

Indo-European Edn Consortia for Research Collaboration

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Bangalore: A consortia of Indian and European higher education institutions has been formed under the 'India Platform' banner for research and development collaboration in various fields of societal impact.

Eleven Indian institu-

tions and seven European institutions signed a stakeholders' agreement at the start of the three-day Samyoga International Research Forum programme hosted by Amrita University on Tuesday.

"We will try to look at areas of issues from both Indian and European per-

spectives," said S N Balagangadhara, director, India Platform and professor at Ghent University, Belgium, one of the stakeholders. "In the context of Indian higher education, we are producing graduates who are unemployed and unemployable. The idea behind the consortia is to build a nice

future for both India and Europe," he said.

The focus of the collaboration for now is Karnataka, Prof Balagangadhara said. "We want to explore how we can bring here the European healthcare system. We also want to help redesign urban and regional planning with a focus on

two cities. We are talking to many agencies for both these ideas," he said.

Amrita University VC P. Venkat Rangan, Minister-Counsellor, Deputy Head of the Belgian embassy Antoine Evrard, Counsellor for science and technology from the Netherlands embassy Jelle Nijdam were present.