



HYDROAID
Water for Development Management Institute

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM

e-Learning course on

**SUSTAINABLE PLANNING AND
ECONOMIC REGULATION**

2016/2017 edition

Call for applications

This edition is realized thanks to the financial support of

Fondazione CRT



in collaboration with:

Fondazione per l'Ambiente -
Turin School of Local
Regulation



HYDRODATA



*and under the auspices of all the Members of the Association
and the Institutions in scientific and technical partnership with Hydroaid.*

With the financial support of





BACKGROUND

Established in Turin in 2001 as an initiative of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Public, Financial and Academic Authorities of the Piedmont Region, **Hydroaid – Water for Development Management Institute** – is a non-profit Association entitled to operate both in Italy and abroad dedicated to pursuing objectives of solidarity, protection and improved governance of water resources through training and capacity development activities.

The mission of Hydroaid is to transfer technical knowledge on sustainable water resource management to managers and technicians from developing and emerging countries by providing them with a free school that operates also as a network connecting professionals in the fields of water and sanitation from all over the world. To say it with the words of a course participants, Hydroaid is “like a large office spread across the world that can activate at any time”.

In its 15 years of activity, Hydroaid has grown a network of over 1800 former participants – specialized operators, prominent engineers and trained technicians working in more than 70 countries affected by water criticalities. Thanks to its composition, Hydroaid operates as a platform of action with a highly integrated profile and varied approaches for the different levels of governance: urban, regional, national and international. Among the Associated Partners of Hydroaid are the Metropolitan City of Turin, the Municipality of Turin, Piedmont Region, SMAT (the Water Utility of Turin), Compagnia di San Paolo and ATO3 (the Water Authority of Turin), but the Association also relies on the support of other donors such as [Fondazione CRT](#), a private non-profit organization based in Turin with historical philanthropic roots that today grants financial assistance in various sectors: from scientific research, education and civil protection to environmental safeguards, innovation in local institutions and processes of economic development. A number of specialized academic, administrative and technical institutions then collaborate to the training activities promoted by Hydroaid.

To date, the portfolio of Hydroaid includes 4 editions of the Master on Integrated Sanitation Management in Brasilia and 8 editions of the Training Program on Planning and Management of Water Resources in Turin, as well as a Distance Learning Program with modules on Sanitation, Waste Recycling, Planning for Sustainability, Wastewater Treatment, Management of Urban Solid Waste, Governance of Urban Water Supply Systems and Economic Regulation of Water Services.

This distance learning course on “Sustainable Planning and Economic Regulation” is realized with the financial support of **Fondazione CRT** within **Project HaND – Hydroaid Network Development for Water and Sanitation Services** with the goals of strengthening the know how of public officials and operators in the water and sanitation services of developing and emerging countries, in synergy with other cooperation initiatives promoted by local stakeholders.

The program of the course- featuring two thematic modules – has been developed in collaboration with specialized organizations including [HYDRODATA](#). Established in 1976, HYDRODATA is an organization providing a broad range of technical, economic, engineering and research consulting services with a focus on Hydraulics and Water Resources Management. The approach of HYDRODATA is based on continuous technical and scientific innovation, promoting effectiveness and tailored solutions for specific local contexts. The expertise of HYDRODATA and its sensitivity to sustainability and environment conservation realized through multi-objectives water strategies will guide the first module of this course, which addresses Sustainable Environmental Planning.

An additional synergy supporting this initiative comes from the consolidated cooperation with the [Fondazione per l'Ambiente - Turin School of Local Regulation](#), partner of Hydroaid in training and capacity development projects, such as the recently concluded Project WATER-REG. Fondazione



per l'Ambiente (FA) is a non-profit body founded in Turin in 1999 by public and private partners operating in Piedmont 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 XX edition scheduled for september 2017. 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. The experts of the Turin School of Local Regulation will coordinate the **second module** of this course, which is dedicated to Economic Regulation of water services.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

Beneficiaries

This is a distance learning program accessible through the web platform Moodle and it is addressed to professionals operating in the fields of water and sanitation management with responsibilities of planning, financial administration, investments and/or tariff-setting from developing and emerging countries. Ideal candidates of this course are managers of local, regional or national Authorities in charge of water services, decision makers, NGO practitioners involved in the water cycle, water company officials.

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 know how in order to improve the management of their resources and to contribute to raise the quality of their services, with special attention to planning skills and economic sustainability.

Fee

The participation to 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 13th March to 4th June 2017 (12 weeks). Hereafter is an indicative schedule, to be confirmed at the end of selection process. Prior to the start of the didactic activities, admitted participants will also receive a detailed calendar with indication of all deadlines for the submission of their works.

Activity	Date
Submission of applications	3 January 2017 – 28 February 2017
Selection process	1 – 7 March 2017
Communications to admitted candidates	8 – 12 March 2017
Familiarization week	13 – 19 March 2017
Module 1 (6 weeks)	20 March – 30 April 2017
Module 2 (4 weeks)	1 May – 28 May 2017
Conclusion of didactic activities	4 June 2017
Delivery of Certificates to qualified participants	5 – 18 June 2017

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 work:** towards the end of the course, 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

The course presented in this edition is divided in 2 modules – each of them is the result of previous training, tested and updated – presented together for the first time in order to address both of the essential components of an effective and sustainable governance: Planning and Economic Regulation.

