

# India-EU Cooperation in Higher Education in the Context of SDGs

Day Zero

SDG Bergen Conference

Priya Vijaykumar Poojary

Manipal Centre for European Studies, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), India


Wednesday 7 February 2024

11.00 CET/15.30 IST



# Flow of Presentation

---

- › India-EU Cooperation in SDGs
  - › Higher Education Cooperation (HEC) and India-EU Relations
  - › Theoretical Perspectives
  - › HEC: European Context
  - › HEC: Indian Context
  - › Challenges to HEC
  - › Conclusion
  - › References
- 

# India-EU Cooperation in SDG

---

- › India-EU relations occupy common ground as supporters of a democratic rules-based and multilateral order
- › Development cooperation has been a priority in their relations
- › 14<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit 2017 - strong political mandate to cement implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- › New shift from the traditional donor-recipient relations transforming their partnership based on equality and mutual interests
- › Important shift given the current geopolitical context
- › India has associated the SDGs closely with its domestic development motto of *Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas* (collective effort, inclusive development)
- › In 2018, the EU funded a total of more than EUR 150 million of projects in India

# Higher Education Cooperation (HEC) and India-EU Relations

---

- › India-EU development partnership – role of science, technology, research and higher education
- › Role of HEC in India-EU relation has been undermined traditionally
- › HEC between India and Europe has become a prominent part of the partnership agenda
- › High mobility of researchers, scholars, innovators and students between India and Europe
- › Asymmetry in mobility between India-EU
- › Active participation by Indian researchers and HEIs in EU funded schemes
- › Analysis of India-EU summit documents
- › Low priority given to HE cooperation – always on the last of the agenda

# Higher Education Cooperation (HEC) and India-EU Relations

---

Year	Initiatives undertaken
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Joint research and technological development in science and issues of poverty</li><li>• Academic contacts in culture and education</li><li>• Cooperation in elementary education</li><li>• Setting up of institute of Environment Technology in India</li></ul>
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation</li><li>• Recognition of India as a Centre of Excellence in IT</li></ul>
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participation of Indian scholars in RTD projects under the Framework Programme</li><li>• Visits and exchange of technical experts</li><li>• Joint organizations of seminars and symposia with active participation from both entities</li></ul>
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cooperation between universities and civil societies</li><li>• Cooperation in developing the GALILEO programme and India's equitable participation</li></ul>

# Higher Education Cooperation (HEC) and India-EU Relations

---

Year	Initiatives undertaken
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cooperation in Science and Technology, space, energy, IT</li><li>• Facilitation of academic exchanges and civil society dialogue</li></ul>
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• India Window of the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship</li><li>• Joint workshops on research fields of mutual interest among EU's thematic research priorities</li><li>• Installation of Chairs and Centres of Modern Indian Studies in EU and of EU studies in Indian universities</li></ul>
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• India's membership in the ITER project</li><li>• First EU-India Higher Education Fair</li></ul>
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Signing of India EU Joint Declarations on Multilingualism and Education</li></ul>
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Joint Declaration on Research and Innovation Cooperation</li><li>• Recognition of important windows of opportunity to expand EU-India S&amp;T cooperation</li></ul>


# Higher Education Cooperation (HEC) and India-EU Relations

---

Year	Initiatives undertaken
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Joint flagship initiative of 30 Million EUR on water related challenges</li><li>• EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation ‘Horizon 2020’ and Indian programmes for a two way mobility of researchers</li><li>• Participation in India’s GIAN programme and EU’s Erasmus programme</li></ul>
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smart and sustainable urbanisation, IT, transport, space and health security</li><li>• Research and innovation to further progress in the above sectors</li><li>• Widen the scale of ‘Horizon Europe’ (2021-2027)</li><li>• Cooperation in Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) under Horizon Europe</li><li>• EU’s participation in India’s Visiting Advanced Joint Research</li><li>• Study tours to EU and Indian institutions</li></ul>

# Theoretical Perspectives

---

- › HE and foreign policy discourses – recent phenomena (toolbox of association agreements, strategic partnerships or other institutionalized forms of international relations)
  - › HE and soft power
  - › HE and Knowledge Diplomacy
  - › HE and Science Diplomacy
  - › HE and epistemic communities
  - › HEIs as non-state actors
- 



# HEC: European Context

---

- › Combination of cultural diplomacy and a developmental agenda with the aim to *assist* India in modernizing
- › Academic cooperation under the section of ‘economic partnership’
- › Modernisation partnership’, education and research were highlighted as crucial factors in ‘unlocking India’s economic and demographic potential
- › 2018 EU strategy towards India exemplified a gradual shift in the rationale – Excellence and competitiveness of EU’s knowledge economy

