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Summary report for the EU-India Joint ICT Working Group and ICT

Business Dialogue, 13-14th June, 2016

Executive Summary

The EU – India Cooperation Platform in Future Internet and Electronic Media project (short name: EU-India FI-MEDIA¹) has started on the 1st of December, 2014. Coordinated by Waterford Institute of Technology's Telecommunications Software and Systems Group (WIT-TSSG), based in Ireland, FI-MEDIA has two India partners, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) and Beyond Evolution Tech Solutions Private Ltd (beTS). The project falls under the EU identifier called EU-India Research and Innovation Partnership, whose EU reference is EuropeAid/135-474/DD/ACT/IN and managed / funded by the Delegation of the European Union to India in New Delhi, India. The four year FI-MEDIA project was selected under the category related to Lot no. 6, Information and Communications Technologies.

In the first year of the project, the main objectives focused around the scoping of topics for Cluster to Cluster (C2C) partnerships in areas related to Future Internet and Electronic Media. The project took an approach to first look at the landscape in India to determine the most appropriate and mutually beneficial topics and then undertook a mapping of these in the EU research and innovation (R&I) domains.

The project has already set up two C2C partnerships related to 1. Smart Villages Ecosystems, (C2C event held 18 Dec. 2015²), and, 2. Bringing EU's FIWARE programme to India, in areas related to Smart cities, including Smart villages, (C2C event held 22nd Jan. 2016³).

¹ Web site at <http://www.bic-fimedia.eu/>

² Full report at http://www.bic-fimedia.eu/sites/default/files/u3/FI-MEDIA-UBA-C2C-WS-report-V2_0.pdf

³ Full report at http://www.bic-fimedia.eu/sites/default/files/u3/FI-MEDIA-ICSC-2016-report-V1_0.pdf

C2C partnerships

The cluster building approach followed by the project members was stepwise, as shown in Figure 1.

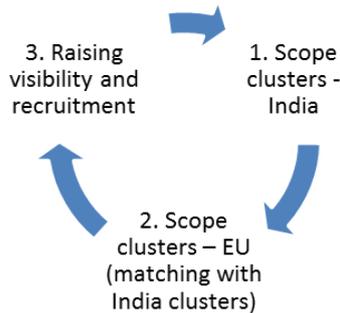


Figure 1 - Cluster formation process

While identifying clusters, the project members followed a systematic process to investigate the landscape of relevant themes and topics in India first and then carry out a scoping, recruitment and matching exercise with the EU constituency thereafter, to ensure there would not be a chance of having any potential mismatches between the identified clusters in India and EU.

Following from the picking of topics during the first year, the FI-MEDIA project has successfully formed two Cluster to Cluster (C2C) partnerships:

C2C 1: Smart Villages Ecosystems. FI-Media is collaborating with the Smart Villages Forum and the IIT Delhi led Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA⁴) initiative, which is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions (IITs, NITs, IIMs etc.) to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India. A joint C2C workshop of EU-India FI-MEDIA, Smart Villages Forum, and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan was held on 18th December, 2015 in New Delhi. Full report at http://www.bic-fimedia.eu/sites/default/files/u3/FI-MEDIA-UBA-C2C-WS-report-V2_0.pdf.

C2C 2: Bringing the EU's FIWARE program in an India setting related to Smart environments (e.g. smart campus, smart villages, smart cities). FIWARE is an EU led initiative that was started as part of a Future Internet Public Private Partnership (FI-PPP). FIWARE provides an open platform for quick and easy development with Generic and Specific Enablers available to the community including those related to Cloud, Data, IoT, Smart city / energy related apps, security, privacy and others. Although born in the EU, through the FIWARE Mundus global component, FIWARE is being extended towards other regions around the world who share the ambition, including India, and forming a C2C partnership with India via this project is seen as a welcomed opportunity, especially in areas related to smart cities, smart villages, smart campus, M2M, IoT, Content and Media, etc. An FI-MEDIA C2C event on bringing FIWARE to India was held co-located with a larger scale event being held in IIT Delhi entitled International Conference on Smart Cities (ICSC 2016) on 22nd January, 2016. Full report at http://www.bic-fimedia.eu/sites/default/files/u3/FI-MEDIA-ICSC-2016-report-V1_0.pdf.

Next Steps

Both of these C2C partnerships are now being followed up with networking meetings being held in New Delhi, during 10-12th May, 2016 bringing together a team of Smart city (and smart villages) solutions and FIWARE experts from the EU with mutually interested experts from India, with the intention of planning another large scale C2C event in September or October, 2016 at IIT Delhi and an even larger scale Smart cities/FIWARE C2C roadshow⁵ in November, 2016 taking in 3 cities (New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore).

⁴ <http://unnat.iitd.ac.in/index.php/en/>

⁵ In conjunction with Chair of the Future Internet PPP and the EU's Smart Cities Lab.