



## Call for Indo-French Joint Projects in Support of Decentralised Cooperation

2011

**Considering** the First Indo-French Seminars on Decentralised Cooperation, held from 15 to 17 January 2010 in New Delhi, India, the goal of which was to assess the prospects of possible cooperation between local self-governing bodies of the two countries and in which more than 30 French and as many Indian local self-governing bodies had participated,

**Considering** that this forum had enabled the participants to acquire mutual knowledge of the territorial organisation of the two countries, one federal and the other unitary, and that it had facilitated the identification of common sets of problems in different contexts in a globalised world,

**Considering** the shared will of the governments of India and France to encourage the development of cooperation between French local self-governing bodies on the one hand, and the Indian states and urban local bodies on the other,

To attain the abovementioned goals, the Ministry of External and European Affairs (MEEA) has decided in collaboration with the Indian authorities to **float a call for decentralised cooperation projects between France and India**, open to all French and Indian local self-governing bodies **from 18 April to 15 September 2011**.

The MEEA will thus provide financial assistance to Indo-French decentralised cooperation projects. The grant of aid to projects will depend on the commitment of the partner Indian self-governing body to financing the projects.

French self-governing bodies are requested to contact the Departments of the Embassy of France in India, which will be their privileged interlocutors for information on the local context of their cooperation.

### **1. Eligibility criteria**

The projects must be presented by at least one French self-governing body associated with at least one Indian self-governing body. Projects may also be presented by groups or associations of self-governing bodies.

The projects must be jointly drafted, in French as well as English, by the French and Indian self-governing bodies (support letters and letters of intent from the competent authorities of the self-governing bodies of the two countries must be attached).

The priority cooperation themes for this call for projects are:

- Urban development (urban planning, operational urbanism, urban governance, neighbourhood public services, mobility, water supply, sanitation, waste management);
- Transport;
- Sustainable development;
- Economic development;
- Heritage;
- Culture;
- Tourism and eco-tourism;
- Education and training;
- Higher education;
- Public Health;
- Institutional support and capacity building.

These could either be bilateral cooperation projects or seminar projects for resource pooling and capitalising for specific themes.

## **2. Contribution of self-governing bodies**

From the French side, the contribution of the MEEA for each project shall not exceed that of the French self-governing body/bodies.

Applications from a single local self-governing body shall be eligible for MEEA grants up to a maximum of 25% of the total project cost. This ceiling could be raised to 35% in case of projects jointly carried out by several French local authorities or for new projects initiated in 2011.

Contributions in kind (free expertise, usage of internal resources) of the French local authorities will be taken into account for determining the total contribution of the MEEA up to 20% of their total contribution, both financial and in kind. The Indian side, for its part, shall provide financing at least equal to that of the French one.

The MEEA's contribution shall depend on the Indian side's undertaking on financing.

## **3. Duration of projects**

Co-financing will be provided for projects spread over one year. The final project report shall be submitted at the end of 2011.

## **4. Evaluation of the project**

Assessment mechanisms shall be specified for each project. Conditions for the financial and technical sustainability of the project shall be identified.

## **5. Communication**

Communication actions shall be undertaken for each project in association with the MEEA. They shall reach out to both the inhabitants of the French local authority in association with the Delegation for External Actions of the Local Authorities, and the Indian local self-governing body(ies), in association with the French Embassy in India. All communication materials shall mention the support of MEEA. Final project reports shall include justification of the same.

## **6. Procedure**

The application file shall include:

- The project presentation form;
- The project expenses form;
- The project resources form;
- The project schedule;
- Letters of support or intent from the French local authority(ies);
- Letters of support or intent from the Indian local self-governing body(ies);

All forms can be downloaded from 18 April 2011 on the following websites:

- website of the Delegation for Foreign Action by Self-governing Bodies of the MEEA ([www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/cncd](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/cncd));
- website of the Service for Cooperation and Cultural Action of the Embassy of France in India ([www.ambafrance-in.org](http://www.ambafrance-in.org));
- website of the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, [www.urbanindia.nic.in](http://www.urbanindia.nic.in).

Self-governing bodies must duly fill and send these forms, along with letters of support and intent. Whenever possible, the application files shall be sent in a single message.

Project applications shall be made exclusively in digital format and sent via e-mail to the following address: [aapindia2011@gmail.com](mailto:aapindia2011@gmail.com), in both French and English versions.

## **7. Project selection**

The projects will be scrutinised in France and India and the final selection will be made through videoconferencing.

The selection committee will be composed of:

- **in France**, representatives of the Embassy of India in Paris and the Delegation for Foreign Action by Self-governing Bodies of the MEEA;
- **in India**, representatives of the Embassy of France in New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Culture.

Additionally, for the French side of the committee will seek the advice of the regional prefectures and the services of the Directorate General of Globalisation, MEEA, as well as that of the Asia Geographic Division and the relevant line ministries.

The results of the selection will be sent by post to each self-governing body having submitted a project, **latest by 15 November 2011**.