Units

The contents are divided into **Units**, each focused on a specific topic and containing the following elements:

- **Lecture material:** compulsory readings on the main Unit topic
- **Further reading:** optional materials on additional issues connected to the Unit topic
- **Exercise:** a quiz or assignment testing the understanding of the Unit contents

Module 1

The **first module** is dedicated to **Sustainable Environmental Planning** and provides an introduction to the planning process by showing the potentials of a management plan to control the risks associated to natural events and human activities, as well as key principles and useful general guidelines on developing and implementing management plans concerning river basins.

Starting from an overview of the planning process, the module highlights key conditions and common features of typical planning approaches, defines the minimum contents and information of a sound management plan and discusses the preliminary activities to undertake when preparing a plan. The program includes elements for setting priorities, goals, stakeholders and indicators for ensuring the well-functioning of a plan. In addition to this, this module provides a practical and introductory guidance on the planning process for river basins, including the preparation of management plans. Notions on European and Italian legislative framework are presented, as well as a comprehensive discussion on river basin approach as a tool for integrated management. Contents then focus on different aspects of river basin management – namely, water resources,

flood risk, landslide risk and seismic hazard zonation – in a “step-by-step” scheme for designing a management plan, including system characterization, pressures and issues identification, setting of goals and management objectives, identification of management strategies, implementation, monitoring, and public participation and consultation.

The following Units compose the first module:

- **Unit 1:** *Introduction to planning processes*
- **Unit 2:** *Making a management plan*
- **Unit 3:** *Key principles and approaches of river basin planning*
- **Unit 4:** *River basin management plans*
- **Unit 5:** *Flood risk management plans*
- **Unit 6:** *Landslide risk management plans and seismic hazard zonation*

Module 2

The **second module** of this combined course is dedicated to **Economic Regulation of Water Services**. 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: UN data reports 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.

This module introduces the subject with a short microeconomics section, useful to clarify concepts such as natural monopolies, competition, public goods and externalities. 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. In order to master all these aspects the introduction is followed by a section dedicated to regulatory tools and industrial investment analysis so as to have a broad view of the most relevant quantitative issues related to the regulation of water services. This section is necessary to jump-start the work related to assignments and case studies at the end of the module. Another section is focused on stakeholder analysis, relevant topic to approach such a multifaceted sector with a specific assignment related to a case study chosen by the participant. The last part of the module is constituted by a guided application in a quantitative case study.

This module is divided into 4 Units:

- **Unit 1** - *Introduction to Water Regulation*
- **Unit 2** - *Theory and instruments of industrial regulation of water services*
- **Unit 3** - *Stakeholder Analysis*
- **Unit 4** - *Case study*

Calendar

Units will become available according to a calendar announced at the beginning of the course in order to allow enough time for studying the material and participating in all the required activities (thematic forums, quizzes and assignments).

Copyright

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

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 **February 28, 2017**

To apply for this course please send the following documents to the e-mail address: 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
2. **Copy of your ID card or passport**
3. **Copy of your highest education certificate**

Only complete applications will be considered. 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.

Do not sent photographed applications. The only formats accepted will be PDF or MS-Word.

The final deadline for applying is 28th February 2017.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants who cannot guarantee the minimum requirements of the course described above (computer access, Internet connection, good knowledge of English) will not be considered. 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 candidates 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, Environment Management, Engineering Management, Business Administrations or similar
- Other relevant education qualifications in Economics, Environment Management, Engineering Management, Business Administrations or similar
- Current working position in the fields of water and sanitation with responsibilities of administration, planning or finance
- Relevant previous professional experiences
- Motivation: reasons, projects and/or perspectives for applying to this training

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 achieve a **total score of at least 60%**.

The final score is composed by the performance of each participant in the **4 components** of the course (*attendance, merit, participation, final work*). Points are assigned to performances above the minimum requirements, as detailed in the table below:

Requirements	Requirements for minimum grade		Requirements for maximum grade	
	Performance	Equivalent to	Performance	Equivalent to
Attendance <i>Download/visualization of lecture material</i>	6/10 units	3%	10/10 units	5%
Merit <i>Average final grade in all the exercises (quizzes/assignments)</i>	Grade 6/10	36%	Grade 10/10	60%
Participation <i>Relevant forum posts in the thematic forums</i>	9 posts	9%	15 posts	15%
Final work <i>Realization of an individual essay/case study analysis</i>	Grade 6/10	12%	Grade 10/10	20%
Total score	60%		100%	



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Certificates will be sent via e-mail and will contain a brief description of the course and the total amount of hours required for its attendance.

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).

CONTACTS

For further information:

Phone: + 39 011 5694336

Fax: + 39 011 5693690

Website: www.hydroaid.org

E-Mail: hydroaid@hydroaid.it (only for general issues)
tutor.sanitation@hydroaid.it (for questions and applications)

[Connect with our network](#) to stay in touch with candidates, course participants, teachers and other professionals, and for more information.

