

**HYDROAID**  
**Water for Development Management Institute**  
**DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM**  
**in collaboration with the**  
**TURIN SCHOOL OF LOCAL REGULATION**  
**e-Learning course on**  
**Economic Regulation of water services**

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

*This edition of the distance learning course on “Economic Regulation of water services” is realized with the financial support of ATO3 – the Water Authority of Turin*



*and it is designed by Hydroaid scientific and technical partnership with Fondazione per l'Ambiente – Turin School of Local Regulation, leading Italian institution in the field of environmental policies and economic regulation of local public services.*

## BACKGROUND

Established in Turin in 2001, **Hydroaid – Water for Development Management Institute** – is a non-profit Association involving local and regional authorities, renowned financial and academic institutions of Italy, and it is co-financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Hydroaid main objective is training engineers and managers of emerging and/or developing countries in the management of urban water resources and sanitation services in order to promote environmental sustainability.

In its 15 years of activity, over 1800 participants from 70 countries have graduated in Hydroaid training programs and constitute today an active network of professionals. Hydroaid portfolio includes four editions of the Master on Integrated Sanitation Management in Brasilia and eight editions of the Training Program on Planning and Management of Water Resources in Turin, as well as distance learning courses on Sanitation, Waste Recycling, Management of Urban Solid Waste, Wastewater Treatment, Water Supply and Sustainable Planning.

This edition of the distance learning course on “Economic Regulation of water services” is realized with the financial support of **ATO3** – the Water Authority of Turin – and it is part of the project “WATER-REG: Training and capacity building on the economic regulation and governance of the integrated water cycle”. ATO3 is an Associated Member of Hydroaid and it was established in 1997; since 2000 it is responsible for the coordination of the integrated water services in the Province of Turin including the tasks of setting supply targets for the water demand, defining structural, organization and financial management plans for the governance of the service, monitoring the realization of the service and identifying suitable areas for water stock and supply.

Both Hydroaid and ATO3 strive to improve the quality and efficiency of the water and sanitation services and to bring a concrete contribution to the promotion of sustainable development processes.

An additional synergy supporting this initiative comes from the consolidated cooperation with the **Fondazione per l’Ambiente - Turin School of Local Regulation**, implementing partner of the WATER-REG Project. Fondazione per l’Ambiente (FA), established in 1999, is a non-profit body founded in Torino by 24 public and private partners operating in Piedmont (among them, all the north-western Italian Universities and all the metropolitan Utilities of the City of Torino) that promotes research, communication and experts' training in the sector of environmental policies and economic regulation of public services at local level. The Turin School of Local Regulation is an international initiative of FA, whose flagship event is the “*International Summer School on regulation of local public services*” currently in the XIX edition in 2016. The Turin School of Local Regulation has achieved a considerable experience in the field of training and capacity building with several supporting organizations and regulatory agencies worldwide.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

### Beneficiaries

This is a distance learning program accessible through the web platform Moodle and it is addressed to managers, mid-level decision makers and professionals operating in the fields of water and sanitation management with responsibilities of financial administration, investments and tariff-setting from developing and emerging countries. Ideal candidates of this course are

managers of Municipalities – or higher institutional levels - in charge of water services, NGO practitioners involved in the water cycle at the local level, water company officials in charge of investments and tariff setting.

The course is open to a **limited number of 80 participants**. This restriction ensures **personalized tutoring** and the effective realization of team works during the course.

With this course Hydroaid wishes to offer to the participants updated technical information and knowledge instruments in order to improve the management of their resources and to contribute to raise the quality of their services.

### Fee

The participation to the modules of this program is **free of charge** and it is meant as a tool for providing a concrete support in pursuing sustainable development processes. The goal of the course is to transfer practical and technical knowledge for the economic regulation and the governance of the integrated water cycle.

### Schedule

**The course will take place from May 30 to July 1, 2016.** A detailed **calendar** will be communicated at the end of selection.

### Language

**All didactic material will be available only in English.** Technical communications and assistance will be held in English too. **For this reason a good knowledge of English language is a compulsory requirement for the attendance of the program.**

### Activities

In addition to the didactic material, the course features a number of activities for evaluating the understanding of the contents and the attendance of the participants. These include:

- **Exercises:** tests and written assignments;
- **Forums:** forum discussions are designed as an extension of the learning program to produce a useful and interactive environment for debating the topics of the course, exchanging information and sharing experiences. A forum for assistance and technical guides will also be available on the platform to facilitate the use of all the functions;
- **Final project:** towards the end of the e-Learning phase, participants will be assigned specific topics to develop through individual work and research.

**Tutors** will be available on the platform to monitor the activities, support the participants in the learning process and provide problem solving support. The web platform can also be used for communications with fellow participants and the teachers.

## COURSE CONTENTS

Water is at the center of economic and social development, sustaining livelihoods, irrigating crops, serving industrial needs: surely it's the most relevant resource at the base of human ecosystems. According to the latest World Bank estimates, by 2025 1.8 billion people will live in areas with absolute water scarcity, today almost 660 million people lack access to improved sources of drinking water and 2.4 billion people are not served by sanitation infrastructures. The

challenges ahead are huge, considering also indirect uses: today 70% of freshwater withdrawal is used for irrigation and by 2035 the so called water-energy-nexus will be so relevant that water needs for power generation will reach 85%.

