EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Call for Expression of Interest

EU – India Matchmaking Event in Bengaluru, India, 2024

An initiative of the European Union

Call for Expression of Interest Clusters

EU – India Matchmaking Event

In the context of

[Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024](#)

19-21 November 2024

Bengaluru, India

Strengthening the European economy through collaboration

An initiative of the European Union

OBJECTIVES

The European Commission (EC) will organise the **EU – India Matchmaking Event** in the context of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024 which will be held on 19-21 November 2024.

The **EU – India Matchmaking Event** itself will take place on-site in Bangaluru, India 19-21 November 2024.

The event will be jointly organised by the European Commission through the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP), in collaboration with the Global Business Inroads the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) partner and Government of Karnataka, Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology.

The **EU – India Matchmaking Event** will bring together cluster organisations and SMEs from the European Union (EU), non-EU countries participating in the Single Market Programme/COSME Strand[1], and India. It will provide participants an excellent chance to promote Cluster to Cluster (C2C), Cluster to Business (C2B), and Business to Business (B2B) collaborations.

The overall objective of the event is to promote the exchange of information and provide networking opportunities for European cluster organisations and their members with counterparts from India, particularly in the fields of Biotech, Digital, Green Tech and Advanced Manufacturing.

The objectives for the participants include:

- Strengthening EU-India cluster cooperation for the benefit of their members, including a seminar, a cluster matchmaking event, and site visits.
- Identifying potential areas of common interest for cooperation and synergies, in terms of the sectoral, value chain, and market focus of their SMEs and other companies.
- Improving, through clusters, the EU-India industry and academia-industry collaboration in research, development, and innovation. For its members, the clusters will identify possible areas of RDI collaboration (academia, research organisations, industries…).

The call for expressions of interest is being launched to identify a European delegation made up of representatives from cluster organisations (please see section "Who can participate" below) who are willing and committed to participate in the EU-India Matchmaking Event.

By submitting an expression of interest in response to this call, you are indicating your acceptance of the call's terms.

Further details about the event, the eligibility requirements, and how to submit an expression of interest can be found below.

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[1] list-3rd-country-participation_smp_en.pdf (europa.eu)

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This call is published on the ECCP website. Expressions of interest to participate in this event must be submitted electronically by 16 July (Tuesday) 2024, 23:59 Brussels time – first cut-off date, 20 August (Tuesday) 2024, 23:59 Brussels time – second cut-off date and 17 September (Tuesday) 2024, 23:59 Brussels time – third cut-off date (the second and the third cut-off dates will be available in case of still available places after the first round of evaluation after the first cut-off date) – see more details in section *Selection process* below) through:

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ClustersCallforExpressionofinterestEUIndiaMMELate applications could be accepted for participation, if eligibility criteria are fulfilled and that costs are borne by the participants. Late applications are accepted until 8 November (Friday) 2024, 23:59 Brussels time at the latest through:

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ClustersCallforExpressionofinterestEUIndiaMME

The organisers reserve the right to close the application process once the maximum capacity for participants is reached.

This call is targeting only cluster organisations and business network organisations. A separate call exists for SMEs. So, if you are an SME you should respond to the call that is available at

https://clustercollaboration.eu/content/eu-india-matchmaking-event-2024-call-expression-interest-smes

CONTEXT OF THE INITIATIVE

The Event will take place in the context of the ECCP activities. The European Commission facilitates international cluster cooperation through the ECCP including the organisation of specific cluster matchmaking events and policy development actions. The objective is to support cluster organisations to develop partnerships and business cooperation in European and global markets, for the benefit of their members, especially of SMEs. The events are currently funded under the EU Single Market Programme (SMP)/COSME Strand. As the cornerstone of the European strategy in support of SMEs' internationalisation through clusters, the ECCP provides a wide range of information and services to facilitate the interaction between clusters not only within Europe, but also with international partners.

ACTIVITIES & AGENDA

The EU – India Matchmaking Event will include the following activities:

- **Preparatory Webinar** – an opportunity to receive information on undertaking business with India and guidance on how to participate successfully in the planned event. (date tbc)

- **Technical Webinar** – a session helping future participants of the matchmaking event to make the most of their profiling in the B2Match tool and explain the procedures to optimise the booking of meetings. (date tbc)

- **Site visits** (date tbc, 19-21 November 2024)

  - Bengaluru Science and Technology Cluster (BeST) at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), https://www.bestkc.in/ - *(tbc)*

  - Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre (BBC), https://www.bioinnovationcentre.com/- *(tbc)*

  - The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-Camp), https://www.ccamp.res.in/ - *(tbc)*

- **Seminar** on knowledge exchange to foster EU-India cooperation. (date tbc, 19-21 November 2024)

- **Pitching and Matchmaking meetings** between cluster organisations and SMEs from EU (and non-EU countries participating in SMP/COSME Strand) countries and India. (date tbc, 19-21 November 2024).

