

Synchroniser project¹ – Katja Legiša



Speaker: Katja Legiša is an Italian consultant with seven years of experience in international and EU project management, promotion and support of research and development activities. Her professional and educational background is in Project Management, Public Relations and Communication. Since 2006 she is coordinating EU-India projects. She is now the Project Coordinator of the SYNCRONISER project.

1. How does your project contribute to International cooperation and trust and security?

Synchroniser boosts the impact of the policy dialogue by identifying EU-India research priority areas and recommendations on how to improve the cooperation. The identified areas, the recommendations together with the action plan is then delivered to the DIT (India's Department of Information Technology) and EC. The method used by the project is to organize policy dialogue meetings with high level EU – India experts and a foresight exercise on medium and long term research trends and perspectives: Delphi study on technology priorities in ICT R&D identified by thirty visionaries of India. The study aim at understanding what India might prefer to invest in, in ICT R&D in the next 2, 5, 10 years. One of the identified research priorities is also *Security, Privacy & Monitoring* (data management system, secure storage system, person identification and tracking systems; for healthcare, governance and education).

2. What are the benefits and expected impact of your project brought on by international cooperation?

The Joint Working Group (JWG) on ICT was established in 2004 between European Union and the Government of India's Department of Information Technology (DIT). The JWG is mainly comprised of policy-makers and concerned ministers from both regions including very few researchers and stakeholders. The JWG meetings are inter-governmental, closed-door meetings which follow a top-down approach. In this scenario, actors from the two regions never meet in a common platform to discuss JOINT research Priorities. SYNCRONISER aims to fill this gap by bringing together the 'gurus' of the research and stakeholder communities of both regions on a common platform as "analyzers of these Joint research priority areas", thus providing a more **practical, consultation approach** to boost the impact of policy dialogues on Joint research priority areas, Synchroniser uses a **bottom up approach** in which the project provides the EC with the evidence, on which they can make policy decisions.

3. International cooperation is not an easy task and required a lot of patience and time. What are the issues encountered and how did you address them?

The difference of viewing time and deadlines is different between the two countries, which brings to difficulties in carrying out joint activities. Time can be

¹ <http://euroindiaresearch.org/synchroniser/>

viewed in the form of a line or in the form of a circle: For Indians: a beginning is not the beginning and the end the end, but a continual cycle of beginnings and endings. The past, present and future, are circular, interconnected, that is why time is less important. The arrow of the timeline gives irreversible processes; it has a start and an end. The past present and future are not necessarily connected. The difference between Formal and Informal communications plays an important role in getting things done and especially when passing a message across.

4. In the opening session, it was mentioned by the Commission that INCO projects should go further than just identifying stakeholders and who the counterparts are in the countries and topics of cooperation. What are your projects plans to take this approach for a longer term strategy and is there anything that BIC can do to help you with this strategy.

Both the EU – India Spirit and Synchroniser projects have had long term planning problems due to the periodic postponements over the last 2 years of the main DIT/EU meeting. However, this same situation resulted in this very topic of long term planning to be included as a key recommendation being made by the project. For liaising with other projects like BIC, this is also included in a recommendation that the follow up work can be directly or indirectly supported by other projects and/or other initiatives or channels. As part of the recommendations, an action group is being proposed to continue after the project. In addition, it should be noted that the Synchroniser project are not just trying to find the research topics for collaboration but it is also concentrating on recommendations on how to improve the longer term cooperation between the countries e.g. via other means apart from the projects something that could stay in place for a longer period of time. Some examples in discussions include: Executive bodies, collaboration with EU based eTPs, forming India based eTPs, which would be discussed in more detail later. This approach came up as the project recognises that research priorities have a strong tendency to change from year to year and we need something more everlasting. This is what is missing now and needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

5. What are your recommendations for improving effectiveness?

Recommendations include setting up **collaboration with ETPs and xETP Initiatives** in order to launch the Indian Technology Platform Channel. This tool would be horizontal to All ICT related ETPs in order to bring the Indian flavor to the debates within the ETPs and the xETP Innovation initiative. It is also recommended to **involve Indian experts in the ISTAG** related activities: Search on the mechanism which would allow Indian experts to get involved in the relevant bodies shaping priorities and strategic directions of the FP7/Horizon 2020. Another recommendation is to establish a JWG Action Group for executing JWG outcome: Proposal to establish a JWG **Action Group** that could execute the JWG outcome. The form could be flexible (nomination of officers by EU and India, Support Project, Tenders, ...). The Action Group would be a sort of executive office to undertake the decisions adopted by the JWG. Another recommendation is a proposition of **a Co-funding Model** for DIT: *Analyse Energy and Biotechnology co-funding programmes (between EC & DST).*