



Supporting European Union and Southeast Asia ICT strategic partnership
and policy dialogue: Connecting ICT EU-SEA Research, Development and
Innovation Knowledge Networks

CONNECT2SEA SEED FUND

**to initiate and to broaden ICT R&D collaborations between
EU and South East Asia**



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement No 611014

CONNECT2SEA seed fund to initiate and to broaden ICT R&D collaborations between EU and South East Asia

Introduction:

The 30-months CONNECT2SEA project www.connect2sea.eu, supported by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration, has been started in December 2013, with the aim to promote synergies between ICT-related research, development and innovation actors, activities and programmes in EU and in South East Asia (SEA), and thus to pave the way for jointly addressing important societal and technological challenges.

The three main objectives of CONNECT2SEA are:

- to support internationalisation of EU and SEA ICT-related research, development and innovation knowledge networks, technology platforms, clusters, and organisations in the topics of common interest
- to promote the funding opportunities within Horizon 2020 and to identify synergy potentials between EU and ASEAN research, development and innovation programmes
- to enrich and support the EU-SEA ICT R&D policy dialogue by supporting political initiatives, summarising feedback from collaborative experience and formulating recommendations to reinforce EU-SEA ICT RDI collaboration.

In pursuit of these goals, CONNECT2SEA launches a call for **bottom up initiatives** from EU and South East Asia Research, Development and Innovation knowledge networks, clusters and R&D teams. ICT specialists from EU and SEA organisations shall be supported in advancing in the internationalisation process with their counterparts working on similar strategic topics and societal challenges.

CONNECT2SEA fund overview:

CONNECT2SEA will provide small grants to reimburse cost for travel, workshops etc (excluding salaries, fees and overheads), to the selected ICT R&D teams from **Europe and South East Asia** intending to initiate and/or to broaden ICT R&D collaboration. Up to 20 projects will be funded. Two types of grants are provided:

- 1) Individual Travel Grant, of up to 2 000 € per application: up to one week travel (SEA specialist travelling to EU or EU specialist travelling to SEA)
- 2) Event or Cooperation Grant, of up to 10 000 € per application, with an average expected grant of 5 000 € - 7 000 € per application



Activities to be funded (examples):

1) Individual Travel Grant (funding of travel costs):

- Travel cost for participation in EU-based brokerage events related to H2020 and promoting ICT competences of a SEA R&D team;
- Travel cost for a SEA partner for a H2020 proposal preparation visit to EU (with an identified topic from the H2020 work programme 2014-2015)
- Travel cost related to a stay in Europe at a partner institution or travel cost related to a stay in South East Asia at a partner institution, with the aim to achieve a specific goal

2) Event or Cooperation Grant (funding of logistics costs, travel costs of invited speakers...):

- Joint workshops or symposia
- Small delegation visits in order to meet several EU or SEA-based ICT organisations around a specific ICT topic
- Sessions or mini-symposia at scientific conferences, jointly proposed by EU and SEA partners
- Any joint activity in order to come up with specific post development plans and an agreement for future EU-SEA ICT collaboration of researchers/organisations.

The following expenditure can **NOT be eligible**: VAT, salaries and/or fees; overheads, equipment and software. All the costs must be incurred in the EU and in South East Asia countries. The FP7 financial guidelines will be applied for all reimbursements.

All activities must be completed until July 2015.

Targeted ICT topics of the activities:

- Any ICT topic¹ identified in Horizon2020², the European Union's Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration, of mutual interest for EU and SEA.
- Topics related to the societal challenges where ICT plays an important role, of mutual interest for EU and SEA :
 - Health, demographic change and wellbeing
 - Secure, clean and efficient energy
 - Smart, green and integrated transport
 - Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials
 - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies (e-learning, e-government...)
 - Digital security

¹

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/sites/horizon2020/files/ICT%20in%20H2020%20WP2014-15_0.pdf

² <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/information-communication-technologies-horizon-2020>



Call Timing (earliest start date):

- Call launch date: March 31st , 2014
- Deadline for submission of applications: May 31st, 2014 - 23h59 Brussels time
- Evaluation results: communicated in July 2014

Eligible participants:

ICT R&D organisations (public and private), networks, clusters, from EU and Horizon 2020 associated countries and from South East Asia countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam). The applicants must be eligible for participation in the H2020 funding programmes.

