



INNO INDIGO
**Innovation-driven Initiative for the Development and
Integration of Indian and European Research**

INNO INDIGO Partnership Programme
Call for Proposals in the field of
***“Diagnostics and interventions in chronic non-
communicable diseases”***

CALL TEXT

Proposal Submission Period

13 April 2015 – 22 June 2015 (12:00 CET / 15:30 IST)

Websites

<http://indigoprojects.eu/funding/indigo-calls/call-2015> (for Call Text and National regulations, Guidelines for Applicants)

<https://secure.pt-dlr.de/ptoutline/app/users/login/ipp2> (online submission tool)

Contact

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1. Background and objectives of the INDIGO Partnership Program (IPP)

1.1 The INNO INDIGO project

INNO INDIGO is a geographical ERA-NET with India funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Program for Research and Technological Development. The project runs from November 2013 until October 2016.

It is the follow-up of the predecessor ERA-NET New INDIGO (2009-2013), which successfully launched four calls for proposals and developed a scheme for EU-India transnational calls, namely the New INDIGO Partnership Program (NPP).

The overall aim of INNO INDIGO is to continue the successful funding scheme set-up under New INDIGO, hence, strengthening scientific, technology and business collaborations between Europe and India. INNO INDIGO aims to enhance participation in its funding scheme of innovation actors (in particular clusters of excellence and regions) and new funders, with the objective to “bring ideas – through collaboration – to the market”. Besides the launch of regular joint multilateral calls for proposals, INNO INDIGO will organise Science, Technology and Innovation-focused events, such as workshops and conferences, especially the EU-India Scientific Technology and Innovation (STI) Cooperation Days.

For more information about the project activities, you are invited to consult our website: <http://indigoprojects.eu/about/inno-indigo/about>

1.2 Aim of the INNO INDIGO Partnership Programme (IPP)

The aim of the INNO INDIGO Partnership Programme (IPP) is to support high quality research, development and innovation of projects involving partners from Europe and India.

The INNO INDIGO calls for proposals target existing contacts to foster collaborations and/or initiate new ones. The objective is to pave the way for long-lasting cooperation between STI organisations from the European Research Area (ERA) and India.

Moreover, a crucial aim is to enhance the relevance and outreach of the IPP to innovation stakeholders, in particular to fund research closer to the market.

A first INNO INDIGO joint call was launched in July 2014 on “Clean Water and Health”. The IPP2 joint call for proposals on “Diagnostics and interventions in chronic non-communicable diseases” constitutes the second joint call under INNO INDIGO.

1.3 IPP2 thematic area: Research and Innovation in diagnostics and interventions for chronic non-communicable diseases

India and the EU represent populations of approx. 1.2 and 0.5 billion inhabitants respectively, whose expectations for increased quality of life and reduction of disease burdens are high. India's considerable economic growth over the last decades and the resulting change of lifestyle, as well as increasing air and water pollution has led to an increase of chronic diseases such as diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, hypertension, skin diseases etc. For instance, the burden of acquired non-communicable

skin disorders such as vitiligo and psoriasis is exacerbated by direct contact with the environment. The chronic nature of these diseases imposes a significant cost burden for both the EU and India. In addition, the financial and subsequent economic crisis has had a large impact on healthcare budgets – also in many European countries - which has created a higher demand for cost-efficient and affordable health care solutions.

Therefore, India and the EU share common challenges in the field of Health. In particular, chronic non-communicable diseases present a significant burden to individuals and healthcare systems. Additionally, specific mechanisms are likely to be at play in the different environments of India and Europe; these should be studied in parallel with expected new insights in the understanding of corresponding diseases.

To reduce both the human toll and high costs of health care in both the EU and India, affordable, practical, and effective approaches and technologies for understanding, preventing and treating chronic non-communicable diseases and their complications are required.

