

INDIA  PLATFORM

A PLATFORM FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND INDIA

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India Platform
Ghent University, Belgium

Introduction

The fifth annual report of the India Platform consists of four parts: an executive note, a chapter on the policy focus areas, a detailed report of the activities, and a section on the future plans. Annexes have not been included this year, since these would make the report too lengthy and make it less environment-friendly. Instead, the report gives relevant links to reports and information available on the different websites related to the India Platform.

We hope you will enjoy reading this report of the activities and achievements of the India Platform during the academic year 2012-2013.

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I. EXECUTIVE NOTE: TRANSLATING THE VISION

In the course of the academic year 2012-2013, the vision of the India Platform (IP) was translated into a new series of networks, projects, policy ideas, and organisational steps. The stakeholders began to explore each other's institutions and expertise, identify each other's needs, and set up collaborations to help meet these needs on both sides. This is an intrinsic part of the IP vision: societal problems should not be approached in isolation but can be addressed much more efficiently from a global perspective.

Let us highlight some of the most important activities of this year:

1. *Samyoga matchmaking event*: an important step was taken to start building long-term collaborations among the different IP stakeholders. Stakeholders met with the explicit aim of understanding the needs and problems that Indian and European institutions face and of searching for possible collaborations to address these needs and problems. For more information on this event: see below under "Visits to India".

2. *Diplomacy*: Good relations with embassies and consulates are of the greatest importance to the functioning of the IP. In India, the IP team established close links with diplomats of the relevant European countries. In Europe, several meetings took place with diplomats from the embassies of India. These contacts are important for facilitating collaboration: visa applications are prepared more efficiently; problems with these applications get solved more easily; representatives of the embassies or consulates are present at IP activities; and there is a flow of information from the embassies towards the India Platform and vice versa. Some embassies also asked input and advice from the IP. One example here was the EU Education Outreach activity planned by the Belgian Embassy in New Delhi: see below under "II. Policy".

3. *Expansion of the India Platform*: After an initial focus on higher education, IP is now expanding to other areas of society such as business

and politics. A business company and a private research institute have joined as stakeholders. Several others are now showing interest in joining. The participation of the IP in the Belgian Economic Mission to India in November 2013 has generated a series of initiatives and contacts with the Flemish, Walloon, and Belgian governments. The IP is cooperating with government organisations to develop an India strategy for collaborations in science and innovation. Through meetings with representatives of the governments, the IP team is also working towards the creation of a Flemish and Belgian India Platform.

4. *New domains*: Contacts with actors from different sectors of society also bring to attention other societal needs and problems. The IP functions as a bridge here: for example, it is helping Indian and Belgian policy makers to collaborate in order to resolve the shortage of manure in India and the excess of it in Belgium: see below under "II. Policy / Agricultural sciences and environment".

The conferences, outreach activities, visits, projects, and other activities, which contributed to bringing India and Europe closer together, are listed below under "III. Detailed report of the activities".



1. The stakeholders and their role

In 2013 the India Platform expanded: the consortium now consists of 11 stakeholders in India and 7 stakeholders in Europe (see www.india-platform.org > partners):

India

- Alva's Education Trust, Mudabidare (Karnataka)
- Amrita University (campuses in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu)
- BMS College of Engineering, Bangalore (Karnataka)
- BNM Institute of Technology, Bangalore (Karnataka)
- Gokula Education Foundation, Bangalore (Karnataka)
- Institute of Finance and International Management (IFIM), Bangalore (Karnataka)
- Jyothy Group, Bangalore (Karnataka)
- Karnataka State Women's University (KSWU), Bijapur (Karnataka)
- Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU), Bidar (Karnataka)
- National Law School of India University, Bangalore (Karnataka)
- University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore (Karnataka)

Europe

- Ghent University (Belgium)
- Ghent University Hospital (Belgium)
- NP-Bridging (Belgium)
- The University of Antwerp (Belgium)
- The University of Pardubice (the Czech Republic)
- The University of Aveiro (Portugal)
- The University of Groningen (the Netherlands)

A growing number of institutions wishes to join IP. However, since the involvement expected from the IP stakeholders is very high, we are selective and cannot accept all institutions that aspire to become stakeholders.

Each stakeholder invests in the platform and develops the platform in its own region. A stakeholder institution does not only earmark 40.000 euro annually in its budget for the next 5 years, but also participates in elaborating the vision and the future strategy. Stakeholders have an all-round collaboration with each other. The India Platform acts as an extension for the stakeholder both in India and in Europe: all networks and contacts are shared; a joint PR and visibility strategy is developed; and new partners are identified and contacted according to the needs. The India Platform aims to involve stakeholders from all parts of Europe: north, south, central, east, and west.

Currently, the IP team is negotiating with new potential stakeholders or partners of the India Platform. Some potential partners are not able to meet the financial requirement and cannot join as stakeholders. Therefore, other forms of partnership are being developed. Such partnerships will also be developed for institutions such as the Belgian Science Policy, the FWO (The Research Foundation - Flanders) and other governmental bodies that expressed a wish to work together with the India Platform in other ways. Overall, it is the aim of the IP to be as inclusive as possible.

The stakeholders are beginning to work together closely. This is happening on several levels: students are finding their way to the consortium partners; professors and researchers visit their colleagues in partner institutions; internships are being planned...

Stakeholders meeting April 2013

During the Samyoga matchmaking event in April 2013, a 'stakeholders meeting' was organised in which one or two representatives of each institution were present. In the stakeholders meeting the following points were decided upon:

- Above all, the India Platform must strive for transparency. The consortium works on the basis of trust, and this can only be maintained if there is transparency on two levels:

1. Structural transparency: there is no need for complicated structures. All India Platform activities will be coordinated by the two secretariats: one in Europe, one in India.
2. Financial transparency: whenever the India Platform organises an activity, the costs will be equally divided among the participating stakeholder institutions. One institution first takes care of the costs of the activity and is then refunded by others. Bills will be available for any representative of any of the stakeholder institutions. (The Stakeholder Agreements also state that the 40.000 euro should be used neither for travel or restaurant costs nor for hotel costs.)

- The India Platform will assist the partner institutions in building bilateral and multilateral collaboration. We need to build larger structures as well, which will take more time. One idea is to work towards creating (1) a think tank in Europe and (2) a 'hub' in India. The desirability of these goals will be agreed upon when the stakeholders' representatives meet.

2. A Flemish India Platform

In the coming two years, the India Platform aims to become a Flemish India Platform at the service of all interested Flemish stakeholders: the Flemish universities and colleges, Flemish companies, and Flemish government institutions. In this way, the impact of all these actors can be increased in India. We see a special role for the Flemish universities here, which can become the nodal points for the network.

The Flemish India Platform has two main objectives:

1. It will create a network in which all interested actors can easily and directly get in touch with each other via a shared database of contacts. Stakeholders will have transparent access to the Flemish diplomats in India. There will be regular meetings. The institutions, companies, and political actors that already have collaborations with Indian partners will share their experience and expertise with colleagues or with those who

2. It will create a framework for the development of policies and strategies towards 21st century India. The aim is to jointly develop policy proposals for Flanders and strategies for the stakeholders.

The initial steps towards such a Flemish India Platform have been taken:

- Ghent University and the University of Antwerp are stakeholders.
- The other Flemish universities have been approached about this project and have been offered to become part of it. Hasselt University and the Free University of Brussels (VUB) are interested in becoming stakeholders. The IP team has had two meetings with the new rector of the Catholic University of Louvain (KULeuven) and will soon meet the internationalisation team.
- The Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) has expressed interest in collaboration with the India Platform.
- A proposal for funding has been written and submitted to the International Department of the Flemish government and is in the process of being considered.

The Flemish Government has identified 2013-2014 as the 'India year' in Flanders. This offers an excellent opportunity to launch the Flemish India Platform.

3. A Belgian India Platform

The same steps will be replicated on the Belgian level, including Wallonia and the federal government. Here too, the India Platform aims to: (1) establish a network and contact database for all Belgian stakeholders and partners and (2) create a framework for the development of policies concerning collaboration with the India of today. The priority stakeholders are the universities.

The IP team took initial steps towards such a Belgian India Platform:

- Initial contacts have been established with the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

- The IP team has also contacted Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI).
- The IP is organising a roundtable and a symposium in collaboration with the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) in the framework of the Belgian Economic Mission to India in November 2013. Both events are meant for Belgian representatives from research, higher education, federal and regional policy or funding institutions, and business companies. Among the institutions that were invited to participate are: VLIR, FWO, EWI, AWEX, the Embassy of Belgium in New Delhi, the Belgian consulate in Mumbai, CIUF, WBI, all Flemish and Wallonian universities, Flanders Knowledge Area, the Province of East Flanders, (POM) O-VL, several ministers of the Flemish, French, and federal governments, UNIZO, VOKA, BICC&I, Group T, Essenscia (Belgian Federation for Chemistry and Life Sciences industries), VIB, I-minds, VITO, IWT, VBO. Since these organisations were new to the India Platform, it took a few months to contact the relevant actors, to find a way of identifying the relevant questions, and to come to grips with Belgian policy making. The first feedback and the current registrations show that the time is ripe for these kinds of events.

Both Europalia India and the Belgian Economic Mission to India (November 2013) provide the momentum to take these initiatives further and establish the India Platform at a Belgian level.

4. EU Education Outreach in India

In January 2013, the India Platform was invited by the Belgian Embassy in New Delhi to give feedback on a concept note on EU education outreach in India. This input is meant for a task force responsible for planning education outreach activities across India. The basic idea of the embassy's concept note was to hold a fair or roadshow of European higher education institutions (HEIs) in India, in 2013 or in 2014. Different EU member states already organise national education fairs or roadshows. This plan involved giving the outreach extra visibility by emphasizing the EU dimension.

The India Platform wrote an analysis in response to this note, pointing out that Europe is largely unknown as a political and cultural entity in India. This invisibility leads to a number of missed opportunities. In this sense, the promotion of EU higher education is extremely important. However, this should not be done through roadshows or fairs. Any young Indian interested in quality education is being bombarded by hundreds of education providers worldwide through such fairs and roadshows. One more education fair or roadshow cannot make a difference. Currently, India has a business-like orientation in its approach to higher education.

This means that the values of European universities - namely, research-based education, fundamental research, and service to society - are not highly appreciated today. Since most European universities are unknown in India, Indian students graduating from these universities do not hold strong cards when they return home. Moreover, government policies in India now oppose sending students abroad. For all these reasons, the EU has to develop its own strategy towards higher education in India, instead of imitating the US strategy of fairs and roadshows. In its response to the concept note, the India Platform team presented the outlines of such a joint European strategy for Indian higher education (for the complete note, see: www.india-platform.org > [policy and vision](#))

5. King Baudouin Scholarships for Belgian students

In late 2012, the King Baudouin Foundation or Konink Boudewijnstichting (KBS) invited the India Platform to execute a feasibility study on the usefulness and efficacy of a scholarship programme for excellent Belgian students and researchers who wish to study or work in India. In a brief analysis of the plans of the KBS, the IP team explained how such a scholarship programme would be useful only within the framework of a larger vision on education and research collaboration with India. The scholarships should be embedded in the creation of a people-to-people relationship between Belgium and India. This has implications for the selection of stu-

dents: these should not be selected purely in terms of their results but also in terms of their potential to study and do research in a completely alien environment.

