

MATRA TRAINING FOR EUROPEAN COOPERATION

(MTEC)

IPA/Environment

1st – 14th June 2008



ECORYS Nederland BV



Grontmij Nederland BV



Witteveen+Bos



EVD

Key Information

- The main objective of the course is to train policy makers and experts in:
 - Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) procedures and practical implementation in order to ensure implementation of environmental infrastructure projects;
 - the requirements of the investment-heavy directives to enhance their knowledge that can be transferred to their local organisation and can contribute to the fulfilment of the requirements in their own country.
- Period: 1st to 14th June 2008.
- Location: Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
- Accommodation: Eden Savoy Hotel, Rotterdam.
- Target group: policy-makers and experts working in the field of IPA/Environment. The participants could come from different types of organisations: local, regional or national (semi) government entities in the field of IPA/Environment and responsible for environmental policy or research in this field.
- Participants: 50 in total, drawn from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey
- Applications: before April 18th, 2008.
- Information: ilse.vandavelde@ecorys.com

Introduction

On January 1st 2007 the EU was enlarged with two new members: Bulgaria and Romania. With several other countries negotiations have started or will start in the coming years. Although progress towards accession varies among countries, becoming proficient in European affairs is of key importance to the government administrations of all of these countries.

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) provides assistance to the framework of the European Partnerships of the potential candidate countries and the Accession Partnerships of the candidate countries. The instrument was adopted on 17th July 2006 and replaces the 2000-2006 pre-accession financial instruments PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD, the Turkish pre-accession instrument, and the financial instrument for the Western Balkans CARDS. IPA is intended to provide assistance on the basis of the progress made by the beneficiary countries and their needs as shown in the European Commission's evaluations and annual strategy papers. IPA is made up of five components:

1. Support for transition and institution-building;
2. Cross-border cooperation;
3. Regional development (transport, environment and economic development);
4. Human resources development; preparation for cohesion policy and the European Social Fund;
5. Rural development.

The training course will concentrate on component 3 and especially on the support for large scale infrastructure projects in the area of environment. These are projects which implement *investment-heavy directives*.

The European Union defines environmental investment-heavy directives as directives that will be particularly difficult to implement given the current state of infrastructure and the financial resources available in the (potential) candidate countries.

The training course will concentrate on the six most important directives:

1. Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive;
2. Drinking Water Directive;
3. Waste Framework Directive;
4. Landfill Directive;
5. Water Framework Directive;
6. IPPC Directive.

The course is organised under the Matra programme of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The objective of the Matra Training for European Cooperation (MTEC) training courses is to train public administrators and officials on matters relevant to joining the EU. Another important objective of the courses is the creation of networks by bringing together people from the fore-mentioned countries in the Netherlands.

The MTEC programme is executed by EVD/CROSS.

Objectives of the course

The main objective of the course is to train policy makers and experts in:

- Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) procedures and practical implementation in order to ensure implementation of environmental infrastructure projects;
- the requirements of the investment-heavy directives to enhance their knowledge that can be transferred to their local organisation and can contribute to the fulfilment of the requirements in their own country.

More specific objectives include:

- Practical learning about investment-heavy directives through lectures, exchange of experiences, study visits, case studies;
- Enhancement of knowledge about IPA, and preparation and implementation of IPA projects through lectures and group assignments;
- To understand the importance of cost-benefit analysis, project cycle management, public-private cooperation, proposal writing and presentation.

After the training, the participants will:

- Have a thorough understanding of the key issues that need to be addressed to secure full and effective implementation of investment-heavy directives;
- Understand how these issues have been addressed in practice in other Member States;
- Have the knowledge of the requirements for implementation of IPA programmes and are able to perform the relevant tasks for implementation of IPA projects;
- Have a clear understanding on how to generate, develop, appraise (technically and economically), manage, supervise, monitor and evaluate projects;
- Understand the main principles of proposal writing and tendering procedures - and know the requirements of a good project proposal;
- Have a network of IPA/Environment professionals in EU member states and accession countries, and an internet discussion forum to further share experiences.

Approach of the course

The training consists of a combination of lectures, case studies, study visits and group work. The ECORYS consortium is applying an interactive training approach, whereby the participants take part in discussions, carry out small exercises during the sessions on the basis of case studies, give presentations and are involved in role-play, relevant to the training subjects. This allows the participants to directly transfer theory into their own working situation and share their experiences with the other group members.

