COURSE OVERVIEW

Dates: Monday 19 October to Friday 04 December 2015 (7 weeks)

Objective: To strengthen the skills of participants in assessing corruption risks and in designing adequate tools and strategies to address the lack of transparency and accountability in the education sector

Participants: Teams of professionals (5 to 6 members) from ministries of education, public regulatory and control bodies, CSOs and multilateral organizations concerned with improving transparency and accountability and reducing opportunities of corruption in the management of the public education sector

Language: English

Workload: 5 to 7 hours per week

Fees: 550 USD per participant

Registration Deadline: Friday 24 July 2015

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Embezzlement, ghost teachers, rigged calls for tender, illegal registration fees, academic fraud – there is ample evidence of the prevalence of corruption in education. Surveys suggest that leakage of resources from education ministries to schools contribute to reduce educational opportunities and widen social inequalities. Bribes and payoffs in teacher recruitment and promotion tend to lower the quality of teaching. Illegal payments for school entrance and other hidden costs contribute to low enrolment and high drop-out rates. In other words, improving access and ensuring equity, quality and efficiency in the education sector cannot be achieved without due attention being paid to transparency and accountability issues. This course aims at enabling planners to better assess the nature and extent of the problem, and to identify good practices and solutions to address it. It will build on IIEP's comprehensive capacity building programme on "Ethics and corruption in education".

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is to strengthen the skills of participants in assessing corruption risks and in designing adequate tools and strategies to address the lack of transparency and accountability in the education sector.

Upon completion of this course, participants should be able to:

- Define key concepts related to transparency, accountability and corruption issues in education;
- Map major corruption risks in selected domains of educational management, namely financing, teacher management, public procurement, and academic fraud;
- Describe the main characteristics and uses of Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS), Quantitative Service Delivery Surveys (QSDS), audit methods and report cards to diagnose and assess corruption problems;
- Formulate adequate policies and strategies for improving transparency and accountability in selected domains of educational management.
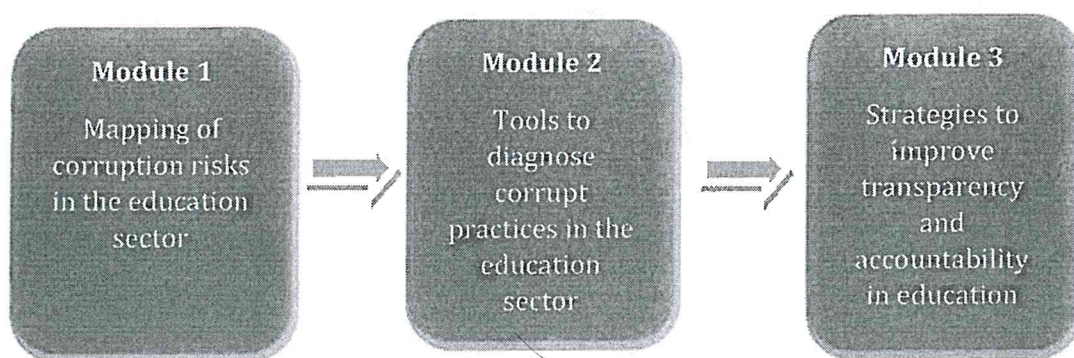
■ PARTICIPANTS' PROFILES

This course is designed for planners and administrators from ministries of education in developing countries worldwide. It is advised that each country team includes ministry staff involved in planning, statistics, budget and finance, evaluation and/or legal affairs. Individual applications from other ministries (finance, civil service, planning), national statistics offices, anti-corruption commissions, inspection/audit agencies, offices of general auditors, teacher unions, civil society organizations and multilateral organizations will also be accepted.

The participation of female professionals is highly encouraged.

Please note that participants must have a reliable access to the internet and meet the requirements described in the Annex "Technology equipment".

■ COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The course will be organized in three modules:

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│    Module 1     │      │    Module 2     │      │    Module 3     │
│                 │  ⇒   │                 │  ⇒   │                 │
│  Mapping of     │      │    Tools to     │      │  Strategies to  │
│ corruption risks│      │    diagnose     │      │    improve      │
│ in the education│      │    corrupt      │      │  transparency   │
│     sector      │      │ practices in the│      │      and        │
│                 │      │   education     │      │ accountability  │
│                 │      │    sector       │      │  in education   │
└─────────────────┘      └─────────────────┘      └─────────────────┘
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Module 1: Mapping of corruption risks in the education sector

Module 1 will emphasize the strategic role of the education sector in the fight against corruption, due in particular to its size and its contribution to development. It will help participants to map out the major risks of corruption in education, with a particular focus on four areas: financing, teacher management, public procurement and examination. Finally, it will encourage participants to reflect on the impact of corrupt practices on the international agenda and goals.

Module 2: Tools to diagnose corrupt practices in the education sector

Module 2 will provide an overview of various tools that can be used to diagnose corruption in the education sector, including Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS), Quantitative Service Delivery Surveys (QSDS), audits and report cards. It will analyse their conditions of implementation and success. It will also advise participants on how to make the best use of them as part of a broader sectoral diagnosis.

