



EXPERT GROUP MEETING OF THE UN DESA / IASIA GLOBAL TASK FORCE:

TOWARDS NEW STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION EDUCATION AND TRAINING

14-15 October 2024

CONCEPT NOTE

About the Event

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), through its Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) and its Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), and the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA), is organizing an “Expert Group Meeting (EGM) of the UN DESA/IASIA Global Task Force: Towards New Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training”. The EGM will take place at United Nations Headquarters from 14 to 15 October 2024.

Objective

The objective of the EGM is to discuss and agree on new and updated Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training based on the contributions of over 1,117 experts from around the globe who met through various global and regional workshops, and an online survey that was administered in five languages.

The Standards of Excellence were finalized in 2008 almost 15 years ago. While the Standards are still relevant today, they do not refer to recent inter-governmental agreements and to the insights from the work undertaken by UN DESA/DPIDG and IASIA in the area of education and training. Most notably, the Standards were issued before the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by 193 Member States in 2015. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (Goal 4) and the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels. Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda specifically calls for effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. Indeed, public institutions play a critical role in the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets.

Revising and upgrading the Standards of Excellence represents a real opportunity to profoundly affect the world for good. The Standards are being reviewed to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals and reflect new developments in public administration. The review was conducted through a global and regional consultative process. It took place between 2023 and 2024. Schools and institutes of public administration, networks, academia, and representatives of international, regional and national organizations contributed their ideas through an online survey and by attending the various meetings scheduled throughout the year.

Milestones of the UN DESA/IASIA Global Task Force

A first meeting of the UN DESA/IASIA Global Task Force was held in April 2023 where Regional Chairpersons were selected. A first meeting of this group took place in June 2023 to strategize on how to disseminate the initiative among their networks to ensure inclusiveness and to reach the largest number of public administration academics and practitioners, as well as education and training institutions as possible. Consultations were also held in dedicated special events during major regional and global conferences. As of July 2024, 1,117 people had participated in this process with about 900 people in regional workshops. Almost 150 responses were provided to the online surveys.

The table below summarizes the online regional workshops that were held over the course of 2023 and 2024 and the milestones achieved by the UN DESA / IASIA Global Task Force and other public administration schools and networks of Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East.

October 2022 - January 2023	Identification of Task Force members and invitation to join the Task Force	
January 2023	Establishment of the UN DESA / IASIA Global Task Force on Excellence in Public Administration Education and Training	
January – February 2023	Preparation of relevant concept note, proposed roadmap, communications material, and timeline	
3 March 2023	Co-Convenors meeting to discuss Roadmap and Timeline	
March –April 2023	Preparation of communication material for the launch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalization of the booklet - Preparation of one-pager flyer - Communication to UNPAN members regarding the initiative and social media campaign - Creation of a dedicated website page for the Review and Update process - Preparation of online survey in five languages 	

28 March 2023	Preparatory discussions of Task Force members attending the Committee of Experts in Public Administration	
18 April 2023 (online)	First meeting of the Task Force members	32
19 June 2023 (online)	Meeting of the Regional Chairpersons of the UN DESA/IASIA Task Force on Excellence in Public Administration Education and Training	7
July 2023	Call for online contributions on the Review and Update of the Standards of Excellence in Public Administration Education and Training	
31 July – 4 August 2023	Session organized in the context of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) annual Conference held in the Philippines themed “Building Better Futures of Governance towards Achieving the SDGs in a VUCA World” (Session in English)	170
13 September 2023 (online)	Africa (session in English) Organized in collaboration with Kenya School of Government (KSA), African Local Government Academy (ALGA) of United Cities and Local Governments Association (UCLG Africa)	56
5 October 2023 (online)	Europe (session in English) Organized in collaboration with the Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPACEe)	115
3 November 2023 (online)	Asia and the Pacific (session in English) Organized in collaboration with UN DESA/UNPOG and the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA)	139
6 - 10 November 2023	Session organized in the context of the Annual Meeting of the African Public Sector Human Resource Managers Network (APSHRnet) held in Kenya (Session in English)	150
22 November 2023 (hybrid)	Africa (session in French) Regional Workshop on the Review of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training in the context of the 7th edition of the African Forum of Territorial Managers and Training Institutes Targeting the Local Government (FAMI7_2023), Morocco	30

5 December 2023 (online)	Americas (session in Spanish) Organized in collaboration with the Latin American Group of Public Administration (LAGPA)	45
8 December 2023 (hybrid)	Middle East (session in English) held in the context of the Middle East and North Africa Public Administration Research Network (MENAPAR) Annual Conference, 7-10 December, Egypt.	30
5 – 8 December 2023	Sessions organized in the context of the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) Annual Conference, Zambia (Session in English)	20
23 January 2024	Americas (English)	31
20 February 2024	Americas (Portuguese)	74
2 July 2024	Workshop on the Importance of the Standards of Excellence in Public Administration Education and Training at the IASIA annual Conference, South Africa 1 – 5 July	67
July 2023 – July 2024	Completion of online surveys by relevant stakeholders	150
	Total Contributions	1,117

Structure

The EGM will take place over two days, and it will be an in-person meeting. It will be composed of an opening session, expert dialogues to review in-depth each Standard of Excellence, new proposals, and a closing session. The opening session will welcome participants and introduce the objective of the EGM. Regional Task Force Chairs of the UN DESA / IASIA Global Task Force will present the recommendations from the in person and online regional meetings of the review and update the Standards of Excellence. The organizers will then present the global Standards based on an analysis of the regional recommendations to facilitate expert dialogues to harmonize the regional proposals. The closing session will consist of a summary of the conclusions of each expert dialogue of the EGM and the way forward.

Target Audience

Members of the UN DESA / IASIA Global Task Force on the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Training and Education.

Expected Results

The EGM should result in draft updated and new set of Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Training and Education.

Language

The EGM will be conducted in English.

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