The IP team proposed to organise a pilot year for the KBS scholarship programme to India in 2013-2014. This pilot year would focus on existing contacts between the UGent and Indian institutions and only later extend the scholarship programme to other Belgian universities. It would also focus on specific fields of study, where collaboration is already strong: medical sciences, natural sciences, engineering, and bioscience engineering. Each of the relevant faculties was asked to present a candidate and an Indian partner institute. The IP would then create a dossier for each candidate and submit this to the KBS; a selection committee of experts would then select the most appropriate candidates for the scholarships. For this pilot year, two candidates were selected from the engineering faculty: two students holding a degree of Master of Science in Engineering, Architecture. They will spend a period of study and internship at the prestigious Center for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) University in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Finally, the IP coordinator evaluated the pilot year and designed guidelines for future calls for applications of the KBS scholarship programme for India.

6. Social sciences in Karnataka

After the completion of the pioneering social sciences project at Kuvempu University (a Flemish Interuniversity Council project with the title "Development of a Centre for the Study of Local Cultures at Kuvempu University" – see www.cslc.in > [vision and mission](#)), several Indian educational groups expressed their interest in establishing a new school of social sciences and humanities in Karnataka. The IP team is planning to build such an institution in order to give a focused institutional anchoring to all the work it has been doing in Karnataka in the social sciences and humanities (see www.asha-academy.org). As a result of this sustained investment of time and energy during the last decade, several research groups have emerged

in different parts of this state. A joint school of social sciences and humanities would allow these groups to interact and cross-fertilise and together create an interdisciplinary PhD and MA programme and, eventually, a BA programme.

Gokula Educational Foundation (GEF), or the M.S. Ramaiah Group of Institutions from Bangalore, was the first educational group that became interested in this project. They are currently building a new university in Bangalore, the M.S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences. As a part of this project, they asked Prof. Balagangadhara, the director of the IP, to write a proposal for a new School of Social sciences and Humanities within the framework of this university. He wrote a "Note to Gokula" with an extensive analysis of the current state of the social sciences and humanities in India and the outlines of a proposal for the future.

The proposal is to build a premier institution that offers research-based education related to the newest developments in the social sciences and humanities. The first challenge is the lack of well-trained faculty. Therefore, this institution should develop educational programmes in reverse order. First, a doctoral programme has to be established consisting of doctoral schools devoted to different disciplines. Here, new faculty will be trained in doing fundamental research and in research-based training. Once a sufficiently large group of faculty is trained, they will develop Masters programmes in the different relevant disciplines. The estimate is that this training would take four to five years. The Masters programmes would introduce pedagogical novelties and the use of ICT in teaching. In the next step, after another four to five years, all necessary human resources and institutional resources will be available to also develop Bachelors programmes. Then, the order is to be reversed to feed into the Masters and Doctoral programmes.

The IP director and his team visited several other educational groups and institutions to discuss the plan of building a completely new and innovative School of Social Sciences and Humanities in Karnataka. The second educational group that expressed

its interest in helping build such an institution was the **Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheswara Educational Society**, better known as the SDM group from Dharmasthala, Mangalore. They are the organisation behind a series of successful law colleges, medical colleges, engineering colleges, and other vocational colleges. The third group that wishes to be part of this project is the **Alva's Education Foundation** in Moodabidri. Since these different educational groups could play different roles in building a school and research centres in the social sciences and humanities, the India Platform will develop models for successful collaboration among them. We expect that this project will begin to materialise in the academic year 2013–2014.

Meetings in the framework of the development of a school for social sciences and humanities:

- 26 February 2013: meeting with Dr. B. Yashovarma, secretary of SDM Educational Society, Ujire (Karnataka)
- 22 March 2013: meeting with Dr. M.R. Jayaram, chairman of GEF (Medical), Bangalore (Karnataka)
- 25 March 2013: meeting with Prof. Srinath, chairman of Dvanyaloka, Mysore (Karnataka)
- 30 May 2013: meeting with Dr. B. Yashovarma, secretary of SDM Educational Society, Ujire (Karnataka)
- 8 July 2013: meeting with Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade, Dharmadhikari of Shri Kshethra Dharmasthala and president of SDM Educational Society, Ujire (Karnataka)

7. Health sciences

The India Platform took several steps in establishing large-scale collaboration in the health sciences and in developing its plans for establishing a joint system of universal health coverage between Flanders and Karnataka. On 13 November 2012, it organised a round table "Health Tourism or Universal Health Care?" The following people participated in the roundtable:

- Prof. Dr. Guy Vanderstraeten, Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, UGent
- Mr. Jo De Vleeschouwer, Head of Physiotherapy, University Hospital Gent (UZ Gent)
- Mr. Geert Basyn, Coordinator European Health Insurance, Christelijke Mutualiteiten (CM) Midden-Vlaanderen
- Mr. Jean-Paul Corin, Director Services, CM Midden-Vlaanderen
- Mr. Marc Van Huffel, Director Human Resources, CM Midden-Vlaanderen
- Dr. Sarah Claerhout, Coordinating Team, India Platform
- Mr. Jean Blondeel, CEO A&B Partners
- Prof. Dr. Jan Gerris, Chair of the Sector Man, Woman and Child, UZ Gent
- Prof. Dr. Koen Van Herck, Preventive Health Care, Department of Public Health, UGent
- Ms. Yolande Avondtrood, President of the General Management Committee, RIZIV
- Ms. Nele De Gerssem, Coordinator India Platform
- Dr. Jakob De Roover, India Platform Coordinating Team

The roundtable started with an introduction of the IP vision on the framework of universal health care (as an alternative to health tourism) that should guide collaboration between Europe and India. The focus was on potential collaboration between Flanders and Karnataka. In the next step, the participants commented on these ideas. They showed how health tourism has many negative side-effects and needs to be avoided at all cost. They appreciated the opportunities that collaboration with India can offer for coping with the growing shortage of financial means in health care in Flanders. The roundtable participants also made several proposals as to the joint health care model that could be built. Experiences were exchanged. This was followed by a number of reflections on the role of cultural differences in health care collaboration and a discussion on some general concerns. Project funding opportunities were also discussed.

On 6 March 2013, the IP organised a second roundtable on the idea of universal health care. The fol-

lowing people participated:

- Prof. Balagangadhara Rao, India Platform, UGent
- Prof. Katharina D'Herde, Department of Basic Medical Sciences, UGent
- Prof. Ingrid Kerckaert, Department of Basic Medical Sciences, UGent
- Mr. Geert Basyn, Coordinator European Health Insurance, CM Midden-Vlaanderen
- Prof. Yves Jorens, Department of Social Law, UGent
- Dr. Tomas Mainil, NHTV, Hogeschool Zeeland
- Dr. Jakob De Roover, India Platform, UGent
- Dr. Sarah Claerhout, India Platform, UGent
- Prof. Renaat Peleman, Chief Medical Officer, UZ Gent
- Prof. Dr. Jan Gerris, Chair of the Sector Man, Woman and Child, UZ Gent
- Mr. Jean Blondeel, A&B Partners
- Prof. Jan De Maeseneer, Head of the Department of Family Medicine and Primary Health Care, UGent
- Mr. Dirk Gillis, Department of Social Law, UGent
- Dr. Nicolas Rennuy, Department of Social Law, UGent
- Ms. Lien Valcke, Department of Social Law, UGent
- Prof. Ignaas Devisch, Prof. in Ethics, Philosophy and Medical Philosophy, UGent
- Ms. Sarika Rao, India Platform, UGent
- Ms. Marianne Keppens, India Platform, UGent

Since many of the participants were not present at the previous roundtable, this second roundtable started with a brief general introduction to the IP ideas on universal health care collaboration between Flanders and Karnataka. This was followed by several critical remarks on the potential of collaboration with India. The "High Level Expert Group Report on Universal Health Care" in India, published in November 2011 by the Planning Commission of India, was mentioned as a central document to be studied by the IP working group. The roundtable ended with the conclusion that many of the participants wanted more clarity on the exact plans, so that they could reflect about their own potential contributions. A precondition for continuing this project is the starting of a research project on the situation of health care and health insurance in

Karnataka and Flanders. This should map the situation and potential forms of collaboration. Until such a project can be started, the universal health care plan should be put on hold.

After considering the current state of affairs, the IP director decided to postpone the Health Conference that the IP had planned to organise in November 2013 in Bangalore. This conference will most probably take place in the course of 2014.

8. Urban planning and infrastructure

The fields of urban planning and infrastructure constitute another domain with great potential for collaboration between Europe and India. In 2012–2013, the IP had several preliminary discussions with Mr. Chris Poulissen, Architect and Managing Director of NP-Bridging – a Belgian company specialised in infrastructure projects like fly-overs, bridges, highways, and urban planning in general. As a consequence of these meetings, NP-Bridging decided to join the India Platform as a stakeholder. The IP also organised two meetings with Prof. Dr. Geert Wets, the director of IMOB, the Institute for Mobility, of Hasselt University. IMOB is very much interested in joining the project on urban planning and infrastructure. Both NP-Bridging and IMOB are partners in a large-scale project application that the IP submitted to the European Commission as a part of the programme Indo-European Collaborations in Higher Education. Finally, the IP also had a meeting in this context with a team from Future-Proofed, a company specialised in mapping, resolving and launching sustainable solutions for energy, transport, buildings and food. The team consists of Mr. Serge de Gheldere, who is also visiting professor at the Groep T Hogeschool, and Mr. Steven Van Praet.

The basic focus of the IP projects in urban planning and infrastructure is to help make cities in Karnataka livable again. Together with the relevant stakeholders and partners, two or three cities will be identified that can serve as pilot projects. These projects should start with a feasibility study on how these cities could become more environment-friendly, sustainable, less polluted and congested, and ori-

ented towards wellbeing and health care. In order to initiate these projects, the IP director and the local team in India had several meetings with politicians, bureaucrats, and academics in Karnataka. The local team presented the India Platform and its plans in urban planning and infrastructure to the Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation (KUIDFC). The next step is that NP-Bridging will give a presentation of the projects it has already executed in other parts of India and then present the kind of work it could do in cities in Karnataka. This is planned for the first half of 2014. The audience will consist of politicians, bureaucrats, and representatives from public and private companies responsible for infrastructure works.

9. Agricultural sciences and environment

India has one of the world's largest agricultural economies. But two areas need immediate attention: low value-addition to the agricultural produce and negative environmental implications of current agricultural practices. Moreover, the research and education in India in these areas are still at a very early stage. Policymakers are increasingly focused on how to strengthen research and education infrastructure and finally extend the knowledge to the end user to tackle these issues. Similarly, Europe is worried about the long-term impact of industrial farming on the environment. Especially food and water waste, unsustainable use of natural resources, problems caused by soil erosion, water pollution, and use of pesticides are issues that are of particular concern. In each of these areas the India Platform is convinced that synergy between European and Indian researchers, policy makers, and industry representatives can be created and stimulated.

For instance, in many parts of Europe where intensive stockbreeding is practiced, there are surpluses of animal manure. Different policies have been tried out in the past to solve this problem, but it does not go away. One possible way of solving this problem is to export the by-product after having studied carefully the conditions which would allow this. India could be a destination country for certain purposes. The India Platform has spoken to several partners

in India and Belgium that are favorable to this idea. Of course, caution is needed since we do not know the effects of such an operation (economic, environmental, public health, etc.), but at the same time promising collaboration between India and Europe is possible. This is the reason why the IP will start involving experts on the issue.

10. Clusters for collaboration in India

As the India Platform grows, the high degree of isolation of Indian higher education institutions in relation to each other has become clear. Even when there are MoUs among them, these often play the role of mere 'declarations of intention'. There is, in other words, lack of collaboration among Indian higher education institutions.

The Indian IP stakeholders have now discovered the possibilities and importance of such collaborations. This has given rise to the intent among our Indian partner institutions to start working together.