Module 3: Strategies to improve transparency and accountability in education

Module 3 will review successful strategies to improve transparency and accountability and fight corruption in the four areas identified in Module 1. It will highlight the need for a holistic approach, combining the fine-tuning of regulatory mechanisms, the development of management capacities, and the promotion of social mobilisation and accountability. It will invite participants to discuss the role of public access to information in this context.

Participants will work two weeks in each module. One additional week will be devoted to the finalization of their country project proposal.

COURSE CALENDAR

The course will run from **Monday 19 October to Friday 4 December (7 weeks)**, with a **two-week preliminary phase** for testing communications on the course e-learning platform. Participants should spend an average of **5 to 7 hours per week.**

TEACHING METHODS

The course will rely on an interactive and practice-oriented learning approach. Throughout the course, country teams will be asked to prepare a project proposal which will allow them to apply directly the skills acquired.

More specifically, the three teaching modalities for this course will be as follows:

- Individual autonomous study of reading materials, videos and interactive presentations made available on the virtual platform and participation in individual quizzes;
- Participation in group meetings (either residential, virtual or both), during which country teams will develop collectively a joint project proposal based on their reflections and discussions;
- Contribution to online exchange and sharing of experiences, allowing interaction with IIEP instructors and also with participants from other institutions and countries.

One member from each team will be appointed "group coordinator". That person – preferably someone who works in a key position in the planning, statistics, budget and finance, evaluation or legal department – will be responsible for reminding participants of the work schedule and tasks to be completed, scheduling and organizing group meetings, and ensuring that the project proposal is submitted on time.

ASSESSMENT AND CERTIFICATION

The course will combine two assessment modes:

Group assessment: Country teams will be asked to prepare a project proposal to improve transparency and accountability in one selected domain of educational management. Its outline will follow closely that of the course modules. Country teams will submit their project proposal to IIEP course instructors, who will comment and mark it. The required passing mark will be 10 out of 20.

Individual assessment: In order to validate the course, participants must attend at least 75% of the group meetings and actively contribute to the group work. In addition, they will be required to participate in online discussions regularly and to complete individual self-assessment quizzes.

Participants who meet the above-mentioned requirements will receive a UNESCO-IIEP certificate of participation.

PARTICIPATION FEES

The tuition fees are 550 US$ per participant. If a team's application is accepted, its related ministry and/or organization must transfer the required tuition fees to IIEP's bank account to validate their registration. It is imperative that participation fees be transferred two weeks before the beginning of the course. Delay in this regard will result in the cancellation of the registration.

If need be, once the team's application is accepted, international agencies could be approached for funding of participation costs at Regional or Country Offices. These include, among others, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Union, bilateral donors, UN agencies such as UNICEF, and private foundations.

REGISTRATION

IIEP will send out an invitation letter to ministries of Education and other concerned institutions. These institutions will select a group of participants (5 to 6 members) who will work together for the entire duration of the course.

National teams will take precedence for enrolment in the course. However, individual applications from education professionals will also be accepted (up to 20% of enrolments).

Applications must be filled online by clicking on the following URL link: https://app.wizehive.com/appform/login/IIEPOnlineETICOcourse before Friday 24 July 2015.

The selected teams will be informed of their registration status soon after submitting their application.

CONTACTS

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■ TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT

The course will be organized on a Learning Management System (Moodle) or "virtual classroom" which provides participants with training materials and a variety of interactive resources and tools, such as discussion forums, videos, instructional presentations with audio, wikis, blogs, and quizzes, etc. In order to participate in the course, candidates must make sure they meet the following minimum, (and if possible) optimal requirements:

Minimum requirements

	For PCs	**For Macs**
Operating system	Windows XP or higher with latest updates installed	Mac OS x 10.3 Or higher with latest updates installed
Processor	500Mhz or faster	1.83Mhz intel core duo or faster
Ram	128Mb or more	128Mb or more
Video card	At least 64mb of video memory	At least 64mb of video memory
Sound card	At least 16-bit	At least 16-bit
Browser	Firefox 1.1+, Internet Explorer 7.0+, Safari 1.0+, Google Chrome, or Opera	Firefox 1.1+, Internet Explorer 7.0+, Safari 1.0+, Google Chrome, or Opera
Broadband connection	500+ Kbps	500+ Kbps
Additional software	Adobe Flash Player 10.0.22+ Plug-in	Adobe Flash Player 10.0.22+ Plug-in

Optimal requirements (recommended for IIEP's videos and streaming content):

- Operating System: Windows Vista+ or Mac OS X 10.6+
- Browser: Firefox 8.0+, Internet Explorer 8.0+, Safari 5.0+, ou Google Chrome 15.0+
- Broadband Connection : 1 Mbps or higher
- Flash Player : Adobe Flash Player 10.1+

Ensuring optimal streaming speeds is especially important for Streaming. Make sure to close as many other tabs, browsers, and programs as possible while streaming your content. It may also help to hardwire your Internet connection, rather than using a wireless network connection.