



THE INPACE PROJECT

Indo-Pacific-European Hub for Digital Partnerships:
Digital Technologies for Sustainable Well-being

Digital technologies are a major driver of the progress towards sustainable, open, fair, and prosperous societies. Technological advances continue to be made at a fast pace in communications and networks, electronic systems and chips, artificial intelligence and big data technologies, high performance computing, cloud and edge computing, decision support and many more. While these technologies have a huge potential to foster economic growth, sustainability and the quality of life of the citizens, their usage and implementation also pose challenges: acceptance of and trust in technologies, data and internet security, barriers to access, governance, power consumption, etc. After the setback by the Covid pandemic, international cooperation should now be intensified again to speed up technological developments and their socially and environmentally beneficial uptake.

The European Union is strongly interested to strengthen its connection to Indo-Pacific region to jointly realize benefits in research and innovation, deployment and commercialization of technologies, harmonization of regulations and standards and in stabilizing supply chains. In this context, the promotion of digital technologies has become one of the highest priorities. The EU has therefore established Digital Partnerships (DPs) with Japan (2022), the Republic of Korea (2022) and Singapore (2023). The European Union and India have strengthened their strategic partnership by setting up a Trade and Technology Council (TTC) in 2022 that includes digital technologies and their application as a key area.

These digital partnerships and the TTC aim at further deepening ties in research and innovation and regulatory cooperation and at expanding bilateral trade and investments, with the goal that society and businesses in both regions benefit from opportunities in the growing global digital economy. These partnerships also underline the interest of the Indo-Pacific partners to increase their cooperation with the EU against the background of increasing tensions and sharpening competition worldwide.

Trusted digital technologies for sustainable well-being are in the center of the priorities of Europe and of the four partner countries as defined in the strategic documents of the Digital Partnerships with Japan, the Republic of Korea and Singapore and of the TTC with India. Effective implementation of these partnerships through practical achievements and their effective communication are of prime importance for the four partner countries in the Indo-Pacific and the European Union.

The Mission of INPACE

The mission of the **INPACE** is to support digital partnerships and the TTC and to contribute to the deepening of the collaboration between Europe and India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Singapore in the domain of digital technologies and their application for the well-being of the citizens in Europe and in the Indo-Pacific region. Toward this goal, **INPACE** will work on three levels:

- **Establishing regular exchanges between leading experts** from Europe and the four partner countries on policies, further developments of key digital technologies, and their implementation and commercialisation
- **Supporting the digital policy dialogues** on the governmental and institutional level and the implementation of the Digital Partnerships and the TTC with India
- **Informing and involving a large community of stakeholders** in Europe and in the Indo-Pacific partner countries into the dialogues via online and in-presence events and via the INPACE Community Platform.

To support these connected activities, INPACE will create a Multi-Stakeholder Hub where experts, policy makers, and the digital innovation community across Europe and Asia meet, exchange ideas, and drive digital innovation.

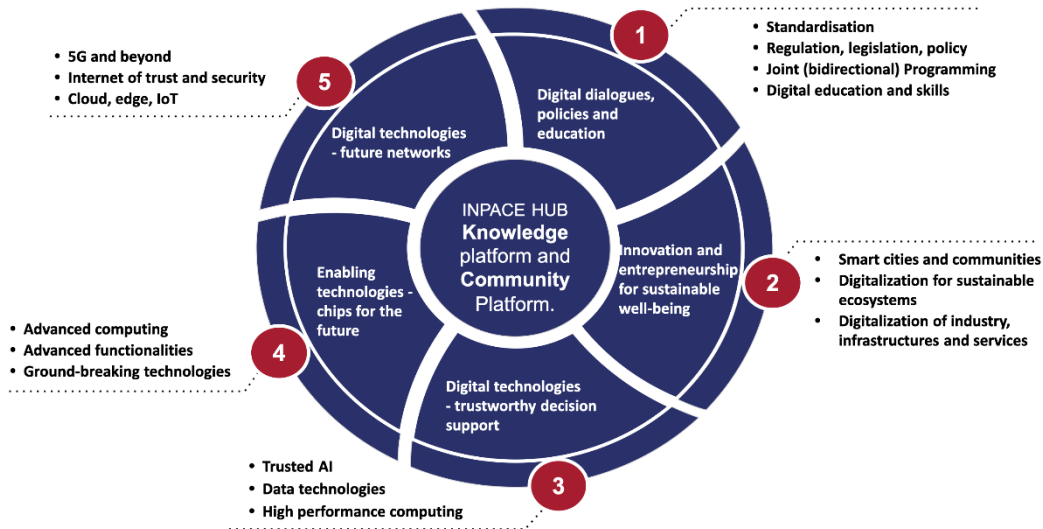
The Thematic Working Groups of INPACE

INPACE organises the exchanges between experts from industry, associations, government institutions and the research communities by setting up **Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)** that bring together forward looking experts in specific domains from the partner countries and from Europe. The mission of these Thematic Working Groups is to analyse the research policies and the needs of the partner countries



and the European Union, to exchange on new trends and latest results in specific domains, and to propose avenues for future research and innovation and possible joint funding programs. The TWGs are organized in five **Clusters** that are co-led by organizations from Europe and from the Indo-Pacific region:

- Cluster 1: Digital Dialogues, Policies, and Education
- Cluster 2: Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Well-being
- Cluster 3: Digital Technologies: Trustworthy Decision Support
- Cluster 4: Digital Technologies: Chips for the Future
- Cluster 5: Digital Technologies: Future Networks.



The clusters comprise 16 TWGs overall, 3-4 per cluster. Concrete outputs of the discussions in the TWGs will be fact sheets on digital policies, research and innovation in the partner countries and in Europe that will be bundled into a Panorama Report, policy briefs on specific subjects and proposals for joint research and funding programs. The collaboration between Europe and the Indo-Pacific partner countries will also be stimulated by seed projects, field visits, webinars and other events.

The INPACE Community and Community Platform

The INPACE Community comprises the experts who are involved in the dialogues in the TWGs as the core and the broader community of INPACE stakeholders who are interested in the exchange between Europe and the Indo-Pacific region. The Community platform serves as the central hub for collaboration and knowledge sharing. It will be designed and implemented to facilitate interaction and information exchange among INPACE stakeholders, and will have value-added features, including search and mapping tools, content translation, and a virtual fair space. The Community and the Platform are set up in a fashion such that they continue beyond the end of the project.

Expected Outcomes of INPACE

INPACE aims at the following outcomes:

- Convergence on principles in regulation, legislation, and standards for digital technologies and new joint major policy initiatives between the EU and the Indo-Pacific region
- Harmonized research and innovation funding programs and joint calls
- Reduction of barriers for trade and commercialization of new digital technologies
- Long-term collaborations in the field of digital technologies and their applications.

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