Call for Applications

DiploFoundation Capacity Development Programme to assist ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries in Information and Communication Technologies Policy and Internet Governance

DiploFoundation announces the opening of the ACP Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Internet Governance (IG) Capacity Development Programme call for applications to all government and sub-regional/regional institutions of **ACP countries** involved in ICT and Internet governance policy as well as civil society, business, academia, media and other interested individuals or groups.

DiploFoundation is currently accepting applications for the ACP 2010 ICT Policy and Internet Governance Capacity Development Programme (APCDIG) This online programme is designed to improve Internet governance (IG) and ICT policy related knowledge and skills of participants and to assist them to participate meaningfully in global decision-shaping ICT debates. The Programme also facilitates community building among individuals with different national, cultural, and professional backgrounds.

With the collaboration of seven ACP partner institutions, this two-year (2009-2011) project will train key beneficiaries and institutions who are addressing Internet Governance (IG) and ICT policy issues at the national, regional and global levels. This online course is the first to be offered through this partnership.

The Programme

The programme offers 75 places for professionals from diverse stakeholder backgrounds in IG and ICT-related fields and is open to all ACP nationals. The first two phases of the programme will be conducted entirely online.

The programme includes three phases, which will take place over nine months during 2010:

I The online training phase consists of a 12-week long Foundation Course, introducing IG policy, process, and actors, and covering 5 thematic baskets: *Infrastructure and Standardisation Basket, Legal Basket, Economic Basket, Socio-Cultural Basket, Development Basket*, and a section on the IG Process and Actors.

Learning activities take place in an online classroom and include the analysis of course materials, interactive group discussions using a variety of communication tools, assignments, and exams. Successful participants will receive a certificate of completion of the Foundation Course.

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This project is funded by the European Union

II The online policy research phase is an optional 8-week period of supervised, collaborative online work focused on IG policy issues of highest relevance to developing countries, and is closely linked to the previous training activities. The first four weeks emphasise the importance of policy research and research methodology techniques, and each participant will apply these concepts during the second 4 weeks, while doing actual policy research on a topic relevant to their own region.

III The award-based policy immersion phase includes capacity development fellowships awarded to a number of successful participants in the programme, such as internships with partner organisations, including a fellowship with the IGF Secretariat in Geneva, and attendance at IG-related meetings, including the Internet Governance Forum in September in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Languages

Programme materials and the online classroom website are in English.

In addition to English-speaking groups, a bilingual group may be formed for the foundation course, having English as the primary language, and French as the secondary language for communication and interaction. This option will be offered depending on the needs of the applicants.

Target Audience

Diplo seeks applications from the following categories of individuals:

- officials in government ministries and departments dealing with Information Society, Internet and ICT-related issues (e.g., telecommunications, education, foreign affairs, justice);
- officials in regulatory authorities or institutions dealing with Information Society, Internet and ICT-related issues
- postgraduate students, academics and researchers in the IG field (e.g., in telecommunications, electrical engineering, law, economics, development studies);
- civil society activists in the IG and Information Society fields;
- journalists covering IG issues;
- individuals in Internet-business fields (e.g., ISPs, software developers).

Timeline

- 15 January 2010 Call for Applications begins
- 12 February 2010 Call for Applications ends
- 20 February 2010 Selection Results
- 1 March-28 May 2010 – Foundation Course on Internet Governance

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- 7 June-30 July Training for Tutors (selected participants-ACP countries)
- August 2010 through 2011 – Policy Immersion (fellowships)
- 4 October – 26 November – Policy Research Phase

Scholarships and Fees

This course is part of a two-year capacity development project for ACP (Africa/Caribbean/Pacific) countries under the @CP-ICT Programme financed from the 9th European Development Fund (EDF). Course fees for eligible participants will be covered by the @CP-ICT Programme Budget. All applicants from ACP countries who are accepted for the course will receive full scholarships.

Requirements

The applicants are required to have:

- basic awareness of and interest in issues related to the Information society, Information and Communication Technologies and Internet Governance;
- knowledge and/or experience of the multistakeholder approach in international affairs;
- fluency in English, as well as fluency in French for applicants to the bilingual group;
- good writing skills, ability to summarise information and focus on details;
- regular access to the Internet (dial-up connection is sufficient);
- **minimum of 8 hours commitment per week during each phase of the programme. This is perhaps the single most important requirement and should be evaluated seriously by any potential applicant;**
- readiness to participate in online consultations (once a week at specified times).

Deadline

The deadline for applications is **12 February 2010**, midnight UTC/GMT.

How to Apply

For further information and to **apply**, please visit:
http://www.diplomacy.edu/acp/

Do not hesitate to contact us at **acpinfo@diplomacy.edu**.

For further information about the DiploFoundation Internet Governance Capacity Development Programmes, visit: **http://www.diplomacy.edu/ig**.

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