



First Steering Group Meeting of the DL4iPS Initiative
Supporting diffusion of knowledge: an international distance learning initiative

Rome, 12 November 2009

Chair Summary

The representatives of eight MENA Countries, Italy and OECD gathered in Rome on November 12 to discuss the **Italian proposal** to launch an international program aimed at delivering high quality e-learning activities to contribute to building regional and local capacities on public sector innovation.

They recognized that an **effective government**, which ensures sound regulatory frameworks and high quality public services, is fundamental to social and economic development and long-term growth.

They also acknowledged that public sector efficiency and modernization relies in particular on **human capital development**, including managerial skills and principles of public ethics.

In this regard, they recognized that **e-learning technologies**, characterized by increased effectiveness, wide potential diffusion, high repeatability and reuse, are the ideal instrument - even as a component of a blended learning approach - to knowledge diffusion and to the strengthening of civil servants capabilities.

Therefore, they **propose to cooperate** for the definition of an international initiative, aimed at fostering - through high quality e-learning activities - the dissemination of best methodologies, knowledge and practices on public sector innovation in the European and MENA regions. They will draw on the experience of MENA-OECD Initiative on Public Governance and Investment.

To this end, the participants proposed the following initial **principles**:

- the activity of production and diffusion of contents should be cooperative, and be characterized by joint efforts in the harmonization of general and local experience, i.e. localization of content to make it relevant, favoring the exploitation of the best information and know-how available nationally and internationally;
- e-learning activities should be characterized by wide usage of innovative cooperation methodologies, such as simulations, forums, social networks and others;
- e-learning content management platforms adopted should be highly interoperable, so to foster open content production and diffusion based on common standards.

The participants recognized the need to identify training priorities and existing high quality courses that meet those needs. They also recognized the need to agree on the e-learning methodologies and platforms that are needed.

The participants recognized that the success of the initiative is strongly related to the commitment of national governments. Consequently, they would agree to set up a **Steering Committee** composed by one member from each participating Government and a representative of OECD. Governments willing to commit themselves to this initiative in the future will also be able to join the Steering Committee.

In addition, the participants proposed to set up **two temporary working groups**. Both working groups will have a Chair and two co-Chairs.

The first working group (**Contents WG**) is meant to start a process of identification of both the priority areas where training is most needed, and of high quality courses to match those needs. The second working group (**Tech WG**) is meant to discuss and identify the kind of e-learning methodologies and technologies most appropriate to motivate public administration executives and to make them benefit from following the training courses.

Italy will coordinate the follow-up of this meeting jointly with participating countries, including the financial aspects of this initiative, which need to be further discussed among participating Governments to identify the resources that could be made available in the short term. In the medium and long term, financial sustainability of the program implementation could also be ensured through funding from sponsors and international development partners.

The participants proposed to launch this initiative and to present it at the MENA-OECD Ministerial Conference in Marrakech.

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Annex 1: Program of the meeting
Annex 2: List of participants



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Palazzo del Campidoglio, Sala della Piccola Protomoteca

Program

- 10:00 Remarks by Claudio Lenoci, former Italian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and current Advisor of the Minister for public administration and innovation
- 10:10 Remarks by Rolf Alter, Director for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD
- 10:20 Remarks by Vincenzo Schioppa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Co-Chair of the e-Government and Simplification Working Group, GfD Initiative
- 10:30 Capsule presentations of some e-learning programs
- European public management course (S. Pizzicannella, National Public Administration School)
 - E-government strategic and operational planning (C. Batini, Bicocca University)
 - Customs simplified procedures (F. Sgarra, Customs Agency)
 - e-Health in the field of rehabilitation (R. Annicchiarico, Santa Lucia Foundation)
 - Management of cultural heritage (R. Ciciretti, Tor Vergata University)
 - Citizen relationship management and public management (L. Buccoliero, Bocconi University and Marco Meneguzzo, Tor Vergata University)
- 11:15 Round table on priority areas for the definition of courses content
- interventions by delegations
- 12:45 Round table on technical aspects of e-learning platform
- Next generation e-learning methodology and technology (F. Lutrario, Infobyte)
 - Short presentation of "Scuola IAD" (A. Simone, Tor Vergata University)
 - interventions by delegations
- 13:15 Walk through the rooms of the Capitoline Museums to reach "Terrazza Caffarelli"
- 13:30 Buffet lunch at "Terrazza Caffarelli"
- 15:00 Round table on organizational aspects of the DL4iPS initiative (Steering Committee, Working Group on content, Working Group on technical aspects)
- 16:30 Conclusions



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Representatives of Countries and the OECD

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