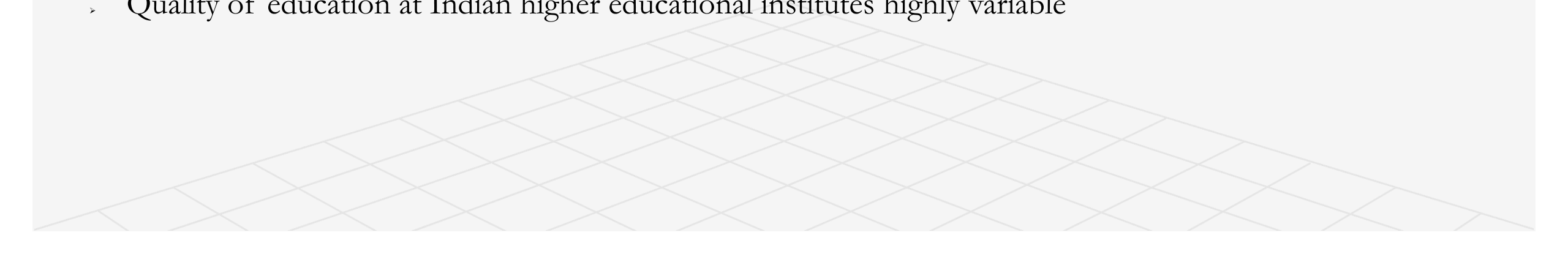
# HEC: Indian Context

---

- › Opportunities for HEC - National Education Policy (NEP) 2020
- › Ambition for India - *an education system by 2040 that is second to none*
- › Emphasis on further internationalisation of India's education system
- › Attract foreign students, researchers, and scholars – balance outbound with inbound mobility
- › Opening up of foreign universities in the country – competitive edge
- › Possibilities of research fundings for internationally collaborative research under NEP 2020
- › Research activities – prioritization of SDGs
- › NEP highlights importance of SDGs by HEIs – align with GoI initiatives and policies

# Challenges to cooperation

---

- › India-EU relations have been subjected and guided by some degree of misperceptions – the nature of the actors
  - › India's continued preference for cooperation at member state level vis-à-vis the EU level
  - › Complex nature of functioning on both sides
  - › Lack of reciprocity from Indian side – asymmetric cooperation
  - › Lack of knowledge of India's higher education landscape
  - › Quality of education at Indian higher educational institutes highly variable
- 

# Conclusion

---

- › India-EU as natural partners effectively cooperate in diverse fields
  - › Prioritisation of SDGs by both sides – political will
  - › Geopolitical considerations for such cooperation – critical role of China
  - › India-EU cooperation in SDGs also realise the importance of global partnership in achieving the stated targets
  - › Global partnerships also effective in extending the same to other regions – Indo-Pacific and Africa
  - › While also advance and strengthen India-EU relations
  - › NEP 2020 provides ample opportunities for India-EU cooperation in the future
- 

# References

---

1. Amirbek, Aidarbek, and Kanat Ydyrys. “Education and Soft Power: Analysis as an Instrument of Foreign Policy.” *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences* 143 (August 2014): 514–16. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2014.07.428>.
2. Chanda, Rupa, and Deeparghya Mukherjee. “Investment and Skilled Mobility Linkages Between India and the EU.” In *Indian Skilled Migration and Development: To Europe and Back*, edited by Gabriela Tejada, Uttam Bhattacharya, Binod Khadria, and Christiane Kuptsch, 47–70. Dynamics of Asian Development. New Delhi: Springer India, 2014. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-81-322-1810-4>.
3. Choudaha, Rahul, and Kata Orosz. “Emerging Models of Indian-European Higher Education Collaborations.” *World Education News and Reviews*, 2011.
4. Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee. “An EU-India Strategic Partnership,” June 2004.
5. European Commission. “Country Fact Sheet India - H2020 - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions,” February 7, 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/sites/mariecurie2/files/msca-country-profile-india-2019\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/sites/mariecurie2/files/msca-country-profile-india-2019_en.pdf).
6. European Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. “Elements for an EU Strategy on India,” November 20, 2018.
7. European External Action Service. “EU-India Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025,” July 15, 2020. [https://eeas.europa.eu/file/eu-india-strategic-partnership-roadmap-2025pdf\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/file/eu-india-strategic-partnership-roadmap-2025pdf_en).
8. EY/FICCI. “Higher Education in India: Moving towards Global Relevance and Competitiveness.” EY/FICCI, 2014.

# References

---

1. Haas, Peter M. “Introduction: Epistemic Communities and International Policy Coordination.” *International Organization* 46, no. 1 (1992): 1–35.
2. Inamdar & Hegde. (2021). *Knowledge Diplomacy in Action: Delineating Educational Connect in India-EU Engagements. Contours of India-EU Engagements: Multiplicity of Experiences*. Manipal: Manipal Universal Press (MUP)
3. Jain, Rajendra K., and Gulshan Sachdeva. “India-EU Strategic Partnership: A New Roadmap.” *Asia Europe Journal* 17, no. 3 (2019): 309–25. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10308-019-00556-0>.
4. Jones, William J. “European Union Soft Power: Cultural Diplomacy & Higher Education in Southeast Asia.” *Silpakorn University International Journal* 9, no. 10 (2010): 41–70
5. Kim, J., & Yoo, J. (2019). Science and Technology Policy Research in the EU: From Framework Programme to HORIZON 2020. *Social Sciences*, 8(153).
6. Knight, J. (2019b). The Role of Higher Education in International Relations: Knowledge Diplomacy vs Soft Power. *Eric Molobi Memorial Lecture*.
7. “New Education Policy Lays Foundation Of New India Of 21st Century: PM Modi.” *Outlook India*, August 7, 2020. <https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/india-news-new-education-policy-lays-foundation-of-new-india-of-21st-century-pm-modi/358153>.
8. Nye, Joseph. “Soft Power and Higher Education,” 2005, 4.
9. Peterson, P. M. (2014). Diplomacy and Education: A Changing Global Landscape. *International Higher Education*, 75, 2–3.
10. Sachdeva, Gulshan. “India and the European Union: Broadening Strategic Partnership Beyond Economic Linkages.” *International Studies* 45, no. 4 (October 2008): 341–67. <https://doi.org/10.1177/002088170904500403>.
11. Sebastian Paulo, *India-EU Cooperation in the SDG era: Unlocking the Potential of a Development Partnership in Transition*, New Delhi, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), 27 February 2019, <https://www.orfonline.org/?p=48604>.