- Debriefing session to collect **feedback and testimonials** from cluster participants. (date tbc, 19-21 November 2024)

- **Participation at the** Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024 – 19-21 November 2024

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

This invitation is addressed to cluster and business network organisations interested in collaborating with Indianan counterparts in the following sectors:

- Biotech
- Digital
- Green Tech
- Advanced Manufacturing

The event will support funded participation of up to 20 representatives. More participants can be accepted upon confirmation and at their own cost. Late applications could be accepted for participation, provided that the eligibility criteria are fulfilled and that costs are borne by the participants. Late applications are accepted until 8 November 2024, 23:59 Brussels time at the latest.

The organisers reserve the right to close the application process once the maximum capacity for participants is reached.

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PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible:

- The cluster or business network organisation must be registered in the **European Cluster Collaboration Platform** (ECCP) (www.clustercollaboration.eu) (or have requested to be registered until one week prior to the Call for EOI[2]) **with a complete profile** (a link to the complete cluster profile of each applicant (registered) on the ECCP should be provided through the application: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ClustersCallforExpressionofinterestEUIndiaMME

- The cluster or business network organisation must be engaged in providing or channelling cluster or network support services to SMEs and certify that they meet the description of 'innovation clusters' in the "EU Framework for State Aid for Research, Development, and Innovation"[3]; and
- The cluster or business network organisation must be a legal entity established in a European Union Member State or other country participating in the Single Market Programme/COSME Strand (see the list of non-EU participants here)

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated qualitatively using the following selection criteria:

- Cluster activity in the target sectors.

- The potential to maximise matchmaking and collaboration prospects via participation in this mission, as shown by a detailed explanation of the sort of partnership sought by the applicant and the likelihood of developing practical cooperation as a result of the event. This declaration of interest in cooperating must be concisely stated in the questions in the application form.

- The desire and capacity to collaborate more closely with other Indian cluster and business network organisations in order to better support SMEs, larger firms, and research actors in their global competitiveness via collaborative efforts, as well as, to assist them in initiating new projects.

- Clusters operating beyond the stated sectors should extensively motivate the argument for their application to be added to a reserve list that will be determined in due time.

The selection of applications will be based on the afore-mentioned criteria and information provided in the application form; in cases of equal merit, the balanced geographical and sector coverage of the EU and SMP/COSME Strand participating countries will be considered. Furthermore, in cases of equal merit, organisations participating for the first time at the ECCP matchmaking event will have priority. Moreover, priority will be given to those organisations that have previously **not unjustifiably** cancelled the participation to matchmaking events organised by the ECCP.

By **20 August 2024** at the latest, selected clusters in the first cut-off must explicitly reconfirm the intent to participate to the event and **by 20 September 2024 at the latest** confirm that the flight ticket for the purpose of participating at the event has already been bought. In case the confirmation is not received

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[2] Deadline: 16 July 2024, 23:59 Brussels time - first cut-off date, 20 August 2024, 23:59 Brussels time – second cut-off date and 17 September 2024, 23:59 Brussels time – third cut-off date
[3] for more information, please follow the link:
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627(01)&from=EN.

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by the indicated date, the organisers reserve the right to exclude the selected organisation from the European delegation and invite the organisation(s) on the reserve list instead. The confirmation dates for selected clusters from the reserve list and/or in the second/third cut-off will be communicated to those concerned in due time.

The organisers reserve the right to ask for additional information from the applicants, if necessary.

<u>Attendance at the seminar, the matchmaking event, the debriefing session, expo and the site visits are all compulsory.</u>

> **Cluster and Business Network Organisations selected to participate in the Event must send a commitment e-mail agreeing to attend the preparation webinar, the on-site seminar, conduct at least four meetings, attend the on-site visits and engage in the final 30-minute debriefing session.**

SELECTION PROCESS

This Call for Expression of Interest has three cut-off dates (deadlines):
1. 16 July 2024, 23:59 Brussels time
2. 20 August 2024, 23:59 Brussels time (the second cut-off date will be available only in case of still available places after the first round of evaluation after the first cut-off date).
3. 17 September 2024, 23:59 Brussels time (the third cut-off date will be available only in case of still available places after the first and second round of evaluation after the first and second cut-off dates).

