

Indo-Belgian Research and Technology Cooperation

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: SUPPORT OF NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

CALL: 25th June 2021 (project period: 2022-25)

CLOSING DATE: [17th September 2021]

For India: [17.00 hrs]

For Belgium: [15.00 hrs] C.E.T. (Central European Time)

Objectives:

Within the framework of the Agreement between Belgium and India on cooperation in the fields of science and technology and the fifth 'Joint Commission' meeting on 18th January 2021, it was decided to organize a 4th call for proposals for networking activities by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO), the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Indian Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

This Networking call co-funded by both parties aims at supporting exchanges that leverage long term research cooperation between multiple Belgian and Indian Research institutions, based on existing infrastructure, with significant impact on a priority research area.

Application based on relevant themes as mentioned below should be sent to DST or DBT only.

Focus areas with Department of Biotechnology (DBT)

- Marine Biotechnology
- Life science focused on micro-organisms

Scope of the call on following areas with DBT is:

Marine Biotechnology- focus on marine organisms for industrial use, bioprospecting for bioactives from marine microorganisms, algae, seaweeds, fish and crustacean farming.

Life science focused on micro-organisms -focus on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) with One Health Approach and Environmental-Bioremediation. Interdisciplinary networks are particularly welcomed.

Focus areas with DST:

- Space, including astronomy, solar physics and remote sensing
- Marine sciences
- Geology
- Cybersecurity

Who can apply?

- **For BELSPO**, networking proposals may be submitted by Belgian university institutions, public scientific institutions, non-profit research centres. The participation of Federal Scientific Institutions is encouraged. For equal scientific quality of submitted proposals, the preference will be given to consortiums with participation of Federal Scientific Institutions.

List of Federal Scientific institutions: see [annex 1](#).

- **For India**, academicians and scientists who already have grants on research projects funded by science funding agencies. In case of need, partner search may be supported by the following tool: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/india>.

What kind of activities will be supported?

- The networking activities may include the organisation of a joint seminar or workshop, experts' visits, joint lab or joint field exchanges.
- They should aim to enhance the scientific cooperation between the researchers of the partnering institutions in both countries and to contribute to a sustainable cooperation (e.g. via joint research projects) beyond the period of networking.
- The added value for both partners should be explicit in the proposals.
- Maximum partners can be involved: 5 (if relevant and preferably balanced at both sides).
- Duration of projects: 2 to 3 years maximum.
- Probable Start of the networking activities: January 2022.
- End of the networking activities: December 2025 (at latest, depending on the duration of the project).

Evaluation of proposals and selection at national and bilateral level:

Proposals will be initially evaluated at national level and these evaluations are not mandatory for the final decision. Subsequently, the assessment will be carried out parallel at BELSPO, DST/DBT and negotiate for a joint selection.

Proposals will be assessed according to the following evaluation criteria:

- Scientific excellence of the proposal/ Novelty
- Qualification of the applicants (network)
- Synergy/Complementarity of partner Nodes and potential for knowledge transfer
- Expected research outputs and capacity to meet the final deliverables
- Enhancing training human resources
- Added value of the networking activities
- Budget adequacy
- Capacity of the network to self-sustain at the end of the funding period.

Only applying Institutions with a proven record of research excellence will be considered for selection and support.

How will the proposals be selected?

Once the call is closed and all proposals are examined according to the eligibility criteria the eligible proposals are subjected to an evaluation process.

Proposals will be evaluated both in Belgium and in India; BELSPO and DST/DBT will organize parallel evaluations.

In accordance with the principle of scientific excellence, with the quality of the network and the adequacy of resources and with the added value of the proposal in general, the final selection will be jointly made by DST/DBT and BELSPO.

BELSPO will inform the Belgian applicants of the joint selection. DST/DBT will inform the Indian applicants of the joint selection.

