

> Asia IT&C <

The European Commission (EC) launched the Asia IT&C Programme in 1999 in order to co-finance mutually beneficial Partnerships in Information Technology and Communications between Europe and Asia. Asia IT&C has been granted a budget of EUR 30 million to run the Programme, including the additional budget of EUR 5 million that has recently been approved by the European Commission for the participation of China.

The Programme:

- Promotes IT&C cooperation between European and Asian non-profit organisations, to the benefit in particular – but not exclusively – of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs);
- Links Asia with Europe in the search for compatible solutions and standards;
- Realises a long-lasting relationship between Europe and Asia, in which Partnerships and joint innovations of mutual relevance may flourish.

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A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>)

> Participating Countries / Territories <

Organisations eligible to participate in the Asia IT&C Programme are from:

- Any of the EU Member States; and
- Any of the 18 participating countries/territories in South and South-East Asia.



EU MEMBER STATES

Austria
Belgium
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Ireland
Italy
Luxembourg
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
The Netherlands
United Kingdom

ASIAN COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Brunei
Cambodia
China
East Timor
India
Indonesia
Laos
Malaysia
Maldives
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Vietnam





> *Who can participate?* <

An Applicant with a minimum of two Partners may submit a Proposal.

- If the Applicant is from an Asian country/territory, then it must have at least two Partners from different EU Member States.
- If the Applicant is from an EU Member State, then it must have at least one Partner from an Asian country/territory and one Partner from a different EU Member State.
- In both situations, if the Applicant has more than two Partners, these Partners can come from any of the EU Member States or from any of the 18 participating Asian countries/territories.

Although the successful Applicant is the sole organisation to sign the grant contract with the European Commission, all Partners in the Project will be equally committed to the Project and its conditions.

> *Eligible Organisations* <

Eligible Applicants and Partners are non profit-making organisations involved in one of the Areas of Activity shown on page 7:

- National and Regional Organisations
- Research Institutes
- Universities
- Professional Associations
- Chambers of Commerce
- NGOs
- SMEs (if profit-making, SMEs can be eligible if seen as 'Service Providers' to the Partnerships)

> Areas of Activity <



society



e-commerce



education



transport



health



agriculture



tourism



i-manufacturing





Although each individual Project Application can address only one Programme Component, the Application may address up to a **maximum of three Areas of Activity**.

In achieving its objectives, Asia IT&C co-finances projects operating in the eight Areas of Activity stated below:

- society
- e-commerce
- education
- transport
- health
- agriculture
- tourism
- i-manufacturing

