

ERASMUS MUNDUS EXTERNAL COOPERATION WINDOW (EM ECW) PROJECT FACT SHEET

Call for Proposals: EACEA/35/08 - Lot 13 (India)

Coordinating Institution:

Politecnico di Torino, Italy

Members of the partnership:

KTH - Royal Institute of Technology of Stockholm-Sweden
Politecnico di Milano-Italy
RTWH – Aachen University-Germany
UPM – Technical University of Madrid-Spain
Alma Mater Studiorum- Università di Bologna-Italy
INPG – Grenoble Institute of Technology-France
University of Trento-Italy
TKK - Helsinki University of Technology-Finland
Amrita University - Coimbatore-India
Anna University – Chennai-India
IIT – Indian Institute of Technology Delhi-India
Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata-India
Jadavpur University-India
Kakatiya University-India
University of Pune-India
CEPT- Centre of Environmental Planning and Technology-India

Associates:

The Italian Foreign Affairs Ministry.Unit VI.DG.Cultural Promotion.Inter-university Cooperation - Italy

Project objectives:

The proposal presented by this partnership focuses principally on the promotion of cooperation and on the enhancing of a mutual recognition between European and Indian Universities, in particular through a transfer of know-how and good practices in the field of student and academic staff mobility. Nearly all the thematic fields required for lot 13 are covered by the partnership, as requested by the call. Nevertheless, Science and Technology (in particular Engineering) have been chosen as core subjects by most of the partners and therefore, a higher share of the grants will be allocated to applicants from these fields. The proposal fits all the objectives of the call as the international cooperation will be improved and enhanced both for the students and academic staff, reinforcing the relations between the European and the Indian Institutions. The European members of the Consortium have been selected in order to offer a great experience in academic studies and of cultural exchange, carrying an open-minded vision of the new Global Knowledge Society to share with those who will take part to the EMECW. Not only the sharing of educational and linguistic culture will be enhanced, but also the experience of the international administrative staff, empowering the strength of the Indo - European relations and the possibility to continue these exchanges in the future, through the creation of joint research and teaching activities between the sending and the host universities. A special attention will be paid to an equal and fair treatment to all students, selecting those coming in particular from disadvantaged groups (for gender, handicap, economical or political reasons).

Brief description:

The Indian students and academic staff by participating in the EMECW will return to their countries after having experienced the European culture and having obtained a high level training in top-level European universities. Therefore, they will contribute to create a new link with European Union and solid basis for future exchange programs, creating a mutual relation between EU and India. In the

same time, the European students and partners staff will experience a real contact with their Indian colleagues, establishing with them strong relations that will increase the understanding and the mutual collaboration in the field of top-level instruction. This will improve also diplomatic and economical relations. The interest of our partners is focused not only on education, but also on the research sector. The expected results will extend from the building up of professional capabilities to perspectives technical applications and development of prototypes in much needed fields, with obvious positive follow-ups. A very important side-result will be a better understanding between European and Indian students and staff, not only concerning methods of study and work, but also concerning cultural openings, individual and social habits, as well as female insertion into educational and professional institutions. Such project will render positive results on the individuals and the community as a whole and will be a catalyst for development at the Country level.

The Consortium will assure a wide coverage of all disciplines thank to the presence of comprehensive universities. Nevertheless, a special focus will be represented by Engineering programmes according to the request and expressions of interest provided by the Indian counterparts. Due to the fact that language might represent a problem to some candidates from both sides, it has been decided to give priority to master of Science and PhD Programmes since most of the European partners are able to offer a wide range of programmes at this level in English. In any case, each partner is committed in making all the possible efforts to select students also on the basis of their language skills in order to admit as many candidates as possible in the regular programmes taught in the local language and facilitate in this way their integration with the local students. Intensive language courses will be offered to all students by all the partner universities. Moreover, thank to past experience in exchanges between European and Indian Higher Education Institutions, it has been proved that students at Master and PhD level benefit much more of this kind of experience than Bachelor students due to their maturity and academic background. According to the statistics related to exchanges between Europe and India, most of the drop-off cases happened at Bachelor level while almost all of the exchanges performed at higher level had been completed successfully. However the flows have been well balanced in order to ensure that all study levels would be represented and students of all ages from both geographical areas would have access to the mobility. For what concerns Post Doc activities, all students will be admitted in specializing courses.

Regarding the share of the mobility flows from and towards the two geographical areas concerned, the planned mobility flows towards Europe is around 73%. The reason for this is again based on the past experience of the beneficiaries: a financial support is more required by Indian students than by European ones and the request for mobility towards the geographical areas involved is higher in India than in Europe.

About the share among the different target groups, a 79% has been allocated to group 1 because it concerns the category of beneficiaries (those enrolled at the partner institutions) that the partners will be able to better identify, assess and for whom the success of the academic activities and subsequent recognition can be better ensured. A 11,5% of the flows has been allocated to the individuals belonging to target group 2 because this percentage has been considered as the most appropriate one in order to both allow a reasonable representation of other Indian institutions in the activities and at the same time it represents a number of mobile individuals that reasonably the Consortium foresees to be able to involve and manage in order to guarantee the best services and assistance for them to successfully complete the study period abroad. At any extent, these specific scholarships will be promoted by each European member of the Consortium with their own Indian partners not participating to the current proposal. Moreover, the European partners will take actions in order to promote the initiatives addressed to this target group within the different university Networks they belong to and in all the Student Fairs they will visit in India during 2009. As far as target group 3 is concerned, a 9,5% of the total flows have been allocated to individuals with this specific profile because this percentage leads to both a realistic number of flows that the European members plan to be able to successfully manage and to accomplish the desire to give concrete help to individuals belonging to disadvantaged categories. The most demanding activity related to this group will obviously be the recruitment phase during which the diplomatic body of the European partners will play an active role in order to allow the involved national universities to reach more easily the potential candidates on their territories. Within Target Group 3 particular attention will be paid to refugees and disabled. These are very broad categories in India and they are often victim of discrimination. The same amount of budget allocated to TG1 has been allocated to TG2 and TG3 together. This derives from the fact that for beneficiaries of TG2 and TG3 longer scholarships have been foreseen. The Consortium thought that, as they are people in specific situations, it is important to ensure them the possibility to spend their whole period abroad and not only a part. This strategy will allow them to efficiently develop their skills and to succeed in their studies.

Number of Individual Mobility Activities foreseen

Type of Mobility	Europeans	Third-Country nationals				TOTAL
	Target Group 1	Ctry code	Target Group 1	Target Group 2	Target Group 3	
Undergraduates	5	IN	15	--	7	27
Masters	15	IN	23	7	7	52
Doctorates	15	IN	30	5	5	55
Post-doctorates	10	IN	20	11	--	41
Teaching staff	9	IN	16	--	--	25
TOTAL	54		104	23	19	200

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