A first step in realising this has been the organisation of a visit of a group of engineers from different Indian stakeholders to some of the European stakeholder universities. In the course of several preparatory meetings, the group of engineers appreciated the importance of approaching European universities as a group rather than as representatives of separate colleges. They also began to identify areas for collaboration between the Indian partner institutions, both in research and in education.

Similar initiatives will take place with groups of institutions specialised in medical and health sciences, in agriculture and rural development, in law etc. Interest has already been shown by some of our stakeholders to organise a group visit to Europe of medical scientists and doctors, similar to the visit of the engineers.

Within this framework, the following meetings took place:

Date	Name	Designation	Institution	Place
22 May 2013	Dr. Martin Jebaraj	Dean of Research and Development	BMSCE	Bangalore
26 June 2013	Dr. N. Sriraam	HOD of Medical Engineering	MSRIT	Bangalore
27 June 2013		Principal and HOD's	BNMIT	Bangalore
29 June 2013		Principal and HOD's	BMSCE	Bangalore
11 July 2013	Dr. Mahendra K.V.	Principal	JIT	Bangalore
13 July 2013	Dr. Mallikarjun Babu; Dr. Jebaraj	Principal; Dean of Research and Development	BMSCE	Bangalore
17 July 2013	Mr. Vivek Alva	Trustee	Alva's Education Trust	Bangalore
17 July 2013	Dr. Kulkarni	Principal	MSRIT	Bangalore
23 July 2013		Delegates	BMSCE, BNMIT, JIT, MSRIT	Bangalore
24 August 2013		Delegates	BMSCE, BNMIT, JIT, MSRIT	Bangalore
26 August 2013	Dr. S.Y. Kulkarni	Principal	MSRIT	Bangalore
27 August 2013		Several HODs	BMSCE	Bangalore
27 August 2013	Dr. M.S. Suresh	Principal	BNMIT	Bangalore
28 August 2013	Dr. Ramesh	Trustee	JIT	Bangalore
30 August 2013		Delegates	BMSCE, BNMIT, JIT, MSRIT	Bangalore
10 September 2013	Dr. Sriraam	HOD of Medical Engineering	MSRIT	Bangalore
27 September 2013		Delegates	BMSCE, BNMIT, JIT, MSRIT	Bangalore

III. DETAILED REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES

(Note: this list of activities is not exhaustive. The India Platform is working on the creation of database facilities which will allow (1) faculty of stakeholder institutions to enter information in the system in interactive ways and (2) the India Platform secretariats to present the information efficiently and correctly. Until the facilities are available, each activity will be entered gradually and manually, both in this report and on the website: www.india-platform.org > [projects and activities](#)).

A. Projects

1. Svaagata.eu

The India Platform is running an EMA2 (Erasmus Mundus Action 2) project called Svaagata.eu (see www.svaagata.eu), which is organising mobility from India to Europe for 116 scholars of all levels (from bachelors to staff level). The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission granted a total budget of 2.902.700 euro to the project.

The first call was open from November until February and resulted in 54 scholarships granted and accepted. 19 of these students and researchers are coming to Ghent University. In 2013 a second call will be opened for the remaining scholarships.

The European partnership includes 4 India Platform stakeholders (Ghent University, the University of Groningen, the University Pardubice and the University of Aveiro), the Indian partnership includes 4 stakeholders: the Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, M.S. Ramaiah (medical), Amrita institute of Medical Sciences (Cochin) and the National Law College of India University.

The India Platform submitted an application for a follow-up project called Svaagata.eu II.

2. Let globalisation work for us

The IP team organised two talks and a workshop in the framework of a "Sensibiliseringsinitiatief" or outreach project of the VLIR-UOS Institutional Universi-

ty Cooperation. For more information see below.

3. New Indigo AtWat project: The ideal waste water treatment plant

The UGent Biomath research group is running a New Indigo project called "AtWat" with the following partners: the University of Girona, the Catalan Water Agency, Pondichery Engineering College, the National Institute of Technology in Tiruchirappalli, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the NCL. This project focuses on harnessing complementary expertise of the partner institutes to establish a multi-lateral Indo-European research network for making significant contributions in these areas. For more information: see <http://biomath.ugent.be/atwat>.

Water used by households and industry is typically collected via sewer systems bringing it to centralised wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). Managing this wastewater is becoming increasingly crucial for ensuring a clean environment and public health. Today's wastewater treatment encompasses a plethora of different technologies with increasing focus on water recycle and re-use. Energy consumption has become another driver for WWTP optimization as well as carbon footprint. Micropollutants have become another worrying issue that needs to be addressed in urban wastewater systems.

4. New Indigo Green-Tech project: Challenges and opportunities of green technologies for water treatment in biorefineries

The Flemish Institute for Technological Research (see www.vito.be), a new IP stakeholder, is a partner within the New Indigo European project on green technology cooperation. In a workshop on 30 September 2013, Indian and European specialists presented new concepts leading to greentech use of all components from a bio-refinery including waste and wastewater. For more information: see www.newindigo.eu/object/event/5706.html.

B. Conferences organised by stakeholders

1. Rethinking Religion in India IV 24 to 27 November 2012 - Mangalore

The IP team organised the fourth edition of its five-year international conference cluster *Rethinking Religion in India*, together with a number of partners. The three-day international conference took place at SDM Law College in Mangalore, India. The theme of this edition was Secularism, Religion, and Law. For three consecutive days, an audience of about 150 scholars and students attended the different conference sessions, which led to lively debates.

The conference was jointly organised by the India Platform UGent (Ghent University, Belgium); Sri Dharamasthala Manjunatheshwara (SDM) Law College (Mangalore, India); SDM Centre for Post Graduate Studies and Research in Law (Mangalore, India); the Research Centre Vergelijkende Cultuurwetenschap (Ghent University, Belgium); the Centre for the Study of Local Cultures and P.G Department of Law (Kuvempu University, India); and the Department for the Study of Religions (University of Pardubice, Czech Republic).

The conference used three formats:

(1) *Platform Sessions*: in these sessions, four international experts discussed the theses of a position paper "Religion, Secularism, and Law". For three consecutive days, they discussed three distinct theses from the position paper. Prof. Balagangadhara responded to their comments and criticism. The invited experts were:

- Prof. Dr. Steven D. Smith, University of San Diego Law School, USA
- Prof. Dr. Werner Menski, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK
- Prof. Dr. Prakash Shah, School of Law, Queen Mary University of London, UK
- Prof. Dr. Robert A. Yelle, University of Memphis, USA

(2) *Roundtable Sessions*: here, two invited speakers each presented a paper on a specific theme dur-

ing the first two sessions. The general theme of the roundtable sessions this year was Religious and Communal Violence. The presented papers had the following titles: "Communal Violence and Colonial Consciousness" and "Gandhi's Secularism: Religion in 'Public' and in 'Private'". In each session, a number of discussants responded to the paper and raised questions for the speaker. In the final session, the participants analyzed what had happened during the roundtable sessions so far and how these should be organised in the future.

The roundtable participants were:

- Prof. Dr. D. Venkat Rao, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India
- Prof. Dr. Farah Godrej, University of California Riverside, USA
- Dr. Jakob De Roover, Ghent University, Belgium
- Prof. Dr. J.S. Sadananda, Kuvempu University, India
- Prof. Dr. P. Ishwara Bhat, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, India
- Prof. Dr. Rajaram Hegde, Kuvempu University, India
- Dr. Sarah Claerhout, Ghent University, Belgium
- Prof. Dr. T.R. Subramanya, Bangalore University, India
- Dr. Vivek Dhareshwar, Shrishti School of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore
- Dr. Sufiya Pathan, Sophia College, Mumbai

(3) *Parallel Paper Sessions*: here, the conference focused on young and promising scholars and on innovative research results. The organising committee selected a limited number of focused themes related to the main conference theme and other central questions of the research programme Comparative Science of Cultures. This year, papers were presented on the following themes:

- The colonial construction of Hinduism
- The caste system and Indian religion
- Secularism in Europe and India
- Religious conversion in India
- Religious and communal violence
- Religion and Law

In addition to these regular sessions, the organisers also arranged a number of special events in the framework of the Rethinking Religion in India conference: a book release of S.N. Balagangadhara's *Reconceptualising India Studies* (Oxford University Press, 2012) and the release of the journal *Legal Opus*, followed by a lecture by Dharmadhikari Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade, the head of the Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara temple and of the SDM Group of Institutions, and one of the most important and respected leaders in South India.

More information:
www.rethinkingreligion.org

2. Dharma & Ethics VII 1 and 2 December 2012 - Bangalore

The India Platform and the Centre for the Study of Local Cultures (Kuvempu University, India) organised the seventh edition of the national annual conference series Dharma & Ethics. During the last six years, these conferences, held in different places in Karnataka, have emerged as an important intellectual forum.

In 2012, the conference was organised at the Centre for Education and Social Studies in Bangalore. It revolved around the theme *The Travails of 'Modernity'*. This involved a critical interrogation of the concept "modernity" and its cognate terms, modernisation and modernism. Some of the following questions were raised: What socio-economic phenomena do modernisation theories address? What cultural or historical process does the term 'modernity' try to explain or comprehend?

In the course of two days, several sessions took place: (1) a session on the notion of modernity, initiated by Dr. Vivek Dhareshwar and Prof. Dr. Venkat Rao; (2) a session on the problems of 'modernisation' in India, initiated by Prof. Dr. Balagangadhara; (3) a session on 'modernisation' in Indian politics, initiated by Prof. Dr. J.S. Sadananda and Prof. Dr. Shanmukha; (4) a session on the social and psychological effects of modernisation on Indian youth, initiated by Sarika Rao and Tess Joss. Several of these sessions generat-

ed vibrant discussion, showing how relevant these questions of 'modernity' and 'modernisation' are to contemporary India.

More information:
www.cultuurwetenschap.be/dharma-and-ethics

3. MaCKiE 2013 4 to 6 February 2013 - Chennai

MaCKiE 2013 (Mathematics in Chemical Kinetics and Engineering) was organised by the UGent Department of Chemical Engineering and Technical Chemistry and the Department of Chemical Engineering of IIT Madras in Chennai, India. The following presentations were made by UGent Laboratory for Chemical Technology (LCT) members:

- 'MaCKiE award talk' by Prof. Gregory Yablonsky
- 'Effect of error propagation in successive parameter estimation' by Kumar, V.
- 'Towards developing a systematic strategy for elucidating complex catalytic mechanisms based on transient pulse-response kinetic data' by Redekop, E.
- 'The C-matrix: Augmentation and Reduction in the Analysis of Chemical Composition and Structure' by Yablonsky, G.S.
- 'Symmetry identification of molecules and reactions using group theory for automatic reaction network generation applications' by Vandewiele, N.M.
- 'Multivariate kinetic Monte Carlo simulation: the case of radical (co)polymerizations' by Van Steenberghe, P.
- 'CFD simulations based regime map for droplet wall interaction of multi-component hydrocarbon droplet' by Mahulkar, A.V.
- 'An implicit solver for computationally efficient steam cracking modeling' by Schietkat C.

4. The Indo-European Food for Health Conference (IEFHC): Where Business meets Academia 10 to 12 February 2013 - Chennai

This conference was jointly organised by Ghent University (UGent), Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras), Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal

Sciences University (TANUVAS) and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU).

The following organisations empowered the conference:

- Association for European Life Science Universities (ICA)
- Federation for Food Industry Belgium (FEVIA)
- Food2Know
- Laila Nutra

Prof. Guido Van Huylenbroeck, President of ICA, acted as Chief Patron of the conference. The first edition of this conference was really successful with almost 300 participants and more than 100 poster presentations.