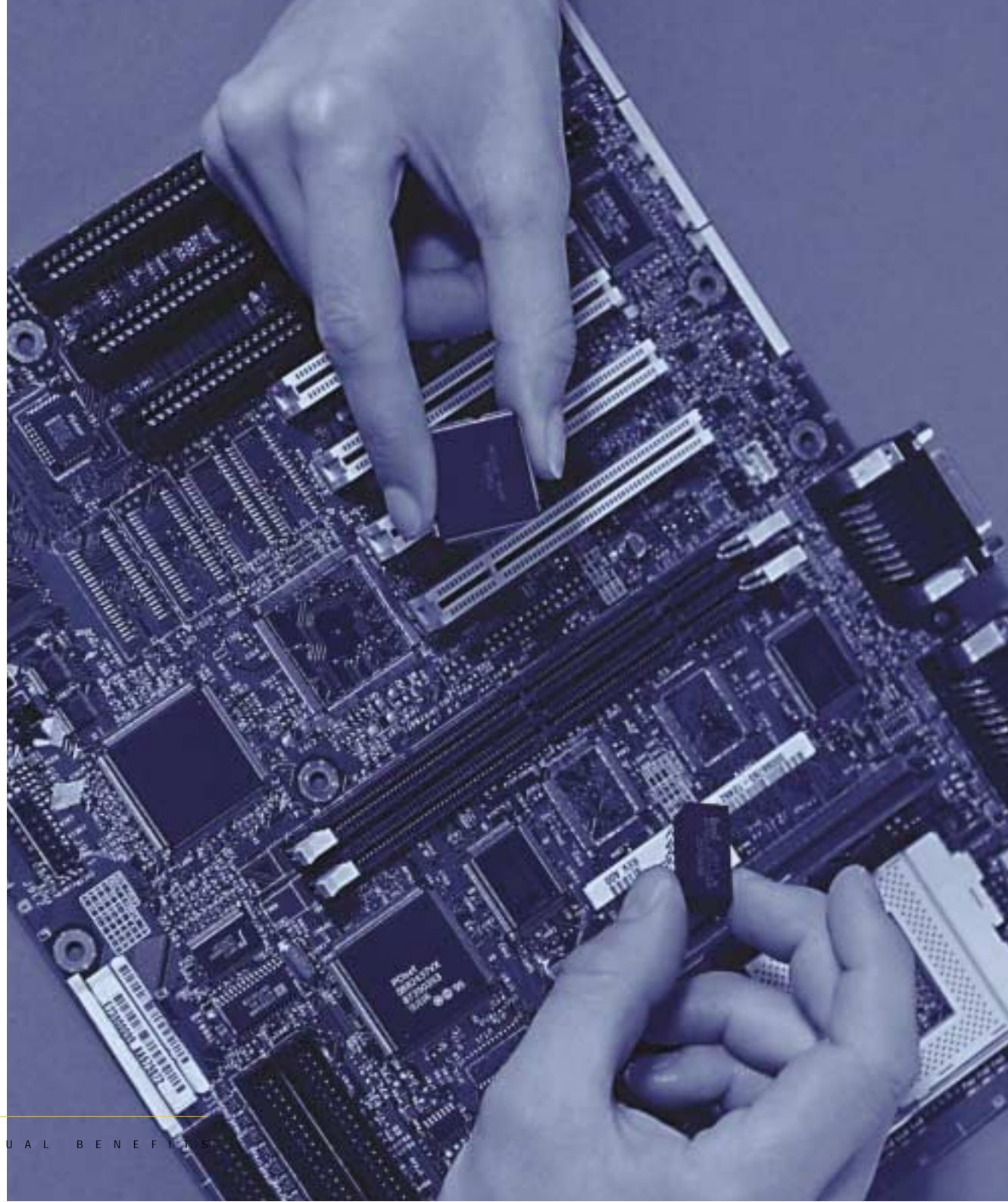
These Areas of Activity are particularly relevant to Asia and are important to the growth of its economies. The contribution made by the application of IT&C in these specific areas contributes to the integration of participating countries and territories into the Global Information Society.

Detailed information on potential opportunities for co-financing within each Area of Activity is available on the Asia IT&C web site: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-itc>

> Programme Components <

Asia IT&C supports Projects in these eight Areas of Activity under six Programme Components, which have been designed to give a focus to the type of Project being submitted. These Programme Components are explained in detail on page 9 and on the Programme's web site: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-itc>

There is no **minimum** implementation period for the Projects, but the **maximum** implementation period is 36 months.



Programme Component	Types of Projects	Co-financing maximum	Grant bracket per project
Get-in-Touch & Keep-in-Touch Activities	Links organisations in the form of task forces, workshops, seminars and conferences, to search for compatible IT&C solutions.	50%	€ 100 000 € 200 000
Short Courses (University Level)	Courses and workshops to explore, transfer know-how and/or search for solutions around key IT&C issues.	50%	€ 100 000 € 200 000
Information Society Interconnectivity	Projects to improve and intensify electronic traffic and which aim to improve the quality, reliability and security of connections between Europe and Asia.	50%	€ 200 000 € 400 000
Liaise with European IT&C initiatives and programmes	Transfer know-how and improve contacts with other European IT&C initiatives (e.g. the RTD Framework Programme), through task forces, workshops and events.	80%	€ 200 000 € 400 000
Understanding European & Asian regulatory and legislative organisation structures	Studies, task forces, workshops, seminars and conferences to improve mutual understanding of IT&C regulatory and legislative structures, as well as to illustrate the benefits of IT&C.	75%	€ 100 000 € 200 000
Practical Demonstration Projects	Demonstration of European IT&C capabilities to collect observations and recommendations on improvements, assess the compatibility of IT&C solutions and increase knowledge about the adaptations required.	25%	€ 200 000 € 400 000

