

EUROPEAN POLICIES

DISTANCE LEARNING OF THE STATE ADMINISTRATION ON THE EU PRE-ACCESSION FUNDS

Project Objectives

The distance (online) learning of the state administration aims at improving its capacity for absorbing the European pre-accession financial instruments (PHARE, ISPA and SAPARD) and the structural funds and the Cohesion fund after the EU accession of the country in an effective and sustainable manner.

Project Implementation Tools

- Developing the methodology of education;
- Developing 15 training modules (5 compulsory and 10 elective) - <http://aoe.government.bg/methodology.php?pID=6> ;
- Developing an Internet platform for online education of state officials - http://aoe.government.bg/index.php?lang_id=1 ;
- Organizing a one-year process of distance learning for more than 100 trainees.

Project Status

Complete (October 2004 – October 2005)

Results

- A one-year online course of education was carried out for more than 100 officials from the state and regional administration, whose work is related directly to the subject of education;
- Over 70 certificates were issued to those who have completed the course successfully (officials of 10 ministries and of 10 regional administrations);
- Improved capacity of each of the graduates for developing and implementing successfully projects, funded by the pre-accession financial instruments, such as PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD, the Cohesion and structural funds.

Project Development

The distance learning project builds on the successful results from the following training projects:

- In 2002 the European Policies and Civil Participation Program of the Open Society Institute – Sofia initiated, organized and implemented a training project aimed at improving the capacity of the state administration with a view to optimizing the absorption of the pre-accession financial instruments (PHARE, ISPA and SAPARD) in the process of Bulgaria's accession to the EU. Two specialized five-day training courses were organized for the administration of five ministries. The training program was developed on the basis of a needs assessment conducted at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, and the Ministry of Environment and Waters. 47 officials from the above-mentioned institutions were trained and received certificates issued by the Open Society Institute – Sofia and the Center for Continuing Education at the New Bulgarian University. Information on the main thematic modules included in the training program was published in a practical guide for state administration officials. The participants evaluated the training as highly successful - timely, professional, and practice-oriented.
- In April 2003, upon request by the Sofia Municipality, the Program carried out a pilot training project on the same topic for 25 municipal officials.
- In July 2003 a training session was carried out targeted to NGOs on the topic: Pre-accession Financial Instruments and Horizontal Programs of the EU. The training program was adapted to the interest of civic organizations and participants were provided with comprehensive and practice-oriented information on the history and types of programs, the coordination and the role of institutions in national and regional management, the experience of Bulgaria with pre-accession financial instruments, the country's strategy for participation in the EU Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund, etc. Special emphasis was placed on the role and the possibilities of the non-governmental organizations to participate and establish partnerships under EU programs. 25 representatives of the Open Society Network in Bulgaria were trained and received certificates issued by the Open Society Institute – Sofia and the Center for Continuing Education at the New Bulgarian University.

Experts

- Arch. Belin Mollov
- Daniela Malhasyan
- Desislava Racheva
- Dilyana Mikova
- Evgeniya Kovacheva
- Eliza Stefanova
- Kameliya Stefanova, PhD
- Kiril Velichkov, PhD
- Lilyana Pavlova
- Associate Professor Magdalena Ivanova, PhD
- Miroslava Georgieva, PhD
- Pencho Mihnev
- Plamen Nemchev
- Silviya Indzhova
- Stanka Delcheva
- Yuliana Nikolova
- Yavor Stoyanov, PhD

Partners

- Commission for Coordinating the Activity on Combating Corruption
- Institute of Public Administration and European Integration
- Center of Information Society Technologies (CIST) and the Information Technologies Department at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics

Funding

Open Society Institute – Sofia

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