In order to address different dimensions of challenges posed by chronic non-communicable diseases, the following sub-thematic areas were selected by the funding parties for the IPP2 Joint Call for Proposals:

- **Subtopic 1: Development of tools and technologies for the diagnostics of chronic non-communicable diseases**

This subtopic is open to research on the development of diagnostic tools, technologies and methods to improve the screening and monitoring of chronic non-communicable diseases. This might include the development of new tools and technologies as well as novel applications of existing ones. Projects funded under this subtopic should contribute to the development of cost-effective, simpler and more reliable diagnostic tools to detect, prevent and monitor chronic non-communicable diseases including early diagnosis and monitoring of secondary complications. Home-based user friendly simple and cost effective field diagnostics as well as health kiosk development for auto diagnosis may also be considered.

- **Subtopic 2: Research and innovation within interventions for chronic non-communicable diseases**

The development of novel therapeutic interventions plays a key role in reducing the global burden of chronic non-communicable diseases. Innovative, cost-effective therapeutic interventions are required to provide the best quality of care as well as to increase the equality in access to health care. Existing therapeutic interventions are often expensive and require sophisticated infrastructure as well as highly trained health

workers who may be in short supply. To address this challenge, this call is open to research and development on therapeutic treatments (new or optimisation of existing ones) with lower direct costs or that lower the overall costs of care. Testing of new therapeutic agents is restricted to cell culture, bioassays and phase 1 clinical trials¹. Innovations such as decision support systems or technology to empower less-skilled personnel in implementing such interventions and simple treatments (first aid) as well as self-management tools will additionally be considered. This subtopic may also include prevention and management of secondary complications in such chronic diseases.

- **Subtopic 3: Mechanisms in chronic non-communicable diseases**

This subtopic is open to research on mechanisms involved in induction and progression of chronic non-communicable diseases. This might include the development of new preclinical models that would find a direct application in corresponding human diseases. Dissecting causal changes from associated effects in diseases is challenging. Projects funded under this subtopic contribute to the identification of early pathological events allowing conception and construction of preventive therapeutic strategies.

1.4 Call Calendar

Launch of the Call for Proposals	13 April 2015 <i>(12:00 pm Central European Time / 3:30 pm Indian Time)</i>
Deadline for proposal submission	22 June 2015 <i>(12:00 pm Central European Time / 3:30 pm Indian Time)</i>
Evaluation and selection process	June – October 2015
Information to applicants about the results of the evaluation	End of October 2015
Preparation of national/regional funding contracts/funding decisions	October 2015 – February 2016
Start of projects	February 2016

IMPORTANT: Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered eligible.

2. Participating countries

¹ Projects including a clinical trial will only be funded after approval by all relevant ethic commissions.

Funding agencies participating in the second INNO INDIGO call are:

India – Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST)

Belgium – Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS (F.R.S. – FNRS)

Estonia – The Estonian Research Council (ETAg)

France – Bpifrance Financement (Bpifrance)

Germany – Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

Norway – Research Council of Norway (RCN)

Portugal – Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT)

Only researchers based in these countries are eligible for funding through the IPP2 Call. Researchers from other countries or regions may also participate on special conditions (see section 3.2).

3. Eligibility criteria for funding recipients

3.1 Legal Status of the applicants

Proposals for collaborative research and development projects may be submitted by **public and/or private entities which are eligible according to their respective national/regional regulations**. These can be higher education institutions, public research institutes, private research institutes, companies, etc. In particular, whenever possible, **the participation of SMEs, industries and clusters in consortia is also highly encouraged**.

It is strongly recommended that applicants contact their respective IPP National Contact Point (see Annex 1 of this document) to discuss their intentions and to confirm their eligibility, before submitting their applications. If one partner in the consortium is not eligible, the whole proposal is considered ineligible and is not forwarded to the evaluation stage.

3.2 Composition of the consortia

The consortia must be composed of at least 3 eligible partners from the above mentioned participating countries of which 2 partners have to come from two different European countries participating in the call (Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Norway, Portugal) and 1 partner from India.