The topic "Food for Health", as explained by the Chief Guest at the inaugural function, Prof. Dr. P.M. Bhargava, is extremely important for India; nevertheless, this was the first conference in India on this topic. The main goal of the conference was to bring together senior scientists, academia, and business people from India and Europe who are exploring collaboration in the area of Food and Health. This involves the following specific domains:

- Food Technology and Processing
- Food Safety and Quality
- Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals
- Food Business and Trading

The conference program was built around these 4 domains with speakers from India and EU in each session. As a result of the IEFHC, good contacts have been established between several Indian and European institutions, and especially with CFFRI Mysore.

A second edition of the "Indo-European Food for Health Conference" will be held in February 2015.

More information:
www.indoeuropeanfoodconference2013.ugent.be

C. Meetings

1. India Platform welcome evening 18 October 2012 - Ghent

During this informal meeting, the India Platform welcomes new Indian students and researchers at Ghent University. In addition to all new Indian UGent students and researchers, some of the key players in UGent's India related activities are invited: colleagues of the external relations office, the India Platform and the promoters or guides of the Indian students. These annual welcome evenings contribute to the building of a community at Ghent University, interested in projects and activities concerning India, and also create a network of IP ambassadors, who represent the IP after their return to India.

2. India Platform stakeholder meetings

India Platform meeting at Ghent University for signing the Stakeholders Agreement with the University of Groningen 29 January 2013

A team from Ghent University consisting of Prof. Paul Van Cauwenberge (Rector), Dr. Koen Goethals (Chief Academic Officer), Prof. Balagangadhara (India Platform Director), Mrs. Nele De Gersem (India Platform coordinator), Dr. Jakob De Roover, Ms. Marianne Keppens, Dr. Sarah Claerhout (India Platform coordinating team) and Ms. Sarika Rao (India Platform member) met with a delegation of the University of Groningen consisting of:

- Prof. Sibbrand Poppema (President)
- Mr. Bert Verveld (Secretary General)
- Mrs. Anita Veltmaat (India policy)
- Mr. Tjalling Halbertsma (Project Manager)

The Stakeholders Agreement with the University of Groningen was signed on this occasion.

India Platform meeting at the University of Groningen 4 March 2013

Mr. Bert Verveld (Secretary General) and Mrs. Anita Veltmaat (India policy) from the University of Gro-

ningen received an India Platform delegation from Ghent University consisting of:

- Prof. Balagangadhara (India Platform Director)
- Mrs. Nele De Gersem (India Platform coordinator)
- Dr. Jakob De Roover (India Platform coordinating team)
- Ms. Sarika Rao (India Platform member)

The meeting had the objective of discussing the collaboration between Ghent and Groningen as stakeholders and to talk about the middle-long-term India strategy of the University of Groningen.

India Platform information session at the University of Antwerp
21 March 2013

In 2013 the University of Antwerp joined the India Platform. The university organised an informative session on the India Platform on the 21st of March 2013. The session consisted of presentations by different actors with experience in working with and in India:

- Mrs. Nele De Gersem (Coordinator of the India Platform)
- Prof. Koen De Feyter (Faculty of Law)
- Prof. Ludo Diels (Bio-Engineering Department)

Mrs. Nele De Gersem presented the India Platform and the opportunities it offers to academics. Prof. De Feyter and Prof. Diels discussed their activities in India, and presented tips for forging successful partnerships with Indian stakeholders.

The session was presided over by the Vice rector. It was considered a great success and attended by a large number of academics from a variety of fields of study (Medicine, Applied Engineering Sciences, Law, Applied Economic Science, Natural Science, Political and Social Science).

3. Veg-i-Trade Consortium Meeting at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University 18 to 22 March 2013

(At the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) by the EU FP7 Veg-i-Trade Consortium)

Veg-i-Trade is an EU FP7 project investigating the impact of globalisation and climate change on the safety of fresh produce. The 4-year project started in May 2010 and is a collaboration between 23 partners among which the Department of Food Safety and Quality of Ghent University but also the Indian Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The fifth Veg-i-Trade Consortium meeting took place in Coimbatore at TNAU in the week of March 18-22nd March 2013. 35 experts of the Veg-i-Trade Consortium from partners in Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, Brazil, Egypt, South Africa, and India discussed the main findings of the project and agreed on further steps to be taken in the 10 work packages. The opportunity was also taken to reflect and discuss with TNAU on further potential collaboration and exchange in education and research between Ghent University and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. In addition to the core technical research project meetings, TNAU also facilitated the partners of the Veg-i-Trade project to get an impression of the organisation and operation of the fresh produce supply chain in Tamil Nadu. Organic grapes and banana farmers were visited but also a company producing various products such as snacks, drinks, and tiffin mixes.

More information:

www.veg-i-trade.org
www.veg-i-trade.org/visibility/cm/cm5/index.php

4. Meeting on 'het Indiajaar Vlaanderen' 15 April 2013

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Flemish Government organised a meeting with representatives of the Flemish colleges and universities in order to get feedback on the Department's latest initiative: the launch of 'het Indiajaar'. During this meeting information was exchanged as to what activities the various institutions currently have with/in India, as well as what type of activities could be organised during 'het Indiajaar'. The representatives of the India Platform at this meeting were:

- Mrs. Nina Mangelschots (Coordinator of the India Platform activities at the International Relations Office of the University of Antwerp)
- Mrs. Nele De Gersem (Coordinator of the India Platform)

5. Information sessions for Indian partners and potential partners in India

In the course of the past year, a lot of information sessions and meetings with both potential and actual partners were organised. In the following list, many institutions and persons occur several times. The most important reason for this is that the stakeholders of the India Platform wish that this partnership will be more than an empty commitment. As a consequence, both the management and the researchers and teachers themselves were repeatedly informed about the vision, the goals, and the possible strategies of the India Platform.

Meetings with partner institutions:

Date	Name	Designation	Institution	Place
14 November 2012	Dr. K. Narayan Gowda	Vice Chancellor	UAS Bangalore	Bangalore
16 November 2012	Dr. D.V. Guruprasad	CEO	GEF (Medical)	Bangalore
2 January 2013	Dr. Savitha Raveendra & Dr. Nanda Kumar		GEF (Medical)	Bangalore
12 January 2013	Dr. P. Manoj	Project Manager, Amrita Center for International Programs	Amrita University	Bangalore
21 January 2013	Dr. V. Nagaraj	Registrar	NLSIU	Bangalore
22 January 2013	Dr. K. Narayan Gowda	Vice Chancellor	UAS Bangalore	Bangalore
29 January 2013	Dr. V. Nagaraj; Dr. Omprakash Nandimath	Registrar; Prof.	NLSIU	Bangalore
31 January 2013	Dr. Nanda Kumar; Dr. Mehda Joshi		GEF (Medical)	Bangalore
4 February 2013	Dr. Kulkarni	Principal	MSRIT	Bangalore
25 February 2013	Mr. Sanjay Padode	Secretary	IFIM	Bangalore
5 March 2013	Dr. V. Nagaraj	Registrar	NLSIU	Bangalore
18 March 2013	Dr. M.G. Chandrakanth	Prof.	UAS Bangalore	Bangalore
20 March 2013	Dr. Madhumita Chatterji	Prof.	IFIM	Bangalore
26 March 2013	Dr. K. Narayan Gowda	Vice Chancellor	UAS Bangalore	Bangalore

Meetings with partner institutions (continuation):

Date	Name	Designation	Institution	Place
26 March 2013	Dr. Shekhar Babu	Prof.	Amrita University	Bangalore
29 May 2013	Mr. Vivek Alva	Trustee	Alva's Education Trust	Bangalore
14 June 2013	Dr. Reddy	Dean of Research	KVAFSU	Bangalore
22 June 2013	Dr. Reddy; Dr. Yathiraj	Dean of Research; Dean of the Veterinary College	KVAFSU	Bangalore
24 June 2013	Dr. K. Narayan Gowda	Vice Chancellor	UAS Bangalore	Bangalore
26 June 2013	Dr. M.G. Chandrakanth	Prof.	UAS Bangalore	Bangalore
28 June 2013	Dr. Madhumita Chatterji	Prof.	IFIM	Bangalore
12 July 2013	Dr. Madhumita Chatterji	Prof.	IFIM	Bangalore
3 August 2013	Dr. Yathiraj	Dean of the Veterinary College	KVAFSU	Bangalore
5 August 2013	Dr. P. Manoj; Dr. Shekhar Babu	Project Manager, Amrita Center for International Programs; Prof.	Amrita University	Bangalore
7 August 2013	Dr. Somashekhar	Prof.	NLSIU	Bangalore
30 August 2013	Dr. Renukprasad	Vice Chancellor	KVAFSU	Bangalore
14 September 2013	Mr. Sanjay Padode	Secretary	IFIM	Bangalore

Meetings with potential partner institutions:

Date	Name	Designation	Institution	Place
9 October 2012	Dr. K. Narayan Gowda	Vice Chancellor	UAS Bangalore	Bangalore
10 October 2012	Dr. Meena Chandawarkar	Vice Chancellor	Karnataka State Women's University	Hubli
15 October 2012	Dr. R.R. Hanchinal	Vice Chancellor	UAS Dharwad	Dharwad
16 October 2012	Dr. M.R. Kulkarni	Chairman	Gogte Institute of Technology	Belgaum
17 October 2012	Dr. Meena Chandawarkar	Vice Chancellor	Karnataka State Women's University	Hubli

Meetings with potential partner institutions (continuation):

Date	Name	Designation	Institution	Place
21 October 2012	Dr. Venkata Rao; Dr. V. Nagaraj	Vice Chancellor; Registrar	NLSIU	Bangalore
22 October 2012	Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade	Dharmadhikari; President	SDM Educational Society	Ujire
14 November 2012	Dr. R.S. Deshpande	Director	Institute for Social and Economic Change	Bangalore
16 November 2012	Dr. Sriprakash K.S.	Vice Chancellor	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences	Bangalore
12 December 2012	Mr. Vivek Alva	Trustee	Alva's Education Trust	Mangalore
21 December 2012	Dr. Sunita Agarwal; Dr. Shivarama Krishnan	Director; Director	Agarwal Hospitals; NBP pvt. Ltd.	Bangalore
26 December 2012	Dr. Avinash	CEO	Nanjappa Hospital	Shimoga
6 January 2013	Mr. Vivek Alva	Trustee	Alva's Education Trust	Mangalore
8 January 2013	Dr. P. Kaliraj	Officiating Vice Chancellor	Anna University	Chennai
9 January 2013	Dr. Ravi	Dean of the Dental College	SRM University	Chennai
9 January 2013	Col. Dr. G. Thiruvassagam	Vice Chancellor	AMET University	Chennai
11 January 2013	Dr. Sucharitha	Chairperson	Krishna Theja University	Tirupati
12 January 2013	Dr. Malikarjun Babu	Principal	BMSCE	Bangalore
25 January 2013	Dr. Renukprasad	Vice Chancellor	KVAFSU	Bangalore
14 February 2013	Mr. Vivek Alva	Trustee	Alva's Education Trust	Mangalore
15 February 2013	Dr. Timothy Lenihan	Dean of Research	Sahyadri College of Engineering	Mangalore
18 February 2013	Dr. Meena Chandawarkar	Vice Chancellor	Karnataka State Women's University	Bijapur
19 February 2013		HOD's	KVAFSU	Bidar
21 February 2013	Dr. D. Prem Kumar	Registrar	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences	Bangalore

Meetings with partner institutions (continuation):

Date	Name	Designation	Institution	Place
25 February 2013		HOD's	Jyothy Institute of Technology	Bangalore
27 February 2013		Several HOD's	Reva Group of Educational Institutions	Bangalore
7 March 2013	Dr. Rajendiran	Prof.	Sri Ramachandra University	Chennai
6 June 2013		Several HOD's	Vignan University	Vadlamudi
12 August 2013	Dr. S.P. Thyagarajan	Dean of Research	Sri Ramachandra University	Chennai
13 August 2013		Several HOD's	Veltech University	Chennai
18 September 2013		Several researchers	Sri Ramachandra University	Chennai

6. Meetings with diplomats

From its establishment, the India Platform has built and sustained good contacts with the Belgian Embassy in India. Since several partners from other European countries, such as the Netherlands and the Czech Republic, have joined the India Platform in 2012, the same kind of contact is now being established with diplomats and consuls from these countries. Representatives of the Belgian, the Dutch, and the Czech Embassies were present at the inauguration of *Samyoga – a Matchmaking Event for India Platform Stakeholders*, as well as during the signing ceremony for new stakeholders on the same day. Besides this, several personal meetings have been held. This has resulted in relationships of mutual trust and help towards the India Platform regarding diverse issues: guidance for visa applications, suggesting new and interesting partners, and active promotion of the India Platform.