Other requirements:

- One PI/Coordinator each from India and Belgium.
- Additional Co-PIs/Partners (up to 4) on each side are also allowed.
- The Coordinator and Partners should be either scientists or faculty members employed by government-recognized universities, academic institutes, or national research and development laboratories or institutes. The Coordinator and the Partners must have proven high scientific reputation.
- Proposals must be submitted by each scientific Coordinator, who will be wholly responsible for the project and in charge of distributing financial resources among partners according to the established plan of activities.
- The project must be clearly centred on a well-defined research activity with wide perspectives and potential applications.
- The Networks call do not imply the creation of new physical infrastructures (e.g. research facilities, buildings) but are network-based projects whose purpose is to join forces to face common scientific and technological challenges as well as to stimulate fresh interaction for long term even beyond the call duration.
- All partners must have an intellectual and financial stake in the activities.
- Proof of existing financial resources available to cover the costs of infrastructure, consumables and equipment has to be provided with the proposal.

Programme requirements:

- Coordinators are responsible for submitting annual scientific and financial reports in order to be eligible for continued funding.
- Coordinators are also responsible for the technical and administrative coordination of the Network.
- Neither Coordinator nor Partner should be retired or planning to retire during the period of the proposed project.

How will support be granted?

The funding of the bilateral networking activities is based on the principle of reciprocity. Each country finances the costs for activities carried out on its territory (e.g. the organisation of study visits, seminars, workshops, setting up of joint experiments- contradictory with below highlight), whereas the international travel costs are borne by the respective sending country.

Research activities as such will not be supported by this call; they are financed in the original project or by other funding resources. As the present call concerns topping up grants, the proposed funding should be used exclusively for networking activities. The maximum budget per proposal to be granted to the Belgian partner is 35.000 EUR or Rs. 35 Lakhs (upper limit) to Indian partner. On the Indian side, DST/DBT will provide funding support to the Coordinating Indian institute. Funds to other Indian nodes would be provided through the Coordinating Indian Institute. Institutional Overhead and contingency support will be determined in accordance with the specific norms of DST/DBT.

How to apply?

Project proposals must be jointly prepared by the Belgian and Indian Coordinators using the application forms that can be downloaded from the BELSPO and DST/DBT websites. Each of the two coordinators will submit the application form, duly filled-in and signed, to their respective funders (BELSPO and DST/DBT). In both countries, the forms shall be signed by the two coordinators, as well as by the legal representatives of both applying Research Institutions to which they belong. Project proposals submitted to only one of the two Parties will not be accepted.

Applications are to be submitted both to BELSPO by the Belgian coordinator via the topping-up grant submission dossier by e-mail (in 'Word' and in 'pdf', with signatures). Deadline for submission: 22nd September 2021 (at 3 p.m. in Belgium).

Indian applicants seeking funding from DST based on the mentioned themes of DST can download the proposal formats from website <https://onlinedst.gov.in> and should submit completed application form and all relevant information through e-PMS portal of the DST. The proposal must be submitted to DST through the e-application system provided at <https://onlinedst.gov.in> with deadline of 17th September 2021 by 5 p.m. Additionally; Indian Applicants are also requested to send hard copies to DST (Dr. Sibashisa Dash, Scientist C, DST) through proper channel.

Indian applications seeking funding from DBT (on specific themes related to DBT) are required to submit the complete application to **Dr. Abhishek Singh (Scientist C, DBT)** by e-mail on 'abhishek.singh02@dbt.nic.in' or 'ic-dbt2021@dbt.nic.in' as well as in hard copy (in 'Word' and in 'pdf', with both side signatures). Deadline for submission: **17th September 2021 (by 5 pm)**.

It should be ensured that application with identical title has been submitted by his/her Belgian counterpart by due date. Proposal (seeking fund from DST) not submitted through e-PMS portal by due date will not be considered.

Both sides have different formats. Indian applicant should fill the format from Indian website. Belgian side applicant should fill the format from Belgian website.

Contactpersons:

Belgium:

Brigitte DECADT

E-mail brigitte.decadt@belspo.be

India (DST)

Dr. Sibashisa Dash

E-mail: sdash.dst@gov.in

DBT

Dr. Abhishek Singh

E-mail : abhishek.singh02@dbt.nic.in

Institute		
Contact Address		
Telephone No.: Office Residence		
Fax No.		
e-mail		

B. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- Objectives of the Project: (What will you achieve with the project?)
- Justification for collaboration: (Why do you want to make the project as a joint Indo-Belgian project?)
- Brief information about national and international scenario in the proposed area of research and relevance of the project:
- Scientific & technical description of the project including Methodology, Research plan, Scientific Argumentation, Novelty, Complementarity of both sides, (**max. 600 words**) (Added value of the proposed network, specific R&D cooperation topic(s), expected results)
- Plan of work**

Time Schedule	Indian Responsibilities	Belgian Responsibilities
1st Year		
2nd Year		
3rd Year		

Note: Since, there is no research involved in this joint call; so material transfer will not be considered. However, in case, if any material transfer is necessary, clearances from the appropriate authority are mandatory in the original proposal. The Plan of work should have information about timelines, work packages with details of expected outputs, outcomes along with quarter wise milestones.

