

Advanced Training Course in International Assistance for Institution Building and Electoral Monitoring

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GENERAL INFORMATION

International organisations including, *inter alia*, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Commonwealth, regularly deploy Election Observation Missions (EOMs) in order to observe the whole electoral process as a way of gauging the state of democratic development in a given country at a particular time. At the same time, international support to election processes is provided by a number of organisations – namely the United Nations Development Programmes, the European Union, and the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) - through Election Assistance Missions (EAMs) with the aim of sustaining electoral systems, processes and institutions.

Assistance to electoral processes and election observation are complementary activities. Election assistance may be defined as the technical or material support given to the electoral process. It may imply professional help to establish a legal framework for the elections. It may also take the form of a general input to the national electoral body, such as providing voting material and equipment, or helping in the registration of political parties and the registration of voters. It may also imply support to NGOs and civil society in areas such as voter and civic education or training of local observers, as well as support to the media monitoring and training of journalists, while the election observation is the political complement to election assistance. Its main goals are fostering the basis for a credible and inclusive electoral process so to enhance public confidence and participation, deterring frauds, strengthening the respect for human rights, and contributing to conflict resolution. Election observation involves the assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of an electoral process and the presentation of recommendations that will provide an important basis for identifying areas where further assistance after the elections may be required.

Specialists from the Osservatorio di Pavia (www.osservatorio.it) have been involved in election assistance and observation since 1997, mainly as media and campaign experts. During the course, they will use their personal experience to illustrate the developments in both areas of activity, international standards and best practices informing election campaigns and media coverage of elections while providing a comprehensive overview of the lessons learned.

The course aims at covering the following topics:

Section A – Election Observation Missions (EOMs)

- International commitments and the principles of international election observation.
- Structure and mandate of EOMs.
- The role of the media analyst within an election observation mission.

- Assessing the regulatory framework for the media and election coverage.
- Assessing the media landscape: freedom of the media and freedom to campaign.
- Monitoring media coverage: an overview of the main methodological tools.
- Workshop on EOMs.

Section B – Election Assistance Missions (EAMs):

- International commitments and the principles of international election assistance.
- Structure and tasks of EAMs.
- Setting up an effective EAMs project: from identification to evaluation, institutional strengthening and capacity development.
- The link between election observation and electoral assistance.
- Role of the media expert within an election assistance mission and types of assistance.
- Workshop on EAMs.

The constraint faced due to the pandemic requires the delivery of a remote online training. The training will be adapted to the specificities of the online environment in order to facilitate a constructive interaction among trainees and trainers and increase the effectiveness of the sessions. Each module will include a final question and answer session. The **duration of the course is three days (approximately 20 hours)**, divided in online and offline sessions.

In order to receive the credits, **students will be required to prepare a short dissertation at the end of the course** on key topics discussed over the modules.

The course will be host by the online platform of the Osservatorio di Pavia (Cisco Webex) or by other platforms suggested by the University of Pavia, and will take place on **21-23 December 2020**, with online sessions from 09:00 to 13:00 and offline sessions (workshops, readings, e-learning trainings and quiz) from 14:30 to 17:30. **The training will be held in English language and requires a good Internet connection.**

The training will be held by media experts of the Osservatorio di Pavia with relevant experience in Italy and in the framework of International Election Observation Missions, Technical Assistance and EU projects. Additional practitioners and international experts might be invited as guest speakers.

COST OF THE COURSE

There are two different fees applicable for the course:

- Internal students (all those persons presently enrolled as students within the University of Pavia): 200 EUR - VAT included.
- External participants (all other applicants): 400 EUR - VAT included.

APPLICATIONS

To apply, send a request with a copy of your CV to the Osservatorio di Pavia at: cares@osservatorio.it. **The application deadline is 11 December 2020. The course requires a minimum of 10 participants to run.**

Payments shall be made through bank transfer to:

CARES Scrl - Osservatorio di Pavia UBI Banca ABI: 03111; CAB 11300 Account number: 000000019696; SWIFT: BLOPIT22776 IBAN: IT08R0311111300000000019696

Applicants are asked to state clearly the full name of the applicant and the reason for payment (Training course World Politics). A copy of the bank transfer receipt must be sent by email (cares@osservatorio.it) to the Osservatorio di Pavia in order to complete the enrolment procedure.

OTHER INFORMATION

The course does not require previous technical knowledge on the subject, therefore it is open and suitable for anyone who has an interest in development cooperation in the area of democratic governance and/or electoral administration, election observation, electoral assistance, parliamentary support, justice sector reform and civic education. A good knowledge of English is required for all participants.

The Osservatorio di Pavia is a research institute specialised in media analysis at both theoretical and empirical level. The institute is an independent non-profit organisation. Its main objective is the safeguard of social, cultural and political pluralism in the field of mass media through the elaboration of research methodologies and analysis applied to media studies. The Osservatorio di Pavia works in collaboration with the University of Pavia; in partnership, they developed a quantitative/qualitative methodology for the observation and analysis of political communication in the mass media. This methodological effort has led to a long-term co-operation with Rai - the Italian public service broadcasting - for which the Osservatorio di Pavia has been carrying out media monitoring activities since 1994. The Parliamentary Commission on RAI uses for its formal duties data produced by the Osservatorio di Pavia. The institute is also engaged in a wide range of researches on specific areas of mass communication, including gender, cultural diversity, and protection of minors. Within this frame of activity, the institute includes a market and brands research department. In addition to the experience achieved at national level, the Osservatorio di Pavia has gained international credit as a major centre of media analysis and since 1997 the institute collaborates with a number of international organisations in the context of capacity building and technical assistance activities related to the field of elections.

For further information, please write to cares@osservatorio.it