Date	Name	Designation	Place
24-27 November 2012	Mr. Charly Poppe	First Secretary of the Embassy of Belgium to India	Mangalore
7 February 2013	Mr. Pierre Vaesen; Mr. Jochen Anthierens	Ambassador of Belgium to India; Second Secretary of the Embassy of Belgium to India	Bangalore
24 May 2013	Mrs. Marijke Van Drunen; Freek-Jan Frerichs	Consul-General and Consul of the Dutch Consulate to India in Mumbai	Mumbai
27 May 2013	Mr. Eduard Van Kleunen	Consul of the Belgian Consulate to India in Mumbai	Mumbai
19 September 2013	Mr. Eduard Van Kleunen	Consul of the Belgian Consulate to India in Mumbai	Mumbai

D. Visits to Europe**1. Visits by stakeholder representatives to Europe**

Visits in the framework of the Gokula – UGent collaboration in anatomy
15-18 October 2012
22-23 January 2013
17-18 April 2013

Gokula Education Foundation, the organisation behind the M.S. Ramaiah Group of Institutions in Bangalore, is one of the main stakeholders of the India Platform. It is a private educational organisation that includes a huge hospital, an Institute of Advanced Studies, and several medical and nursing colleges. It is also the only medical institution in South India to get the official permission from the state to build a laboratory where medical research and surgery training using prepared cadavers can take place. Recently, it built such a state of the art laboratory and is now looking for international collaboration in order to develop the necessary expertise. The Ghent University Department of Basic Medical Sciences, Research Unit Anatomy and Embryology, has an important research group specialised in this field, led by Prof. Dr. Katharina D'herde. The M.S. Ramaiah team responsible for the laboratory expressed great interest in collaborating with Prof. D'herde's research group. The IP team organised several visits.

Visit to the University of Antwerp by Gokula CEO Dr. Guruprasad
23 April 2013

Based on contacts established at the Samyoga Matchmaking Event in early April, the University of Antwerp was visited by Dr. Guruprasad, CEO of the M.S. Ramaiah Hospital and Gokula Education Foundation (Medical), on 23 April 2013. He discussed possible collaborative ventures in the fields of Medicine, Engineering and Biomedical Engineering. During his visit, a meeting was scheduled with the Vice-Rector Prof. Johan Meeusen, to discuss the establishment of an institutional agreement. Several professors from the Faculties of Medicine and Applied Engineering Science met with Dr. Guruprasad

and gave a tour of their labs:

- Prof. Jan Sijbers (Natural Science)
- Prof. Luc Pieters (Applied Engineering Science)
- Prof. Samir Kumar-Singh (Cell Biology and Histology)
- Prof. John-Paul Bogers (Cell Biology and Histology)
- Prof. Griet Peeraer (Medicine)
- Prof. Surbhi Malhotra-Kumar (Medical Microbiology)

Visit to Ghent University by Dr. Martin Fárek and his team from the University of Pardubice
9 to 13 September 2013

The teams of Prof. S.N. Balagangadhara and Dr. Martin Fárek have a longstanding collaboration in research and education. In September, the Pardubice team visited the India Platform for one week to discuss the establishment of a 'Ghent -Pardubice School of Religious Studies'. In this framework, they two research groups took the initiative to build a joint Masters course and Doctoral programme in the Comparative Science of Cultures. A brainstorm session sketched the first outlines of the Masters course and divided tasks between the two teams to develop the modules in more detail. Each of the Pardubice team members also discussed their research progress with Prof. Balagangadhara.

Visit to the University of Groningen by a Gokula delegation
15 to 18 September 2013

Dr. Guruprasad, CEO, Gokula Education Foundation (Medical) and Dr. D. C. Sundaresh, President of the M.S. Ramaiah Advanced Learning Center and M.S. Ramaiah Academy of Health & Applied Sciences visited the University of Groningen to agree on specific collaborations. The Groningen faculty and departments who received the delegation were:

- Dr. Reint Huizenga
- Prof. dr. Jan Borleffs, dean of Education, Faculty of Medical Sciences /UoG and UMCG
- Prof. dr. Ron Diercks, orthopedic surgeon, head Sports Medicine Center
- Prof. dr. Dick de Zeeuw, chairman research institute GUIDE and dr. Peter Braun, research (support) coordinator, GUIDE
- Prof. dr. Frank Abbas, head Dental School
- Prof. dr. Henny van der Mei, head W.J. Kolff Institute
- Prof. Dr. Han Moshage, coordinator internationalisation Graduate School GSMS and PI.
- Ms. Renée Bakker, Msc, coordinator global health profile, International Bachelor in Medicine
- Prof. Dr. Erik Boddeke, Head Neuroscience Department and Scientific Director BCN and Dr. Michiel Hooiveld, research coordinator BCN

2. Visits in the framework of educational activities and internships 14-22 October 2012

In the framework of collaboration with the Indian NGO Sikshana (see below, under "Visits to India"), the India Platform organised a visit to Ghent for 2 primary school teachers from government schools in Karnataka. The aim is to visit local schools and participate in activities at the teacher training college from Arteveldehogeschool in Ghent. The India Platform facilitates internships of Belgium teacher Trainees to Indian Primary and Secondary schools in Karnataka. For this purpose, we work together with the NGO Sikshana. This NGO supports government schools: working in collaboration with state governments, they created a replicable model that improves learning levels in the public education system in rural and semi-urban areas. The teachers came to Flanders to explore the local school system and to learn about educational methods used in our schools. Interaction with students at a teacher training also shed light on cultural differences. They also met the students who were going on an internship to Sikshana schools during February/March 2013. This visit was jointly organised with Arteveldehogeschool and Hogeschool Gent.

3. Other visits to Europe

- Contribution of Prof. Krishna Nigam, IITD, New Delhi, in the UGent symposium "Frontiers in Chemical Reaction Engineering" on 25 June 2013.
- UGent Laboratory for Chemical Technology seminar on 8 July 2011 by Prof. D.K. Sharma, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India.
- Prof. U.K. Behera from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) obtained a scholarship for a research stay in Berlin. During his stay he visited some European Life Science Universities or Faculties. During his visit at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering in Ghent (2 and 3 July 2013) he met the following people: H. Vandecasteele (FCI), Prof. W. Cornelis (BW12), M. Borderé (Faculty Library), Dr. S. Dobbelaere (Ghent Bio-Economy Valley), Prof. I. Nopens (BW10), R. Freitas de Alvarenga (BW11), Prof. E. Van Damme (CWO/BW14), M. Keppens (India Platform), A. Van Hauwaert (FCI), G. Van Huylenbroeck (dean/BW01), Prof. K. Dewettinck (FCI/BW07), Prof. A. Patel (BW07), Prof. D. Reheul (BW02).
- Prof. M.N.V. Prasad from the University of Hyderabad (University of Hyderabad) visited the Department of Applied analytical and physical chemistry (Prof. Gijs Du Laing) again in September 2013 and stayed for 10 days. During the last year, this collaboration resulted in some common publications.
- Visit by Dr. Raman Saravanane, Prof. at the Pondicherry Engineering College, and Dr. Sesagiri Rao Ambati, Assistant Prof. at the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappallito, to the BIOMATH research group in the framework of the running project "Advanced modeling, control and decision support tools for flexible and optimal wastewater treatment plant (www.newindigo-atwat.com – see above under "projects"). The visit took place from 23 until 30 September 2013.

E. Visits to India

1. Visits in the framework of Svaagata.eu 20 and 21 November 2012

A first consortium meeting of the Erasmus Mundus programme Svaagata.eu took place in Chennai, involving representatives of the 8 European and 9 Indian partners and representatives of most of the 20 associate partners. Dr. Fronia, representative of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission, was present at this meeting. Prof. Balagangadhara, who is the project coordinator, also attended the meeting. On the second day, the delegation was addressed by one of the Belgian consuls in Mumbai, Mr. Eduard Van Kleunen.

10 November 2012

The Svaagata.eu project manager attended a meeting in Coimbatore with the coordinators of other EMA2 projects in India.

23 November 2012

The Svaagata.eu project manager attended a meeting in Mumbai organised by the EACEA about Erasmus Mundus projects in India.

February / March 2013 July / August 2013

The project manager spent additional time in India in order to monitor the project. In February, she went to Chennai to assist the joint coordinator (Anna University) in the process of validating the applications. During further visits, she visited several of the partners and talked to some IP stakeholders to inform them about the possibilities this mobility project offers. The Svaagata.eu II application was discussed with several partners. She addressed staff in universities in Mangalore (KVASFU), Moodabidri (Alva's College), Shimoga (JN National College of Engineering), Aurangabad (MGM), Gulbarga Bijapur and Bangalore (KVAFSU, NLS). Through personal communication with the representatives of the In-

dia Platform in Bangalore, local follow-up of communication with Svaagata partners was prepared.

2. Visits by stakeholder representatives to India Visit to Karnataka by the UGent Rector, Government Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer

Invited by the India Platform, a UGent delegation consisting of Rector Prof. Van Cauwenberge, Government Commissioner Mr. De Clercq and Chief Academic Officer Prof. Goethals visited the South-Indian state of Karnataka from 28 October till 4 November. Several Indian partner institutions in Karnataka were visited:

- University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad
- Gogte Institute of Technology, Belgaum
- M.S. Ramaiah Memorial Hospital, Bangalore
- M.S. Ramaiah Advanced Learning Center, Bangalore
- M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore
- M.S. Ramaiah School of Advanced Studies, Bangalore
- University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore

More importantly, four Stakeholder Agreements were signed in the presence of the Karnataka Governor. (Cf. Infra) Furthermore, during the visit an India Platform office was inaugurated in Bangalore, on the premises of the M.S. Ramaiah Campus. This office has the task of promoting and organising India Platform activities in Karnataka and India. A press conference, involving more than 15 Karnataka newspapers and television channels, gave broad visibility to the visit. (Cf. Press and publications in India). For a more detailed report of the visit, see www.india-platform.org > projects and activities > visits to India > UGent Rector visits Karnataka).

Visits by University of Aveiro representatives

Prof. José Fernando Mendes, Vice-Rector, visited several institutions in Bangalore from 3 to 10 November 2012. He had the objective of getting to know the facilities and establishing contacts with the India Platform partners in India:

- MS Ramaiah (Academy of Health and Applied

- Sciences; Institute of Neurosciences; Institute of Advanced Studies and Institute of Technology)
- Indian Institute of Science (Materials Research Centre, IIS and Indian Institute of Management) Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research
- B.N.M Institute of Technology
- University of Agricultural Sciences

Prof. Mendes met many faculty members and discussed potential future collaboration: exchange of students and researchers, teaching staff mobility, joint workshops and seminars, participation in international projects, among others. After the visit, a PPT presentation was prepared and presented to researchers at the University of Aveiro, with the main information regarding staff, infrastructures, and scientific interests, so as to foster the Aveiro researcher's interest and awareness of the India Platform partners.