During the training the participants will have many opportunities to get to know each other as well as to learn from each other.

Structure and contents of the course programme

The course is organised in such a way that all learning targets are met. All relevant aspects of IPA and the most significant investment-heavy directives will be included. The course consists of several well-defined training modules, which are grouped into 5 main components:

1. Principles of IPA: requirements for implementation of IPA programmes and projects;
2. Investment-heavy directive: thorough explanation of Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, Drinking Water Directive, Waste Framework Directive, Landfill Directive, Water Framework Directive and IPPC Directive;
3. Project preparation and implementation tools: insight in tools for project generation, development, appraisal (technically and economically), public procurement & tendering, management & supervision, Monitoring and evaluation;
4. Group Work & Skills (GWS): a clear task (preparing an investment proposal), using all knowledge on investment-heavy directives, IPA and project preparation and implementation tools gained during the course, interaction with trainers, interview techniques, presentation skills etc.;
5. Evaluation & Follow-up (EFU): Evaluation during and after the course, mid-course feedback session, discussion forum on website, preparation of individual knowledge dissemination plan, final presentation session etc.

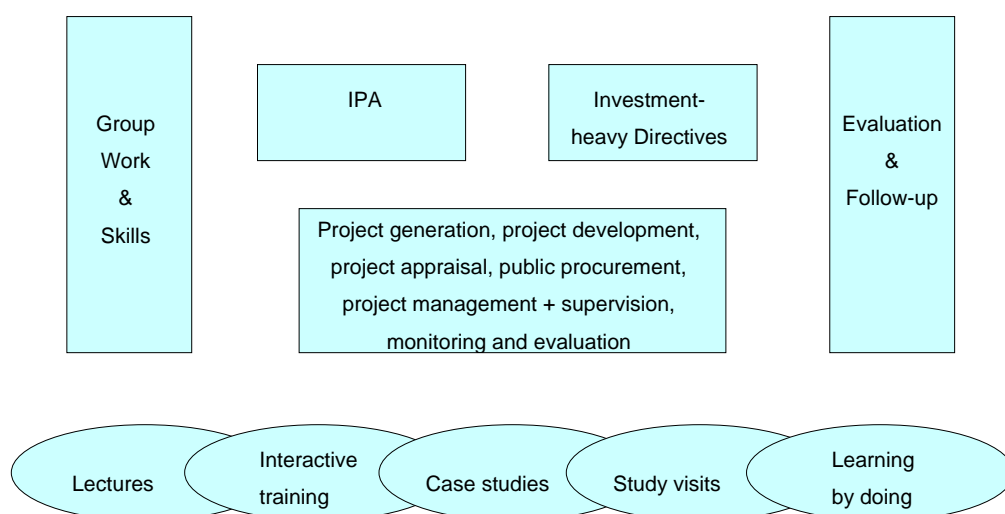


Figure 1: Course components and training methods

Organisation

A consortium of ECORYS Nederland BV, Grontmij Nederland BV and Witteveen+Bos has been asked to organize the course on IPA/Environment. All three companies have substantial and international (training) experience in the implementation of *investment-heavy directives* and have a thorough understanding of IPA and the requirements for implementation of IPA programmes.

ECORYS Nederland BV

ECORYS Nederland BV is a fully independent applied economic research and advisory institute currently involved in many projects in various disciplines all over the world.

ECORYS is specialised in applied economic research and advice, financial and economic feasibility studies, institutional development, policy development, process, project and programme management, Structural Fund interventions, economic impact assessment, monitoring and training.

ECORYS Nederland is active in a wide range of sectors including environment and natural resources with an emphasis on sustainable water management. The company provides a broad range of services, such as applied economic research and advice, financial and economic feasibility studies, institutional development, policy development, process, project and programme management, restructuring and privatisation, technical assistance, transfer of knowledge and training.

