



## Promoting EU and South Asian bi-regional coordination of Science & Technology cooperation

**The CASCADE (Collaborative Action towards Societal Challenges through Awareness, Development, and Education) project aims to provide the foundation for a future International Cooperation Network programme targeting South Asian Countries, which will promote bi-regional coordination of Science & Technology cooperation.**

The EU, whilst representing only 7% of the world's population, is responsible for 24% of world expenditure on research, 32% of high impact publications and 32% of patent applications, making it a world leader in research and innovation. However, over the past few decades, new key players have emerged within the international landscape shifting the previously dominant position held by the EU towards emerging economies.

The EU recognise a need to strengthen internationalisation through strategic policy action. The need for linkages with Asian countries has been highlighted given the region's rapidly growing research and innovation capacities and the urgency to address global challenges. South Asia in particular is home to more than 40% of the world's absolute poor, but will contribute nearly 40% of the growth in the world's working-age population in the coming decades.

CASCADE is an opportunity for raising awareness of the potential for EU-Southern Asia cooperation and stimulating regional and international participation. With the active contribution of South Asian countries, the endeavour will be to pave the way for more advanced, inclusive and innovative societies.

The project coincides with the launch of Horizon 2020, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. Running from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of just over €70 billion, the EU's new programme for research and innovation is part of the drive to tackle global societal challenges, and create new growth and jobs. International cooperation in research and innovation is an essential element for meeting the objectives of Europe 2020. Recognising the global nature of producing and using knowledge, Horizon 2020 builds on the success of international cooperation in previous framework programmes and is fully open to participation from third countries.

The 18 month CASCADE project is led by the University of Salford from the UK but targets and has the participation of all seven South Asian countries specified in the call: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

During the project, the team will:

1. compile a regional position paper that identifies global challenges and research priorities
2. map and develop an inventory of national and regional stakeholders related to global challenges
3. raise awareness on research & innovation priorities for fostering cooperation and towards building mutual understanding on how to address common global societal challenges

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### CASCADE Partnership

#### Europe

University of Salford, United Kingdom  
University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom  
Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia  
Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania  
Bologna University, Italy  
Foundation for Strategic Research, France

#### South Asia

Nangarhar Islamic University Jalalabad, Afghanistan  
Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh  
Royal Institute of Management, Bhutan  
Institute of Engineering, Nepal  
Volunteers for Development, Nepal  
University of Engineering & Technology, Peshawar, Pakistan

Local Councils Association of the Punjab, Pakistan  
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka  
Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities, Sri Lanka  
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center  
ECO CARE, Maldives

### Principal Investigator

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# HORIZON 2020

## What is Horizon 2020?

**Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.**

Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness.

By coupling research and innovation, Horizon 2020 is helping to achieve this with its emphasis on excellent science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges. The goal is to ensure Europe produces world-class science, removes barriers to innovation and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation. Horizon 2020 aims to:

- Strengthen the EU's position in science with a dedicated budget of € 24.5 billion. This will provide a boost to top-level research in Europe, including an increase in funding of 77% for the very successful European Research Council.
- Strengthen industrial leadership in innovation with a budget of € 18 billion. This includes major investment in key technologies, greater access to capital and support for SMEs.
- Provide € 31.5 billion to help address major societal concerns shared by all Europeans; such as climate change, developing sustainable transport and mobility, making renewable energy more affordable, ensuring food safety and security, or coping with the challenge of an ageing population.

Horizon 2020 is open to everyone, with a simple structure that reduces red tape and time so participants can focus on what is really important. This approach makes sure new projects get off the ground quickly – and achieve results faster.

## How will international cooperation will be promoted under Horizon 2020?

Recognising the global nature of producing and using knowledge, Horizon 2020 builds on the success of international cooperation in previous framework programmes and is fully open to participation from third countries. The funding will be more focused, allowing participants who bring exceptional cooperation skills and resources, and those from less wealthy countries, to benefit.

The CASCADE project is attempting to raise awareness and understanding of those areas of research and innovation that will benefit from mutual cooperation between Europe and South Asia.

## Where can I find further information about Horizon 2020

The European Commission website contains detailed information about the programme, related news and how to get funding: <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020>.

The CASCADE project website will include news on the latest calls relevant to EU-South Asia bi-regional coordination of science and technology cooperation: [www.cascade-inconet.eu](http://www.cascade-inconet.eu).



European Union