For more details:

See the powerpoint presentation of this visit on www.india-platform.org > projects & activities > visits to India > Visit to Bangalore by Aveiro Vice-Rector Prof. Mendes.

Visits by University of Pardubice representatives

From 30 November to 6 December 2012, a delegation from Pardubice University visited 6 institutions in Southern India. The delegation consisted of 12 members from 5 different faculties of the university.

- Assist. Prof. Martin Fárek, University of Pardubice Coordinator, India Platform
- Ing. Zuzana Tužáková, Project Manager, India Platform
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Filip Bureš, Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology, Faculty of Chemical Technology
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jitka Komárková, Vice-Dean for Education, Faculty of Economics and Administration
- Prof. Dr. Simeon Karamazov, Dean, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics

- Assist. Prof. Dr. Lukáš Čegan, Chair of the Department of Information Technology, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics
- Assist. Prof. Dr. Zdeněk Němec, Chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics
- Assist. Prof. Dr. Daniel Honc, Chair of the Department of Process Control, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alex Chlaň, Department of Transport Management, Jan Perner Transport Faculty
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petr Paščenko, Department of Mechanics, Materials and Machine Parts, Jan Perner Transport Faculty
- Assist. Prof. Dr. Šárka Ježková, Vice-Dean for Education, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy
- Assist. Prof. Dr. Monika Černá, Vice-Dean for Development, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy
- M.A. David Bradna, Ph.D. Researcher, Department for the Study of Religions, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy

The delegations presented their research and discussed collaboration in the following institutions:

- M.S. Ramaiah School of Advanced Studies (part of Gokula Education Foundation)
- M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology (part of Gokula Education Foundation)
- M.S. Ramaiah Advanced Learning Centre (part of Gokula Education Foundation)
- M.S. Ramaiah Memorial Hospital (part of Gokula Education Foundation)
- Institute for Social and Economic Change
- Institute of Finance and International Management
- Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies
- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (Chennai)
- Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore)
- Sahyadri College of Engineering

As a result of this series of visits, a collaborative project has been started between Jan Perner Transport Faculty of the University of Pardubice and M.S. Ramaiah School of Advanced Studies of Gokula Education Foundation. Furthermore, workshops on cultural difference for doctors at M.S. Ramaiah

Advanced Learning Center were planned. A Ph.D. Student of the Institute of Finance and International Management has started her Ph.D. at Pardubice University.

From 5 to 10 April 2013, following Samyoga (cf. supra), another delegation of Pardubice University again visited some of the Indian partner-institutions. This time, the delegation consisted of:

- Prof. Tatiana Molková, Vice-Rector for Research
- Assist. Prof. Martin Fárek, University of Pardubice Coordinator, India Platform
- Ing. Zuzana Tužáková, Project Manager, India Platform
- Prof. Dr. Jiri Malek, Department of Physical Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Technology
- Assist. Prof. Dr. Šárka Ježková, Vice-Dean for Education, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy
- Assist. Prof. Dr. Monika Černá, Vice-Dean for Development, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy

Their activities were diverse:

- Visits to several institutions:
 - B.M.S. College of Engineering
 - M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology
 - Shell Technology Center Bangalore
- Follow-up discussions about existing collaborations:
 - M.S. Ramaiah School of Advanced Studies, about the Marie Curie-project with the Jan Perner Transport Faculty
 - Institute of Finance and International Management, about the Ph.D.-collaboration
- Workshops to M.S. Ramaiah College of Medicine faculty:
 - Intercultural understanding (by Dr. Martin Fárek)
 - Teaching Assessment and E-Learning (by Dr. Šárka Ježková and Dr. Monika Černá)

Visits by UGent representatives

- Prof. Alain Sarlette was invited to visit IIT Bombay.
- Invited lecture at the "2nd International Work-

shop on Geosynthetics and Modern Materials in Coastal Protection and Related applications" by Prof. Adam Bezuijen.

- Guest lecture at the KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, by Prof. Roger Sierens in January 2013.
- Several lectures at IIT Delhi, Malaviya National Institute of Technology in Jaipur, and at the CTAE University (Udaipur) on "Hydrogen as a fuel for internal combustion engines" by Prof. Roger Sierens in March 2013.
- Requests for external examining of Indian PhDs by the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and the Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur to Prof. Roger Sierens.
- International Conference on Decision Sciences for Performance Excellence.
- Lecture at the "International Conference on Decision Sciences for Performance Excellence", IBS Hyderabad by Manoj Kumar Dora on 27-29 December 2012.
- Prof. Mie Cocquyt paid several visits to India: both in 2012 and 2013, she stayed for 2 weeks in Ahmedabad, at the Gujarat Cleft and Craniofacial Research Institute and at the Apang Manav Mandal Institute. In 2013 she also had contact with the GSR Institute of Craniofacial and Facial Plastic Surgery and the Hyderabad Cleft Society.

3. Visits in the framework of educational activities and internships

The India Platform continued its exploration of the educational system in Karnataka, searching for different resource people and visiting several schools and institutions. The successful collaboration with a local NGO that supports government schools (<http://sikshana.org/index.html>) is continued.

November 2012

Mrs. Anne Cardinael visited 12 government schools in Hubli and 2 government schools in Bangalore.

February 2012

Mrs. Anne Cardinael went back to the government

schools in Hubli, supervising the internship of 5 teacher trainees from Ghent. On that occasion she also met with a resource persons of Nali Kali (educational project of the Karnataka Government). During a visit to the interns at the nursing school at Alva's college, a meeting took place with lecturers of a teacher training college in Moodabidri.

March and July 2013

While visiting the University of Bijapur, a meeting took place with the staff of the department of education. The focus of the school visits in this period was on exploring private (primary) schools. A fast growing number of people are sending their children to private English medium schools, as they realise the importance of knowing English for their chances on the labour market. This tendency is very pronounced in the cities, but is also growing in more remote areas. A wide variety of schools were visited. The visits consisted of discussions with management and teachers, sometimes with classroom observations:

- 3 schools catering to the elite: 2 schools in Bangalore (Delhi Public School, Brigade school) and 1 school in Gulbarga (Kenbridge school),
- 9 schools catering to different layers of the urban and semi-urban middle class: 4 schools in Bangalore, 2 Schools in Davanagere, 1 school each in Gulbarga, Bellary and Aurangabad.

Contacts were established to visit more schools during the next visit, preparing the ground for a network of schools where projects can be started, involving teachers and teacher trainers from Europe.

In Bangalore, contact was established with 'the Academy of Creative Teaching' (www.actedu.in), which is keen to cooperate with the IP. This organisation helps establish private schools and also organises service training for teachers.

A meeting with Mr. Hariprasad from Shimoga, a member of the Department of State Education Research and Training (DSERT Karnataka) opened perspectives for collaboration at the level of teacher training.

4. Samyoga – A Matchmaking Event for India Platform Stakeholders

On 2, 3 and 4 April 2013, the India Platform brought together researchers from almost all its partners in Europe and India. During this 3 day gathering at the Bangalore Campus of Amrita University, matchmaking occurred for collaboration in research and education in several domains. We give a brief overview here. A more detailed report can be found on: www.india-platform.org > [projects & activities](#) > [meetings](#) > [Samyoga Matchmaking Event for Stakeholders](#).

- **Medicine:** For Gokula Education Foundation (Medical) and the Ghent University Hospital, this event was not the first meeting. Personal contacts had been established and both sides already knew of the other's activities. Ghent University hospital will guide PhD-students, give workshops, and help set up research centers. This is a selection of started and planned collaborations:
 - *In anatomy:* plans to develop a tool for osteology education, with integration of 3D manipulation of bone structures in a pdf-course. This enables students to study bone structures in a virtual way, through e-learning. The CT-datasets used to develop this tool will be partially provided by the M.S. Ramaiah group. For technical input, local engineers will be involved.
 - *In plastic surgery:* Prof. Hubert Vermeersch will be a visiting professor at the M.S. Ramaiah Hospital, preferably starting from November 2013. His time at M.S. Ramaiah will be divided between:
 - teaching postgraduates in plastic surgery, dental medicine and maxillofacial surgery (2 days)
 - assisting in surgery
 - one day cadaver workshop including flap dissection for 10-12 people from other colleges in Karnataka
 - *In gynecology:* A match was made between Prof. Gerris, also talking on behalf of Prof. De Sutter (Ghent University), and Dr. N. Sundari and Dr. A. Nayak (M.S. Ramaiah) with respect to the initiation of an up-to-date Centre for Reproductive Medicine, comprising the full range

of clinical and laboratory activities related to in vitro fertilisation (IVF), intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) and cryopreservation. For this centre, the following steps are being prepared:

- A gynecologist and at least one embryologist from M.S. Ramaiah will spend one month at the division of reproductive health in the Ghent University Hospital.
- On the basis of that visit, the M.S. Ramaiah Hospital will build an IVF unit.
- When the IVF unit is ready, Dr. Jan Gerris will visit the unit with a team from Ghent University and will treat a first batch of about 15-20 patients, clustered over a 7-10 days period.
- Short additional visits to Ghent or to Bangalore may be needed to have the IVF unit fully operational.
- *In neurosciences:* Representatives of Neurology, Neurosciences and Anatomy from Ghent University (UG) will visit the M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Neurosciences (MSRINS) to get first-hand knowledge of the type of clinical work being done, the clinical spectrum, the postgraduate training program and the research interests. This visit will open up areas of collaboration and will further reinforce the value of such partnerships.
- *In physiotherapy:* focus on physiotherapy for the elderly, and on Musculoskeletal and Sports Injury Physiotherapy. Research topics: (a) are the clinical balance tests used at Ghent University applicable in India? And (b) are the AIMS norms applicable to Indian children? Prof. Hilde Van Waelvelde has invited Dr. Prutvish as a guest lecturer in autumn 2013, for 4th year students preparing to go abroad. She would also like to send students on an internship for 8 weeks.
- *In the domain of 'community medicine',* four partners have found each other: Gokula Education Foundation (Medical), Ghent University Hospital, the University of Groningen, and Hogeschool Gent. They have plans to develop a common research program on quality of life and possibly develop a joint course:
 - Research on geriatrics and community based rehabilitation. Quantitative and

qualitative research methods. Introduction of qualitative research, subjective assessments, and assessments of quality of life of vulnerable groups. Comparative research on 'elderly people' in India, Belgium and the Netherlands.

- Short courses on demographic analysis + biostatistics; qualitative research, and perhaps anthropology.
- Contribution to community orientation and education materials.
- **In law,** there were fruitful meetings between legal scholars of the National Law School of India University, Ghent University and the University of Antwerp. A research Centre for Comparative Law will be built in the next years, with a double focus:
 - Fundamental comparative research focused on the development of jurisprudence for Indian culture and Indian thinking, and how this might impact Western jurisprudence;
 - Comparative research between Europe and India on corporate law, environmental law, intellectual property law, constitutional law, medical law, criminal law, etc.;
 - A 3 year conference cluster on "Rethinking Law in India" will be organised by the same partners. The first international conference will be held in 2014.
- Not only researchers were present at Samyoga, but also vice-chancellors, directors and principals of different institutions. A workshop was organised on the topic of 'university management'. The following issues were discussed:
 - Existing or non-existing collaborations across departments and disciplines
 - Election systems for Vice-Chancellors, Deans, and faculty and student councils
 - Coherence and vision in institutional thinking
 - University traditions (their medieval origin in Europe still plays a role here)
 - Funding of universities and colleges and its consequences on teaching and research. In Europe: how to escape the publication pressure? In India: how to steer an institution on the basis of research?