Further details of the Programme Components are contained in the Guidelines for Applicants on our web site: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-itc>

> *Application Procedure* <

Call for Proposals are published annually in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

Application Guidelines and Application Forms are available with the Call for Proposals on the Asia IT&C web site:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-itc>



The following chart outlines the procedure involved in submitting an Application under the Asia IT&C Programme.



> Search for Partners <

There are several ways that you can search for potential Partners for your Project Proposal under the Asia IT&C Programme.

If you have no access to the Internet, the EuropeAid Services would welcome your enquiries about the Programme and Partnership Opportunities.

Alternatively, the Contact Focal Points (CFPs) will provide information about the Programme.

CONTACT FOCAL POINTS

In conjunction with the EuropeAid Services, CFPs assist local organisations in finding Project Partners from other participant countries/territories. A list of CFPs is available at: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-itc> or contact the EuropeAid Services for more information.





If you have access to the Internet, there are two possibilities available to you to facilitate your search for Partners:

A. ASIA IT&C CONTACT DATABASE (GANESH)

1. Register on the Asia IT&C web site: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-itc>
2. You are given a password to access Ganesh via the Asia IT&C web site
3. You will start to receive the Asia IT&C monthly newsletter
4. Search through Ganesh for organisations that best correspond to your selection criteria for potential Partners
5. Retrieve the details of the registered organisations that you selected and contact your potential Partners

Even organisations that do not intend to submit an immediate Application are encouraged to register, as other organisations may contact them to join their Partnership.

B. PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

On the web site (<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-itc>), you will also find a list of Proposals, which are under preparation for the Asia IT&C Programme.

Check on the web site, under <Partnership Opportunities>, to see if there is a Project that suits you and then contact the EuropeAid Services for further information.

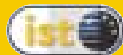
> The EuropeAid Secretariat <

The Asia IT&C Programme is administered by the EuropeAid offices in Brussels, Belgium and a secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand.

The main role of the Secretariat is to advise and assist Partnerships with their Project Applications. They provide the following services:

- **The Asia IT&C web site** provides all the information needed to complete an Application. It also acts as a forum for Internet discussion groups on IT&C and keeps visitors up-to-date on forthcoming events in the EU and Asia.
- **The Asia IT&C newsletter** is a free monthly publication, focusing primarily on IT&C developments in the eight Areas of Activity, both in the EU Member States and also in the 18 participating Asian countries/territories. The newsletter is sent to all organisations registered on Ganesh, and is also accessible on the web site.
- **Annual events in Asia and Europe** are organised by the Secretariat to present IT&C issues relevant to the eight Areas of Activity and to boost the overall awareness of IT&C developments in Asia and in Europe.

> Complementary programmes <



<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-invest>
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-urbs>
www.cordis.lu/ist/

The Asia IT&C Programme is well placed to position itself in a bridge-building role between the existing schemes for cooperation with Asia, and the activities under the EC's Research and Technology Development (RTD) Framework Programme.

Asia IT&C collaborates closely with the IST Programme in order to further the growth of EU-Asia IT&C cooperation activities.

The Asian Secretariat is hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand, represented by the National Electronic and Computer Technology Centre (NECTEC), one of the three centres of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), and placed under the authority of the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment (MOSTE).