation of the ad hoc Expert Committee while considering the ranking list.

**28. Are thresholds applied in the evaluation of full project proposals?**

Yes. During the ranking process a threshold - determined by the Scientific Council - will be upheld. The criterion of 'academic excellence' has to be 'good' (5 points) at least.

**29. Do the partners in a full project proposal need to be the same as those pre-registered?**

No. A change in the consortium is acceptable even if all pre-registered partners are eligible. After submission of the full project proposal the application will be checked for eligibility again, which means by then all partners and the thematic topic of the proposal must comply to the relevant national rules and regulations as well as to the New INDIGO requirements (e.g. minimum of two eligible partners from different European funding partners and one Indian eligible partner).

**PT Outline webtool**

**30. How does the electronic system for submission work?**

Please look at the manual for the PT Outline webtool at [www.newindigo.eu/npp/](http://www.newindigo.eu/npp/), where the webtool can be accessed as well.