- Quality definition: PhDs and publications versus societal value. How to monitor and follow-up on societal value?
- How to keep a balance between policy impact and good research? Do we need to lobby?
- The problem of education in India: students only want a degree and are not bothered about learning.
- What to learn from each other in PhD guidance?
- How to collaborate amongst the Indian institutions present?

F. Internships

1. Masters students

Several of the European and Indian stakeholder exchanged masters students. For example, in the framework of ASEM DUO three students came from UAS Bangalore to the UGent Faculty of Bioscience Engineering and three students came from the same UGent Faculty to UAS Bangalore. A bilateral agreement between both institutions brought one more student from UAS Bangalore to Ghent. At the UGent International Masters for Rural Development, one Indian Erasmus Mundus Scholarship student is starting this year. A professor from UAS Bangalore, Prof. Krishnamurthy Bommaiah, was a visiting scholar in the same international masters programme in February 2013.

Two students from the Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogical Sciences of UGent will go to South-India for an internship in 2013-14, under the guidance of Prof. Van Hove. Through its network, the India Platform is giving them access to valuable contacts.

2. Bachelor students from University Colleges (Hogescholen)

The India Platform organised internships in India (Karnataka) for 7 students in their final semester of a professional bachelor program in Ghent (Arteveldehogeschool and Hogeschool Gent). The selection of the students was done by the university colleges,

with the participation of the India Platform, which also actively prepared the internships in India and in Ghent, communicating with the students and with the sending and the receiving institutions. For the teacher trainees, the cooperation with the NGO Sikshana Foundation (www.sikshana.org) was continued.

February - April 2013

- Five students went to Hubli to do an internship in government schools. In April, three students continued their project in Mysore, participating in a theater project; another student went to Bangalore to teach French in AIMS college.
- A new initiative was taken in the field of Health Sciences. Two students were sent to Alva's College (Moodabidri, near Mangalore) for an internship as nurses. The experience in Alva's college was positive. Future initiatives for internships in this field are left to the institutions, as personal relations have been established between India Platform stakeholders.
- Two speech therapy students of Hogeschool Gent, Faculty 'Mens en Welzijn', did internships in Ahmedabad in the months of February, March, and April 2013. They worked mainly in the Gujarat Cleft and Craniofacial Research Institute of dr. Shyam, but also in the school Apang Manav Mandal en in the Shalby Hospitals.

June 2013

The selection process for internships in 2014 resulted in a selection of 7 teacher trainees.

3. Internships for Belgian and Indian students in the framework of an engineering consortium

In 2012-2013, a consortium of Ghent University, Amet University (Chennai), and a number of important Belgian construction companies was formed. It facilitated 8 internships in both directions (India-Belgium), each for an eight-weeks internship.

4. Internships in the framework of the bilateral agreement between UGent and TANUVAS

Three students came to the UGent Faculty of Bioscience Engineering to do an internship in the period January-April 2013.

5. Other internships at Ghent University

- Indian intern, Department of Electrical energy, systems and automation (Prof. Alain Sarlette), plans for a PhD at Ghent University.
- An 8 weeks Indian internship from IIT Guwahati at the UGent Department of Mechanical construction and production (Prof. Patrick De Baets).

G. Research

Many of the stakeholder institutions have Indian faculty members in their research teams. For example, at Ghent University:

- Two Indian doctoral students at the Department of Applied Physics (with Prof. Guido Van Oost)
- Four Indian doctoral students at the Department of Information Technology (with Prof. Tom Dhaene)
- One Indian student at the Department of Electronics and information systems (with Prof. Dirk Stroobandt)
- Eight faculty members at the Department of chemical engineering and technical chemistry (with Prof. Guy Marin)
- One PhD student from the University of Kalyani at the Department of Applied analytical and physical chemistry (with Prof. Gijs Du Laing) for a period of 10 months.

Information on Indian researchers at the other stakeholder institutions is gradually being uploaded on www.india-platform.org.

H. Outreach activities

1. Book releases "Reconceptualising India Studies" (S.N. Balagangadhara)

In September 2012, the IP director, Prof. Dr. Balagangadhara released a new book *Reconceptualising India Studies*, published by Oxford University Press. The book was well-received in the academic world:

"Balagangadhara's work presents both a dare and an invitation to venture outside our comfort zones of accepted ideas about 'religions', politics, and culture. His sustained and profound immersion in the intellectual legacies and social worlds of India and Europe grounds a scholarship that is as rigorous as it is visionary..."

Naomi Goldenberg, Prof., Department of Classics and Religious Studies, University of Ottawa.

"Eschewing the mutually exclusive stances of secular and religious apologetics, SN Balagangadhara provides a much needed critique of the conceptual framework that has trapped Indian intellectuals to date. Reconceptualising India Studies is a must-read for anyone interested in the future of India's conceptual encounter with the West."

Arvind-Pal S. Mandair, SCSB Endowed Prof. of Sikh Studies, University of Michigan.

"Balagangadhara is at the forefront of discussions about the complexity of cultural and civilizational identity in India and... 'Indian culture' in a post-colonial era. His work challenges standard assumptions about Indian culture and provides essential food for thought in reflecting upon the role and place of India on a contemporary international stage. This is a must read for anyone interested in understanding Indian civilization..."

Richard King, Prof. of Religious Studies, University of Glasgow.

Three official book releases took place:

- 24 November 2012, Mangalore (India): SDM Law College. Speakers: Prof. Dr. Naomi Goldenberg (University of Ottawa, Canada); Dr. Prakash Shah

- (Queen Mary University of London, UK); Dr. Shankara Prasad (Bangalore, India; and Dr. Jakob De Roover (Ghent University, Belgium).
- 11 December 2012, London (UK): Global Centre for Culture and Law, Queen Mary University of London, UK. Introduction by Dr. Prakash Shah followed by a lecture by Prof. Dr. Balagangadhara and a Q&A session.
 - 14 December 2012, Brussels (Belgium): Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten, Brussels, Belgium. Speakers: Mr. Marc Huybrechts (Honorary Consul-General of India in Belgium); Dr. Prakash Shah (Queen Mary University of London, UK); Dr. Shankara Prasad (Bangalore, India; and Dr. Jakob De Roover (Ghent University, Belgium).

2. Debate and workshop “Let globalisation work for us”

In December 2013 the India Platform organised a lecture evening and workshop “Let globalisation work for us!” The event took place at Het Pand. This was jointly organised by VLIR-UOS Institutional University Cooperation, the Research Centre Vergelijkende Cultuurwetenschap UGent, and the India Platform UGent.

Lectures were given by:

- Prof. Balagangadhara Rao, “Collaboration with India in the 21st Century: A Vision”
Given today’s globalised world, how can India and Europe grow and work together on a win-win basis? This question was dealt with in the talk by Prof. Balagangadhara. He presented a vision that gives a social translation of globalisation: the vision behind the India Platform.
- Dr. Shankara Prasad, “India is Booming: What About the Villages?”
This lecture discussed a specific project in South India, which develops ICT solutions in aid of efficiency and transparency in the Village Panchayats (a.k.a Gram Panchayats), local, decentralized government bodies. India is often criticized for corruption and lack of transparency in decision-making

ing processes. Dr. Shankar Prasad presented his project in which he aims to make the functioning of the Gram Panchayats more inclusive, participatory, democratic, and transparent. Building on his experience of working in rural South India (with a rural population of over 800 million), he presented interesting perspectives on overcoming the challenges that confront the villagers of India in connecting to today’s globalised world.

See also:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhFz6zclCEE

Aim and audience

The aim of this activity was to reflect with the audience about how globalisation has changed today’s global relations, especially the relation between the EU and India; how we can respond to this changing world; and how we can together carve out a prosperous future. The aim was to create sensitivity for new insights into the global relations and bring together people interested in globalisation: representatives from development cooperation, business people, students, researchers, journalists, teachers, NGO’s, businessmen... Our hope was to increase the intercultural competences of the participants. Around 90 people participated in the activities.

3. Lecture cafés

The India Platform organised a series of 8 lecture cafés on topics related to China, Vietnam, and India in collaboration with the UGent China Platform and the International Office of the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering. Each lecture café consisted of a presentation of about one hour followed by questions from and discussion with the audience. The lectures were open for anyone with an interest in academic research and/or collaboration within the region of China, India or Vietnam.

The lectures related to India were: ‘Health care in India’ by Prof. Jan Gerris and ‘Asia and the challenges for the social sciences and humanities’ by Dr. Harry van den Bouwhuisen. Both lectures were attended by approximately 50 people.

4. Documentary about CSLC

On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Centre for the Study of Local Cultures (CSLC) and the successful completion of the VLIR-UOS project that funded this research centre, a documentary was made about the CSLC by Mr. Mahesh Hegde Kallare of Sealink Vision. The 20-minute documentary presents the CSLC, an overview of its main achievements and activities, and several testimonials of the people involved, both from the Indian and the Belgian teams. The documentary can be found here: www.cslc.in/pages/video.

5. Lecture by the Belgian Ambassador in India

On 7 February 2013, the India Platform organised a lecture given by Mr. Pierre Vaesen, Ambassador of Belgium to India, in Bangalore. Hosted by Saint-Joseph’s College, this lecture attracted 200 students in political sciences from all over Bangalore. Its topic was international politics and international collaboration. During the Q&A, a lot of students asked questions to the ambassador, on topics such as cultural difference and on the possibilities of studying in Belgium.

6. Cultural Training at TOM TOM Ghent

On February 27th 2013 the IP team gave a cultural training to Tom Tom in Ghent (Belgium). This company works with an international team and is facing challenges related to cultural differences. In this training the India Platform team discussed some of the problems in doing business and suggested innovative solutions to deal with them.

7. Reach of www.india-platform.org

Hits per day:

- previous work year around 2.000-2.200 with a peak in May of 3.540
- this work year: an average of 4.521
Unique users per month: 1.146

Origin of the visitors of the website:

- approximately 20% from the USA

- approximately 15% from Belgium
- approximately 15% from India

I. Contacts with business

1. Cipla Ltd.

The pharmaceutical company Cipla Ltd. approached the India Platform when it was preparing its launch on the European market. On 25 October 2013, the India Platform coordinator will participate in an academic session at the official launch event. At the company’s request, IP has submitted a tender to Cipla Ltd. for a fundamental research project on the topic of Culture and Management.

2. Capgemini (and ING)

Mr. Vijay Lohitsa, Director at the Financial Services Global Business Unit of Capgemini, a major global consulting, technology and outsourcing firm, expressed his interest in starting a research project on the role of cultural differences in business between Europe and India. He is also in the process of organising India Platform lectures and workshops for the staff of Capgemini and ING.

3. Belgian quality lingerie

The India Platform promotes a combination of the strengths and needs of Europe with those of India. One of the areas where this combination can be made is in the business of lingerie. Finding a high-quality bra in the right size and made of good materials is extremely difficult in India. Belgium has many companies that have a long history in making very high quality lingerie as well as a tradition of lingerie styling – assistance of expert sales women in the choice of the right lingerie. Bringing Belgian brands and expertise to India in a shop format adapted to Indian tastes would mean a solution for thousands of women in India as well as an enormous business opportunity for Belgian companies given the size of the Indian market.

Steps taken so far:

- Building contacts with lingerie companies.
- Meeting with Tom Vermeulen, Flanders Investment and Trade in Mumbai (the meeting took place in Ghent)
- Meeting with Jayant Nadiger, Flanders Investment and Trade in Bangalore.
- Meeting with Amelia Bandlish of the lingerie shop Chole ke Peeche in Delhi.
- Meeting with Arpitha Ganesh of the lingerie shop Buttercups in Bangalore.
- Visits to several lingerie shops in Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi.
- Talks to women of different layers of society and age groups in Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi.

