

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

Arles, 21 December 2004

## **EURINDIA is a project co-funded by the European Commission under the Economic Cross Cultural Programme, aiming at developing the history of economic and cultural relations between Europe and India.**

It is from the University of New Delhi, on December 13<sup>th</sup> and with the attendance of Mrs. Tsitidou, EC Indian Delegation Program Manager, that EurIndia partnership formally announced its cooperation project.

EurIndia will focus specifically on the history of the economic and cultural relations between both regions through their documentary aspects, in particular the large textual and iconographic collections preserved in India and Europe in the fields of map drawing and textile commerce.

Concretely, specific objectives of the Eurindia project will include:

- Surveys and inventories of documents: localization and identification of relevant collections in public and private collections both in Europe and India.
- Historical research on economic history and development with a focus on:
  - textile commerce, considered as a constant exchange between Europe and India;
  - map drawing through the centuries and historical periods to see the evolution of lands, cities, communication ways, etc.
- Development of information society, being the interface of the economic and cultural sectors by promoting the common archival cultural heritage of Europe and India.
- Support access actions for preservation of archival documents:
  - training sessions, in situ and by e-learning tools, will provide useful information on conservation of documents, on preventive conservation and development of conservation policies
- Respect of international texts on intellectual property and development of tools, training sessions and the project of establishing a "chart of public domain document reproduction" that should provide new financial and management resources for archives of both continents.
- Large public awareness of the importance of historical trade and commercial archives through the publication of surveys and inventories, the diffusion of documents on the Internet (with a multilingual database) and traveling exhibitions showing unique documents (reproductions).

EurIndia Partnership consists of European (University of Gent – Belgium; Università Cattolica di Piacenza – Italie; Archives d'Outre-Mer – France; Centre de Conservation du Livre – France) and Indian (University of New Delhi ; Punjab State Archives) organization with specific expertise on EurIndia fields of action.

EurIndia is a pilot project on specific topics (textile and map) that could be later extended to other types of documents and geographical areas. Keep you informed on EurIndia progress on its website [www.eurindia.org](http://www.eurindia.org), soon on line.

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**The European Commission is the EU's executive body.**