Grontmij Nederland BV

Grontmij Nederland BV, part of the Grontmij Group, is one of the leading environmental, engineering and consulting companies in the Netherlands as well as in Europe. Grontmij has 90 years of solid experience in water and environment and employs approximately 7000 employees. The company has successfully undertaken various assignments in Central and Eastern Europe, among others in Estonia, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. The projects included providing assistance to environmental authorities charged with transposition and implementation of EU Environmental Directives into national, regional and local environmental administrative, enforcement and monitoring structures. In the Netherlands, Grontmij Nederland is actively involved in the implementation of these directives as well, assisting the Ministries, Water Boards, Provincial and Local Authorities.

Witteveen+Bos

Witteveen+Bos Consulting engineers was established in 1946 as a fully independent Dutch firm. Over the past 60 years the firm has gradually expanded into one of the leading independent consulting engineering firms in the Netherlands. Witteveen+Bos is divided into the following sectors with individual groups offering complimentary knowledge and expertise: Water, Environment and Land Development, Urban infrastructure and transport, Hydraulic infrastructure and constructions, and Ports and Marine Engineering. Depending on the type of project and the wishes of the client, Witteveen+Bos may be given the responsibility for an entire project, or can be engaged to undertake one or more single phases of an engineering project, such as:

- carrying out surveys, pilot plant testing, identification and feasibility studies;
- drawing up master plans, preliminary and detailed designs;
- preparing tender documents, assisting clients with tendering and contract negotiations and arranging project financing;

- project management, construction supervision, start up assistance, operation and maintenance, organisational strengthening and training

Witteveen+Bos has built up an extensive international track record and executed numerous international projects in sanitary and environmental engineering, integrated water management, waste management and institutional capacity building for several clients.

Dates

The course will be held at the World Trade Centre in Rotterdam from 1st – 14th June 2008. Participants are expected to arrive in The Netherlands on May 31st in the evening or June 1st in the morning.

Fees/Accommodation

The Dutch Government will provide fellowships including costs such as international travel, board and lodging, visa and insurance, tuition fees, lecture materials and excursions insofar as included in the programme.

Participants will be accommodated in the Eden Savoy Hotel in Rotterdam.

Teaching Staff

The teaching staff will consist of:

- Staff Members from ECORYS, Grontmij and Witteveen+Bos;
- Lecturers from the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment (VROM), Drinking Water Companies, environmental regulatory authority etc.

Admission Requirements

The course is designed for policy makers and experts working in the field of IPA/Environment. The participants may come from different types of organisations: local, regional or national (semi) government entities in the field of IPA and Investment-heavy directives. The participants should be responsible for environmental policy or research in this field.

The maximum number of participants is 50. Important points on which the selection of participants will be largely based are:

- The participant should be *fluent* in spoken and written English;
- The participant should be highly motivated and enthusiastic;
- The participant should show occupational relevance;
- The participant should be comfortable with sharing her/his knowledge, perhaps in the form of a solo presentation;
- The participant should clearly demonstrate an immediate need for training on IPA and investment-heavy directives in the environmental field.

Applications

Applications should be made through the Netherlands Embassy in the applicant's country. Application forms should be downloaded from the website www.cross-agency.nl.

Go to downloads, click on application form for the relevant course, click on your country; you can then download the application form.

Applications (duly signed by the applicant and his or her employer) should be submitted latest on the **18th of April 2008**, through the Royal Dutch Embassy in the applicants' country. By this date, all forms, including the signed employer statement, must be received by the Royal

Netherlands Embassy. Please note that the application instructions on the website need to be followed carefully. Only *fully* documented applications will be considered. Admission will be on a competitive basis. The participants will be selected by the steering committee.

Applicants who have been accepted for the course are expected to attend. In case of no-shows or cancellations within 3 weeks before the start of the course, the organisers reserve the right to claim any costs incurred (e.g. pre-paid flight tickets) from the applicant's employer.

Information and course organisation

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Contact person : Ms. Ilse van de Velde

More information on the courses developed under the MTEC programme

- The Royal Netherlands Embassy in your country can supply more information about the other courses.
- For further information, you can contact either the Royal Netherlands Embassy or EVD/CROSS:

EVD/CROSS

P.O. Box 20105

2500 EC The Hague

The Netherlands

Telephone : + 31 70 778 8139

Fax : + 31 70 335 2962

E-mail : crossonline@info.evd.nl

Website : www.cross-agency.nl

Contact person : Mr. Diederik ter Haar