Call for Expression of Interest from Existing/Planned Centres of Excellence through provision of technical expertise on ICT standards, by the project "India-EU Cooperation on ICT-Related Standardisation, Policy and Legislation"

Context - About the India EU Partnership Project:

Globally harmonised standards help expanding the markets for suppliers and also ensure adoption of global best practices in the local markets. To facilitate this, India and the European Union have come together in a three year Partnership Project to promote cooperation in ICT Standards, Policy and Legislation matters. The Project scope is to promote cooperation for early alignment in standardization activities in the specific areas of ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems), NFV/SDN (Network Function Virtualisation/Software Defined Networks), 5G and the overarching topic of Security. TSDSI and ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute) are anchoring the activities under this project from India and EU respectively.

The partnership project has been carrying out several activities to promote dialog and collaboration among stakeholders comprising user community, suppliers and researcher/innovators from India and Europe. This includes organising webinars, tutorials, hackathons, workshops and conferences, exchange of experts etc.

Visit the Project website here for more details.

Project Call for Proposals from Centres of Excellence:

Recognising the need for a long term impact of the Cooperation Project, the project has launched a Call for Proposals (Expression of Interest- EoI) to support Centres of Excellence (CoE) focussing on the project topics. This is expected to build capacity, create lasting tools for training and research and anchor standards awareness activities in the system.

This call is open to Academic/Research institutions of repute that have an existing CoE, or documented plans to establish one, and which are focused on the project topics, or which intend to expand into these areas of expertise.

The expression of Interest may be submitted at any time up to 31 July 2019. Applications will be evaluated as and when received during this period. Normally the Project responds to the applying entity within one month of receipt of EoI. The project funding is only for a limited time period, until the duration of the project (October 2019 as per current visibility). The EoI should detail the CoE's proposed strategy to sustain the activities on their own beyond the project funding period.

Expressions of interest can be sent via email to the local project coordinator, Mr Sachin Gaur. (sachin@mixorg.com).

Details of the Expression of Interest are provided below:

What is a Centre of Excellence (CoE)?

CoE is a virtual or a real entity that is linked with an academic or research institute in India. The ideal CoE could be linked with a laboratory facility, where project topic related research and development is organized and educational programs are run.

Objective of supporting Centres of Excellence (CoE)

Partnering with Indian CoEs is a capacity building initiative of the EU funded "India EU Cooperation project", that aims to empower faculty/resource persons and developer community in India attached to the CoEs with advanced knowledge of ICT standards like 3GPP and oneM2M.

The primary aim of working with CoEs is to convey and enhance ICT standards-related awareness and know-how to the Indian student and developer community through organization of online/offline courses, workshops, and provision of applicable simulation tools.

It seeks to promote development of applications and prototypes, which are compliant with the standards promoted by the project. It will enable developers to showcase the benefits of the use of standards by participating in interop/developer events.

The expertise developed through such activities could in turn be used for participation in pre-standardization activities and contributing to additional development of standards.

Who can apply?

Academic/Research institutions of repute that have an existing CoE, or documented plans to establish one, and which are focused on the project topics of 5G, IoT, NFV/SDN or related Security, or which intend to expand into these areas of expertise.

Deadline for submission of Expression of Interest and important dates

The support will be provided by the "India-EU Cooperation on ICT-Related Standardisation, Policy and Legislation" project. The expression of interest by any Indian CoE may be submitted at any time up to 31 July 2019. All support activities under this initiative will end on 31 October 2019 after which the CoE has to run on its own. Applications will be evaluated as and when received during this period. Normally the Project will respond back within one month of receipt of EoI.

Expressions of interest can be sent via email to the local project coordinator, Mr Sachin Gaur. (sachin@mixorg.com).

Decision Process

Your expression of interest will be shared with the project stakeholders for discussions on how the project can support the CoE. Project stakeholders might ask for more details and/or an in person/virtual meeting before making the final decision.

EoI Format

The EoI can be submitted in a free flowing format (Word document or PDF). It should cover following items:

Credentials of the applying Institute

Please share information of institute work linked with the CoE. If academic institute, then the NIRF ranking for the subject should be mentioned.

Status of the CoE and Project topic it is focusing on

Existing/Planned. (Select from 5G/IoT/NFV/SDN/Security).

Activities of the proposed/existing CoE

What has CoE already achieved and its scope of work.

Team/Faculty research background linked with CoE topic

If the faculty is already running courses and research projects on the CoE topic.

Link to standardisation of the activities

Please share the list of activities and contributions of CoE towards the standardisation especially with 3GPP and oneM2M partnership projects. Also, any future plans in link with the standardisation aspect.

Infrastructure available to host simulators and other software resources for public use

Mention if the Institute has adequate infrastructure to host simulators, if provided by the project or its stakeholders for aiding students and developers. Also, any other resources for the developer community which might be useful in their development work.

Existing/Proposed linkages with CoE

Industry/government linkages need to be mentioned.

Calendar of activities to be supported by the project

A clear calendar of activities that are proposed by CoE to be supported by project.

Reporting to the project

Define timelines and mechanisms for project to know the progress on activities promised. Also, mention the name of the person who will be the single point of contact for any query or clarification.

Sustenance of the CoE beyond project support

The project funding is only for a limited time. Hence, project would be keen to know the CoE's plan to sustain the activities on their own beyond the project funding.

Note: The reports or any other outcomes created through the EU funding via project should be openly accessible to wider public. Also, CoE should be open for third party visits.

What can and cannot be supported?

1. Organisation of knowledge events such as meetings, roundtables, workshops, webinars, conferences, hackathons and tutorials in collaboration with the CoEs can be supported.
2. Travel support for Indian and European experts to attend important standards related meetings organised as a part of CoE activities, can be supported.
3. Provision of experts for designing and delivering training programs and courses focused on standards, study reports etc, can be supported.
4. The project can provide the necessary software for proper organization of events.
5. It cannot support any direct monetary funding or procurement of hardware and software by the CoE (Please read 'Important Note' below).

What other support can be provided by the project?

The project can play an important role in mapping stakeholders for the CoE, as project spans regions and stakeholders. The project can commission mapping of potential stakeholders on both sides (India and EU), who can partner with a supported CoE. The project can support outreach of the supported CoE to find new collaborators from the project community, facilitating discussions through webinars with stakeholders, organize roundtables to facilitate face to face meetings.

Expectations from a CoE

CoE will engage in activities mentioned in para 1 and 2 above with special emphasis on the following:

1. Prepare reports/white papers, implement courses and activities related to project topics focusing on standards.
2. Act as a resource centre for standards-related matters in its area of activity.

3. Organise lab visits to showcase the standards-based developments/ implementations.
4. Undertake activities for creating awareness about standards.
5. Taking measures to sustain the CoE after support from the project is over.

Important Note: Intellectual Property and Restrictions

All material provided to CoEs, such as course material, software, etc., produced with project funding remains the ownership of the European Union (EU) and not of the partnering CoEs. Hence, the use of provided support material – including after October 2019- should come with acknowledgment to the source of funding (EU), and the CoE commits itself that it will remain freely available. The outcomes produced by students and developers (like applications) will be their own property and the project will have no claim over it.