Entities not eligible for funding according to the national/regional regulations of their respective country or based in non-participating countries might be part of the consortium, if they secure their own funding. Their participation and their secured funding need to be confirmed through a Letter of Commitment to be submitted online with the proposal. Additional partners are not counted as partner for the size of the eligible consortium (2+1) and are not allowed to coordinate a project.

Each project consortium has to choose two project **coordinators, one from India and one from a European country participating in the call**. One of the coordinators (named the “principal project coordinator”) is responsible for the formal submission of the proposal.

The number of project partners should correspond to the aims of the project and be reasonably balanced in terms of national participation. Each project should clearly demonstrate the added value of working together.

Proposals including young researchers are strongly encouraged.

INNO INDIGO provides an **online partnering tool** (<http://partnering.pt-dlr.de/IPP2>) to facilitate the search for potential partners in response to IPP calls. On this web tool, you will be able to publish your profile and project ideas and to consult other Indian and European experts’ profiles.

4. Funding Modalities

4.1 Duration of the Funding

The INDIGO Partnership Programme will fund transnational collaborative research, technological and innovation development projects with a maximum duration of **three years** if not mentioned otherwise in the national/regional regulations.

4.2 Level of Funding per partner

The INDIGO Partnership Programme is implemented with a “virtual common pot” which means that funds for each project are provided directly by the respective national/regional funding agency to successful applicants.

The amount of funding per project and per partner depends on national/regional regulations of the respective participating funding organisations. Each project partner is invited to consult its respective national/regional regulations for further details (<http://indigoprojects.eu/funding/indigo-calls/call-2015>).

In case a consortium is composed of two partners from the same country/region, they can together request up to the maximum amount allowed in their respective country/region.

4.3 Eligible costs

Eligible costs depend on national/regional regulations. The detail of eligible costs per funding party can be found in the national/regional regulations available at the following link (<http://indigoprojects.eu/funding/indigo-calls/call-2015>).

All project partners are strongly advised to contact their respective IPP National Contact Point (see Annex 1) for further information on eligible costs and national/regional specifications. This is due to the varying eligibility criteria, funding instruments and funding amounts of the participating countries.

Depending on national/regional funding rules, the following items can be applied for²:

- **Mobility:** exchange research visits between Europe and India. Travel costs, living expenses and visa costs are eligible for funding. Eligibility is subject to national/regional regulations.
- **Workshops:** organisation costs, including rents for the event location, catering, communication materials and the invitation of external experts. Eligibility is subject to national/regional regulations.
- **Research costs:** small equipment and consumables, project-related miscellaneous expenses and project-related larger equipment; the extent to which equipment costs are eligible for funding depends on national/regional regulations.
- **Personnel costs:** extent of eligibility is according to respective national/regional regulations.

5. Application

The application procedure has one submission stage.

Proposals must be submitted electronically using the PT-Outline webtool (<https://secure.pt-dlr.de/ptoutline/app/users/login/ipp2>).

All proposals must be in English and budgets have to be calculated in euros.

Only one of the project coordinators (called the “principal project coordinator”) will formally submit the proposal on behalf of the consortium. The principal coordinator is responsible for the correct submission of the proposal within the deadline of the IPP.

² Some funding agencies might be able to fund other type of costs, in particular costs related to the participation of SMEs as costs related to intellectual property, patent extension, feasibility study, market search, industrial research and development of prototypes, models, pilot productions, demonstration etc. For further details, please refer to the national/regional regulations.

Proposals not submitted within the deadline will not be considered for evaluation. It is highly recommended not to submit the proposals at the last minute.

After the successful submission of a proposal within the PT-Outline system the principal coordinator will receive an **automatic confirmation e-mail by the PT-Outline System**. This e-mail will be proof for the correct and timely submission. Therefore, the principal coordinator is asked to save this e-mail. **In case this e-mail is not received immediately after the submission, please contact the call secretariat**. This does especially apply for proposals submitted shortly before the deadline.