First cut-off
Applicants will receive a notification whether their application is selected, put on the reserve list or rejected within two weeks after the first cut-off date.
Applications on the reserve list may be edited and resubmitted for the next cut-off date(s) – the last submitted application will be considered in the evaluation.
Applications that have been rejected can be improved and re-submitted for the next cut-off date(s).

Second cut-off (only available if necessary)
Applicants will receive a notification whether their application is selected or rejected within one week after the second cut-off date.
Applications on the reserve list may be edited and resubmitted at the latest before the deadline of the third cut-off – the last submitted application will be considered in the evaluation.
Applications that have been rejected can be improved and re-submitted for the next cut-off date.

Third cut-off date (only available if necessary)
Applicants will receive a notification whether their application is selected or rejected within one week after the third cut-off date.

Applicants that are not selected may participate at their own cost if they fulfill the eligibility criteria of this call.

Applications on the reserve list of the first cut-off will be evaluated together with the applications received by the second cut-off date. Applications on the reserve list of the second cut-off will be evaluated together with the applications received by the third cut-off date.

ALL IMPORANT DATES TO BE CONSIDERED

First Cut-off Date	**16 July 2024**
Second Cut-off Date	**20 August 2024**
Selected Clusters in the first cut-off date must reconfirm their participation	**20 August 2024**
Third Cut-off Date	**17 September 2024**
Selected Clusters in the first cut-off date must confirm flight tickets	**20 September 2024**
Selected clusters in the second cut-off date must confirm their participation	**17 September 2024**
Selected clusters in the second cut-off date must confirm flight tickets	**23 September 2024**
Selected clusters in the third cut-off date must confirm their participation	**30 October 2024**
Selected clusters in the second cut-off date must confirm flight tickets	**02 October 2024**
Late Applications	**At the latest by 8 November 2024**

COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

- **Return flight to India** (without local transport), will be compensated based on actual costs but **up to the limit of 950€/participant** and the cost of the economy fare for the selected EU participants. Any upgrade on the fare will be at the cost of the participant.
- **A maximum 3-night stay in a hotel** will be funded as 100% of the actual costs but up to the limit of **125€/night** for the selected EU participants.

Note that if more than one person from the same organisation participates and requests reimbursement of expenses, only one person per organisation can be reimbursed.

The organising team will take care to inform duly selected participants on agreed discounted rates for accommodation, as well as available airline offers.

Essential requirements to qualify for reimbursement of expenses:

- Attendance throughout the whole agenda (19-21 November 2024)
- Completing at least four bilateral matchmaking meetings
- Attending local on-site visits
- Submitting a debriefing questionnaire at the event's debriefing session and/or completing an online survey immediately after the event, and a follow-up questionnaire provided as an online survey to assess follow-up activities four months following the event, with all areas filled in a sufficient amount of detail.

Cluster organisations participating in the EU – India Matchmaking Event will not have to pay fees to attend the exhibition at [Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024](#).

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expressions of interest should be submitted

by 16 July (Thursday) 2024, 23:59 Brussels time – first cut-off date;

20 August (Tuesday) 2024, 23:59 Brussels time – second cut-off date;

17 September (Tuesday) 2024, 23:59 Brussels time – third cut-off date

through the following link:
https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ClustersCallforExpressionofinterestEUIndiaMME

The second and third cut-off dates will ONLY be available in case of still available places after the evaluations of the previous cut-off(s).

The expression of interest should include the following:

- A fully completed Cluster questionnaire on the profile of the cluster.
- Proof/evidence of the completed cluster profile and registration in the ECCP (i.e. link to your cluster profile)

Please ensure that you submit full, accurate, and up-to-date information and contact information.

Please note that this event is completely free of charge.

Late applications could be accepted for participation, provided eligibility criteria are fulfilled and costs are borne by the participants. Late applications are accepted until 8 November 2024, 23:59 Brussels time at the latest through:
https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ClustersCallforExpressionofinterestEUIndiaMME**To take the**

maximum of your participation and benefit from all planned pre-event activities and meetings available during the EU-India Matchmaking Event, we encourage you to send your Expression of Interest at your earliest possible and avoid last minute registrations.

Should you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact the ECCP team at eumatchmaking@clustercollaboration.eu.

For further information about cluster cooperation and assistance, please visit the ECCP Website.

Your personal data is processed in accordance with **Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725** on the protection of individuals regarding the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data.

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