Organisations registered in Singapore and in Brunei Darussalam (high income countries) are eligible only for travel cost reimbursement in both types of the grants.

Applications must be submitted **jointly by at least two applicants**: at least one EU-based or Horizon2020 associated partner, and at least one SEA-based partner. Involvement of additional applicants, in particular of organisations located in other South East Asia countries, is an advantage. Involvement of industry (SMEs and large companies) is strongly encouraged.

Eligibility criteria:

1. Application submitted by at least one EU-based applicant and at least one SEA-based applicant
2. Applicants are eligible for H2020 funding
3. Timing of the proposed activity is within the time frame and all activities are completed until July 2015.

Selection criteria:

1. EXCELLENCE (weight 1/3)

Scientific or innovation excellence of at least one applicant:

For academic groups: International visibility, record of successful applications for research funding, critical mass of the R&D team.

For non-academic partners: Record of technical innovation.

Evidence of excellence must be provided in the application.

2. RELEVANCE (weight 1/3)

Relevance of the thematic topic of the action:

The topic matches the ICT priorities and societal challenges indicated in Horizon 2020 (listed in the application form).



3. IMPACT (weight 1/3)

Outreach to both EU and SEA ICT research community

Level of visibility /outreach of the proposed activity

Potential of the proposed activity to stimulate EU-SEA ICT collaboration

Advantages:

- More than one participant from SEA, preferably 3 SEA country involved (event/cooperation grant)
- Involvement of industry (SMEs or large companies)
- Experience in EU-SEA collaboration, or international collaboration in general
- Own funding from the participating organisations to the proposed activity

Selection committee:

The application will be evaluated by at least three ICT specialists from EU and SEA organisations who are members of the CONNECT2SEA project consortium. All evaluators shall declare the absence of a conflict of interest.

How to apply?

Fill in the application form, in English, and send it by email, in PDF format, before **May 31st 2014 - 23h59 Brussels time** to applications@connect2sea.eu. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

Hotline to support the applicants

Questions can be addressed to inno TSD, France, the coordinator of CONNECT2SEA:

Contact person: Mrs. Asmaa Messaoudi, email a.messaoudi@inno-group.com , phone +33 4 92 38 84 21 .

Information about the results of the call

Successful short-listed applicants will be approached by the CONNECT2SEA team by email in June 2014 to be informed about the results, the budget and timing. Final results will be announced on the CONNECT2SEA website in July 2014 (indicative timing): www.connect2sea.eu

What will happen after the selection of successful applicants?

The selected applicants will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the CONNECT2SEA project coordinator inno TSD, France. It will define the activities that are funded, the maximum costs that can be reimbursed, and the reimbursement process.



The beneficiaries must provide:

- A short announcement of the activity start for the CONNECT2SEA web page
- A short report on the activity and its outcomes (2-3 pages, template will be provided), including:
 - Short description of the event/activity, including the basic parameters (title, date, place, (co)organisers, type of event, approx number of participants)
 - Short summary of the main outcomes
 - Title and content of proposals that emerged from the activity or of future planned activities
 - One or several photographs
- Feedback for EU and SEA stakeholders, policy makers after the implemented activity (if relevant)

Application forms:

Both Individual Travel Grant form and Event/cooperation Grant form can be found here:

<http://www.connect2sea.eu/news-and-events/news/details/call.html>

Useful links:

Project site of CONNECT2SEA: www.connect2sea.eu

A guide to ICT-related activities in H2020:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/sites/horizon2020/files/ICT%20in%20H2020%20WP2014-15_0.pdf