More information on how to submit a proposal with PT-Outline can be found in the Guidelines for Applicants.

6. Evaluation

STEP 1: Eligibility check

The joint call secretariat and the IPP National Contact Points will check the eligibility of all submitted proposals. The joint call secretariat takes into consideration the multilateral criteria of the IPP. The IPP National Contact Points will check the eligibility of the applicants against their respective national/regional regulations.

STEP 2: Peer-review

Independent reviewers in the field of Chronic non-communicable diseases will carry out anonymous peer reviews of the eligible project proposals. Each proposal will be evaluated by at least two independent reviewers.

The peer reviewers are asked to submit their evaluations online in English using the PT-Outline proposal review tool. They are asked to evaluate the proposals based on the three evaluation criteria of the IPP.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

1. Scientific excellence and innovativeness of the project idea (scoring from 0 to 20)
 - Innovativeness of the project idea: capacity of a project to contribute to the development of a new technology, service or product, or the creation of new ideas and knowledge which can significantly influence future innovations.
 - Quality and effectiveness of the scientific methodology
 - Academic excellence of applicants (e.g. previous scientific track record, publications in scientific journals, reputation of the institute the applicant belongs to etc.)

2. Management, Transnationality and Cooperation (scoring from 0 to 10)

- Quality and effectiveness of the management structure, work plan and the distribution of tasks
- Added value of transnational cooperation
- Appropriate allocation and justification of the resources to be committed (budget, staff, equipment)

3. Potential impact and expected outcomes of the project (scoring from 0 to 10)

- Scientific and commercial impact
- Prospects for establishing efficient and sustainable partnership within the network, including transfer of know-how and experience;
- Appropriateness of measures for the dissemination and/or exploitation of trans-national projects results, and management of intellectual property.
- Innovation: market related impact (e.g. transfer to industry, commercial use in case SMEs are participating, return on investments for SME)

The evaluation form consists of open text fields to be filled in with written remarks and a **scoring system from 0 to 40** to evaluate the proposals with respect to the different evaluation criteria.

In order to emphasise the criteria of scientific excellence, a weighting will be applied. 20 points will be allocated to the criteria of scientific excellence. 10 points each are allocated to the criteria 2) and 3).

More information on the review procedure, the evaluation criteria and the decision-making process can be found in the Guidelines for Applicants.

STEP 3: Scientific Council

A Scientific Council consisting of **high-level scientific experts in the field of chronic non-communicable diseases** will discuss the scoring and reports of the peer reviewers. The Scientific Council members will be tasked with the scientific evaluation of the proposals and their ranking according to their excellence.

STEP 4: Programme Funding Committee

The Programme Funding Committee (PFC) consists of **one representative per participating funding institution. The PFC takes the final funding decision** based on the ranking list prepared by the Scientific Council and available budget.

7. Legal Clause

It is strongly recommended that project partners of each consortium funded under the INDIGO Partnership Program sign a Consortium Agreement, listing the rights and responsibilities of each project partner. IPR related issues should also be addressed in this Consortium Agreement.

In case of participation of a French SME in a consortium, a consortium agreement is compulsory and should be submitted together with the proposals.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

- your **IPP National Contact Point** for all aspects concerning the call. The contact details of the respective NCP can be found in Annex 1 of this document;
- the **joint call secretariat** for all information concerning the IPP and overall information of the call (contact details can be found on the first page of this document).

You are strongly advised to consult:

- the **Guidelines for Applicants** describing the overall application rules of the call
- **National/Regional Regulations** describing all rules and regulations which apply for each funding organisation participating in the IPP. They can be found on the website: <http://indigoprojects.eu/funding/indigo-calls/call-2015>

Annex 1 – Contact information: Call Secretariat and IPP National Contact Points

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