4. Valdel

The company Valdel Engineers and Constructors is a detail engineering consultancy organisation catering to the oil, gas, refinery, petrochemical and chemical sectors. They have signed a Preferred Partner Agreement with the India Platform in November 2012. They are in the process of finding business partners through us in Belgium, the Netherlands and the rest of Europe. Two important meetings were held with Mr. G. Hariharan, the COO of Valdel, on 7 May and on 25 June 2013.

5. Shell

The international giant Shell has established one of its three research centers (the Shell Technology Center) in Bangalore. During two meetings with the General Manager of this research center, Mr. Hugo Vits, on 16 March and 7 April 2013, the India Platform discussed the shared sense of the importance of presence in India and strategies to gain a firm foothold here. One of the options being currently explored is collaboration with local engineering colleges.

6. IKS International

On 20 August 2013, the India Platform had a brief but promising meeting in Bangalore with Mr. Ste-

phen Tierney, Managing Director of IKS International. Another meeting took place between the IP coordinator and Mr. Tierney on 23 October 2013. This Dutch company specialises in consultancy towards tailor-made clinical, biotech, pharmaceutical and microbiology laboratory solutions. In February 2013, they opened an office in Bangalore.

7. Defiance Technologies

Mr. Narendra Prasad from Defiance Technologies (part of the Hinduja Group) is currently setting up a research center in medical engineering at the M.S. Ramaiah Memorial Hospital. He will be looking for international academic and business collaborators in the coming years, in order to produce top-notch medical devices for a reasonable price.

J. New partnerships and agreements

Ghent University – University of Groningen: Stakeholders Agreement

On 27 January 2013, the University of Groningen officially joined the India Platform, as it intends to strongly increase its activities in India in the near future. Prof. Paul van Cauwenberge, Rector of Ghent University and Prof. Sibrandes Poppema, President of the University of Groningen, signed the official agreement, in the presence of Prof. Balagangadhara and other India Platform staff members), the University of Groningen's director general Mr. Bert Verveld and Ms. Anita Veltmaat, policy advisor International Relations.

Stakeholders Agreements with 10 new Indian partners

On 3 November 2012, Mr. Hansraj Bhardwaj, Governor of Karnataka, hosted a signing ceremony at the Raj Bhavan in Bangalore, in the presence of Prof. Dr. Paul Van Cauwenberge, Rector of Ghent University, Prof. Dr. Koen Goethals, Chief Academic Officer, Prof. Dr. Dirk Mangeleer, Pro-Chief Logistic Officer, and Mr. Yannick De Clercq, Government Commissioner to Ghent University. The India Platform embraced 3 new stakeholders and 1 preferred partner:

- Amrita University (Stakeholders Agreement)
- National Law School of India University (Stakeholders Agreement)
- University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore (Stakeholders Agreement)
- Valdel Group (Preferred Partner)

On 2 April 2013, during the Samyoga-matchmaking event held at the Bangalore Campus of Amrita University, several other Indian institutions became stakeholders. The signing ceremony was attended, amongst others, by Mr. Antoine Evrard, Minister-Counsellor and Deputy head of the Mission of the Embassy of His Majesty the King of the Belgians to India, Ir. Jelle Nijdam, Counsellor and head of the Science and Technology Department of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to India, Mrs. Radka Calábková, First Secretary Commercial and Consular Affairs of the Embassy of the Czech Republic, and Prof. Dr. Koen Goethals, Chief Academic Officer of Ghent University. The following institutions joined the India Platform as stakeholders:

- Alva's Education Trust
- B.M.S. College of Engineering
- B.N.M. Institute of Technology
- Institute of Finance and International Management
- Jyothy Group of Institutions
- Karnataka State Women's University

On 14 September, another Indian institution signed the Stakeholders Agreement: the Karnataka Veterinary, Animals and Fisheries Sciences University.

Ghent University - Institute for Plasma Research, Bhat, Gandhinagar

In the framework of the Erasmus Mundus Doctoral College FUSION-DC, the Institute for Plasma Research became a non-EU Associate member.

University of Antwerp - Gokula Education Foundation

Following Dr. Guruprasad's visit, an institutional agreement between the University of Antwerp and Gokula Education Foundation was drafted, and was approved by the Executive Board.

K. Press and publications

For the full press articles and publications, see www.india-platform.org/publications/search/category:13.

Press and publications

In newspapers

1. "Ghent University initiates India Platform" in Prajavani (Kannada daily newspaper), 3 November 2012.
2. "Belgian Institute to Join Local Initiative" in DNA (English daily newspaper), 3 November 2012.
3. "Ghent University and Ramaiah organisations Collaborate" in Samyukta Karnataka (Kannada daily newspaper), 3 November 2012.
4. "MoU between Europe Universities and India Platform" in Andra Jyothi (Telugu daily newspaper), 3 November 2012.
5. "Belgian Delegation in City for Collaborative Education" in Deccan Herald (English daily newspaper), 5 November 2012.
6. "Conference on Religion and Law begins today" in Kannada Prabha, 24 November 2012.
7. "Rethinking Religion Conference from Today" in Vijayavani, 24 November 2012.
8. "International conference in SDM law college" in Samyuktha Karnataka, 24 November 2012.
9. "Conference on Religion and Law" in The New Indian Express (English daily newspaper), 24 November 2012.
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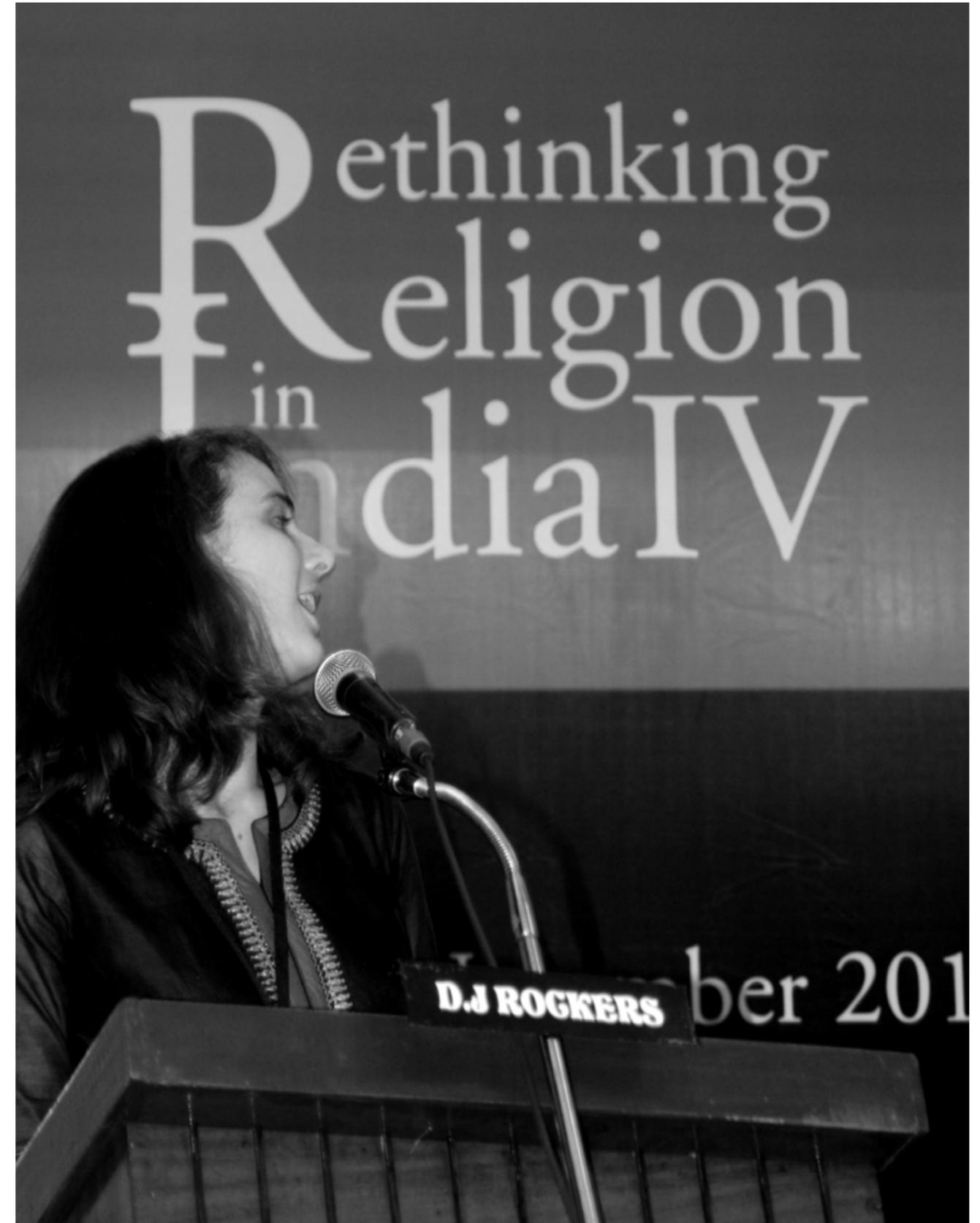
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IV. FUTURE PLANS

1. Indian evening with brainstorm on new projects

One of the first activities of the coming year is an Indian evening in Ghent, which will involve a wide audience: students, faculty, businessmen, policy makers, funding agencies, Belgians with a warm heart for India, young retirees, and anybody who is interested in collaborations between Belgium and India. The aim of this evening is to provide, for the first time, a unique opportunity for discussing potential projects with relevant people in focused areas of research. The five proposed areas here will be:

- Urban planning and architecture
- Health care
- Social sciences
- Agriculture and environment
- School education

The same five focus areas will be presented to the European stakeholders' alumni in the course of the next year, aiming at the convergence of ideas and commitments of India platform stakeholders. Next year, we hope to present at least one project application that has resulted from these steps.

2. Belgian Economic Mission to India

The India Platform will be part of the Belgian Economic Mission to India presided over by HRH Princess Astrid and in the presence of HE Didier Reynders (Federal Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs), HE Kris Peeters (Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Flemish Minister for Economy, Foreign Policy, Agriculture and Rural Policy), and HE Jean-Claude Marcourt (Vice-President and Minister of Economy, SMEs, Foreign Trade and New Technologies of the Walloon Government and Minister of Higher Education of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation). It considers the mission as an opportunity to establish contacts with business and political actors of Belgium. The network of contacts will be built in a systematic way:

- A roundtable and a symposium will be organised

before and after the economic mission. The focus of these two events will be to reflect about an India strategy for Belgium, Flanders, and Wallonia towards closer and increased collaboration in science and innovation. The India Platform is inviting representatives from four different communities: research, higher education, federal and regional policy and funding institutions, and the business community.

- A Flemish and Belgian India Platform network will be established.
- The India Platform plans to build a user-friendly database and website making all information about and contact details of all stakeholders and partners of the India Platform accessible to all partner and stakeholder staff. It aims to create direct links between partners, avoiding bottleneck problems at the India Platform secretariats.

3. The Indian stakeholders

In India the focus will be on three objectives: (1) bringing the Indian stakeholders closer together (2) establishing a School of Social Sciences and Humanities in Karnataka, and (3) working towards the idea of the universal health care. One of the activities in the framework of (1) and (3) will be to organise a European tour to all the European stakeholders for Indian medical scientists and health care specialists.

4. The European stakeholders

In spring 2014 a meeting will be organised for the representatives of the European stakeholders. An evaluation of past activities and future strategies will take place.

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