Water insecurity can have devastating effects on economies and on the well-being of entire populations, especially the poorest and most vulnerable ones, and the matter is made even more urgent considering the unpredictable effects of climate change on hydrological cycles. Urbanization trends also pose specific challenges to water security and infrastructures: the latest data from the UN (UN, World Urbanization prospects, 2014) report that 54% of world population is currently residing in urban areas, in 1950 only 30% of the world population was urban and in 2050 this percentage is expected to be 66%.

The efficient management of water resources and a sound regulation of the water service are necessary steps to tackle the mentioned challenges that will require the attraction of large investments from governments, bilateral institutions and philanthropic organizations.

The course will introduce the subject with a short microeconomics section, useful to clarify concepts such as **natural monopolies**, **competition** and **public goods**. The introduction will be followed by a section dedicated to **industrial investment analysis** as a tool for the regulation of water services, useful to jump-start the work related to **assignments and case studies**. The last section of the e-Learning course will be constituted by an intense section on **Economic Regulation focused on the water sector**. Regulation can be described as the definition and implementation of rules setting the service general framework, stakeholder missions, roles and interaction and indeed regulation also specifies how the cost of the service is to be financed, hence a specific attention will be put on tariff setting and regulatory budgeting.

The contents will be divided into **units**, each focused on a specific topic and containing slides, papers and document, assignments and periodic tests to evaluate the on-going comprehension. In addition, further readings provide more detailed technical or theoretical information on some selected matters. Units will become available according to a programmed **calendar** announced in the beginning of the course in order to allow time for studying the material and participating in all the required activities.

All the resources mentioned can be downloaded from the web platform and used in compliance with the **copyright conditions** explained in the application form.

## MINIMUM INFORMATIC REQUIREMENTS

Before applying, please make sure that the computer you will use to attend this e-learning course matches the following minimum informatics requirements. This is a mandatory condition for the attendance of the course.

### Internet connection

An Internet connection of at least 56kbps is necessary for accessing the learning platform.

### Hardware requirements

Operating system: compatibility is ensured with all the main operating systems, including Windows, Linux and Macintosh.

Browser: compatibility is ensured with: Internet Explorer 6 or superior, Mozilla Firefox 3 or superior, and Chrome. We recommend the use of Mozilla Firefox, which is compatible with all the main Operating Systems and ensures an ideal performance at navigating the platform. Mozilla Firefox can be downloaded for free at the link: [www.mozilla.org/it/firefox/new](http://www.mozilla.org/it/firefox/new)

Video resolution: 1024x768 (or superior)

### Software Requirements

For the correct display of the contents of the course area, Adobe Acrobat must be installed. Adobe Acrobat can be downloaded for free at the link: <https://get.adobe.com/reader>

### HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this course will be considered until **May 15, 2016**.

To apply for this course please send the following documents to the e-mail address: [tutor.sanitation@hydroaid.it](mailto:tutor.sanitation@hydroaid.it)

1. **Application form**: filled and signed (both digital and scanned signatures are accepted).  
The application form can be downloaded from [www.hydroaid.org](http://www.hydroaid.org)
2. **Copy of your ID card or passport**
3. **Copy of your highest education certificate**

Only complete applications will qualify for the selection process. Do not send photographed or scanned applications. The only formats accepted will be PDF or MS-Word.

A confirmation of acknowledgement of your application will follow within 3 working days. Applications sent by other means will not be considered. All candidates will be informed about the results of the selection after the selection.

**The final deadline for applying is May 15, 2016.**

### SELECTION CRITERIA

The applicants who cannot guarantee the minimum requirements of the course described above (computer access, Internet connection, good knowledge of English) will not be considered. The applicants who qualify for the selection and submit a complete application before the deadline will be evaluated on the basis of merit criteria.

Women's applications are welcome and will be taken into due consideration.

The applications of the participants who abandoned previous distance learning courses will be not considered.

The selection committee will consider the following criteria:

- At least first level degree in Economics, Environmental Management, Engineering Management, Business Administrations or similar titles
- Other relevant education qualifications in Economics, Environmental Management, Engineering Management, Business Administrations or similar
- Current position in the fields of water and sanitation with responsibilities of administration or finance
- Relevant previous professional experiences

### **CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE AND EVALUATION CRITERIA**

A Certificate of Attendance, signed by the course teachers, will be issued at the end of the course for the participants who meet **all of the following requirements**:

- Attendance: Download/visualization of at least 90% of all lecture material
- Merit: Average final grade in all the exercises of at least 60%
- Participation: At least 5 relevant posts in the thematic forum
- Final project: Realization of an individual work on assigned topics

The Certificate will be sent via e-mail and it will contain a brief description of the contents and goals of the course.

### **NOTE**

*We ask for a serious commitment when enrolling the course so that your participation does not exclude other potential candidates. Please evaluate carefully your interest and your availability to attend the on line activities (time, requirements, etc).*

For further information, please contact:

#### **HYDROAID**

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