- Number of **exchange visit** required to achieve the Project Objectives (Year wise).

Period	India to Belgium		Belgium to India	
	Number	Duration	Number	Duration
1st Year				
2nd Year				
3rd Year				

Note: Specify number of person as well as visits to be carried (Year wise) from Indian Side to Belgium side. The Air Travel will be allowed in the Air India (Economy Class) and other modes of travel will be as per the Government of India norms. The proposal should have detailed budget breakup with the

inclusion of hospitality charges for the execution of the networking activities such as joint seminar or workshop, experts' visits, joint lab or joint field exchanges as per the original submitted proposal.

6. Expected results of this cooperation (e.g. joint publications, patents, Ph.D., Scientific Outcomes and its impacts etc.)

7. Information about ongoing national projects and overlapping of objectives, if any. (PIs must inform in brief about ongoing national project, if any and how Indo-Belgian collaboration will help them in bridging the research gap while executing their ongoing national projects.)

8. Available resources at collaborating institutions:(PIs state whether necessary infrastructure support available at both Indian and Belgian institutions to carry out the research in the proposed area.

9. Information about completed projects under the Indo-Belgian Executive Programme of Cooperation, if any:(PIs inform brief outcome of the earlier collaboration with total number of joint publications)

10. Bio-data of Indian and Belgian PIs to be appended in about 2 pages each.
[The description should highlight the expertise of the PI(s) in the proposed field of work supported by citing relevant latest publications only].

C. ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1. Project Cost

BUDGET (requested budget by the Indianside)

	1 st Financial Year	2 nd Financial year	3 rd Financial year	Total
Mobility				
Manpower (Research Fellow/JRF/SRF/RA) As per DST Guidelines				
Workshops				
Contingency				
Total				

Note: No other support like consumable or equipment etc should be expected or proposed under the Networking programme.

The Project Leader is required to submit periodic reports and its continuation in the next year would depend upon its progress assessed by DST/DBT & BELSPO. At the end of each financial year the Indian Project Leader is also required to submit the Utilization Certificates and Statement of Expenditure in prescribed format to DST/DBT.

2. Signatures of the Project Investigators & Co-investigators

INDIAN

BELGIAN

3. Declaration from the Heads of the Collaborating Institutions:

It is certified that:

- i) The Institutions agree to participate in this Joint Research Project;
- ii) The Institutions shall provide infrastructure & necessary facilities for implementing the joint project;
- iii) The Institutions assume to undertake financial & other management responsibility for the part of the project work to be carried out at their institution; and
- iv) The back-up funding for consumable etc. is available to this project.

Signature & Seal of the Head of the Institutions

Indian PI
Name:

Belgian PI
Name:

Signature:

Signature:

Annex I

The Belgian Federal Scientific Institutions relevant for this call

Institution	Website
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (KBIN-IRSNB)	www.naturalsciences.be
Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA)	www.kikirpa.be
Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (BIRA-IASB)	www.aeronomie.be
Royal Observatory of Belgium (KSB-ORB)	www.astro.oma.be
Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium (KMI-IRM)	www.meteo.be
Royal Museums of Art and History (KMKG-MRAH)	www.kmkg-mrah.be
Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium (KMSKB-MRBAB)	www.fine-arts-museum.be
Royal Museum for Central Africa (KMMA-MRAC)	www.africamuseum.be
Royal Library of Belgium (KBR)	www.kbr.be
National Archives and State Archives in the Provinces (ARA-AGR)	www.arch.be
Sciensano	www.sciensano.be
National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology (NICC-INCC)	www.nicc.fgov.be
War Heritage Institute (WHI)	www.warheritage.be