



Collaborative **Action** towards **Societal Challenges** through **Awareness, Development, and** **Education (CASCADE)**

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Concept and rationale

- There is a need for further enhancing international cooperation activities focused on *'engaging with partners outside of Europe and in programmes and activities of high mutual interest'*
- The need for linkages with South Asian countries was highlighted given the region's rapidly growing research and innovation capacities and the urgency to address global challenges
- There are poor levels of focus on the South Asian region
- South Asia, which is home to more than 40% of the world's absolute poor, will contribute nearly 40% of the growth in the world's working-age population over the next several decades
- The region experiences critical societal challenges of Horizon 2020

Aim and objectives

- CASCADE aims to provide the foundation for a future international cooperation programme targeting South Asian Countries, which will promote bi-regional coordination of Science & Technology (S&T) cooperation, including priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies.
- The objectives of CASCADE, as a supporting action, are to:
 - compile a regional position paper that identifies global challenges and research priorities;
 - map and develop an inventory of national and regional stakeholders related to global challenges;
 - raise awareness on research & innovation priorities for fostering cooperation and towards building mutual understanding on how to address common global societal challenges.

Scope

- CASCADE targets & has the participation of all South Asian countries specified in the Call:
 - Afghanistan
 - Bangladesh
 - Bhutan
 - Maldives
 - Nepal
 - Pakistan
 - Sri Lanka



Note: India was not included in the call as it has now been categorised as an emerging economy

Work packages

- WP1 will, coordinate the delivery of project outputs, ensure achievement of anticipated outcomes, and develop and manage project infrastructure.
- WP2 will produce national (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and regional (Southern Asia) position papers providing a consensus on the key societal challenges in the region linked to Horizon 2020.
- These papers will be used as the basis for WP3: the identification and mapping of key national and regional stakeholders that can influence and address these societal challenges.
- WP4 will engage these key stakeholders, raise awareness of the potential for EU-Southern Asia cooperation, and stimulate their participation in Horizon 2020.
- WP5 will use the position papers from WP2 and stakeholder maps from WP3 to compile a policy brief with recommendations to the European Commission on how to promote bi-lateral cooperation with Southern Asia with a view to tackling key societal challenges of mutual interest. WP5 will also promote Southern Asian contacts among major European stakeholders.

Identifying global challenges

- Phase 1 consists of a policy analysis
 - During phase 1, a content analysis approach was carried out to examine available policies in the 07 South Asian (SA) countries in each area of societal challenges
- Phase 2 of the study is carried out using semi-structured interviews and focus groups
 - During the 2nd Phase of the project, thus far, well over 200 semi-structured interviews have been conducted in all 07 countries, with experts in each area of social challenges

Launch of H2020 in South Asia



- In January 2014, the European Union in collaboration with the University of Salford, UK, and University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, organised the launch of the 'Horizon 2020' programme for the South Asian Region
- The event was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- David Daly, EU Ambassador in Colombo, spoke at the event

Benefits

- Increased recognition and reputation as international players
- Increased levels of exposure and visibility on the international stage
- Stimulated a clash of views, a cross-fertilisation of ideas that has inspired numerous other research initiatives that as individuals, working on their own, would not have grasped in such a timely manner

Challenges

- Differing national requirements
- Variation in data collection processes
- Data transmission among participants
- The problem of different research traditions
- The search for common terms across countries and cultures
- Different levels of experience with methods of analysis

Forward view...

- National position papers
- Regional position paper
- Horizon 2020 training
- Stakeholder maps
- A policy brief with recommendations to the European Commission on how to promote bi-lateral cooperation with Southern Asia