

bridge

version two

A Course on Electoral Processes



bridge project

Building Resources in Democracy, Governance & Elections

www.bridge-project.org



UNITED NATIONS



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

Background & History of BRIDGE

The past 15 years has seen a rapid increase in the number of democratic states. As a result, the number of elections worldwide has increased dramatically. Capable and professional election administrators are essential for organising elections, and without the right skills in place election processes can be undermined. To achieve effective, sustainable electoral administrations, the development of the capacity of their staff needs to be prioritised. To date, there have been few formal opportunities available for comprehensive professional development in election administration.

In response to this, the International Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and the United Nations Election Assistance Division (UNEAD) have developed the BRIDGE Project (**BRIDGE** stands for Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections). While the focus is still on elections it aims to put elections in context of governance and democracy.

BRIDGE is the **most comprehensive professional development course available in election administration**. It has been **developed by electoral administrators** themselves, people with wide experience of elections in many different countries and contexts. It improves the **skills, knowledge, and confidence** both of election professionals and key stakeholders in the electoral process including members of the media, political parties, and electoral observers.

Although users of Version 1 of the BRIDGE Project have found it to be an extremely useful tool, implementation of BRIDGE over the past five years has revealed the need for its expansion in order to keep BRIDGE up to date and to make it even more comprehensive

BRIDGE Version 2 has been **further internationalised** by commissioning expert writers from as many cultural and language backgrounds as possible. We have writers from every continent and region - the Americas, Africa, Europe, Middle East, Asia Pacific and Australia and New Zealand.





The aims of the BRIDGE Project are to

- strengthen election administrators' capacity to conduct their work in an effective and efficient manner
- enhance electoral administrators professionalism
- build teams and networks strengthen election administrators' capacity to conduct their work in an effective manner
- build an understanding of the standards and principles, which underpin good electoral administration

The BRIDGE Methodology

- **is not prescriptive.** It encourages participants to develop creative and appropriate solutions to challenges
- **is flexible.** The course has been developed in modules, and can be taught so as to cover all aspects of electoral administration, or to focus on specific elements of the electoral process
- **is adaptable to regional and cultural contexts.** It can be modified to meet the specific needs of clients
- **is activity-based.** There is very little traditional lecturing in the course. Participants are called on to play an active role in the course, the aim being to draw on their own skills and experiences
- **is practically focused.** The course seeks to develop skills in areas which are important in an electoral administrator's day-to-day work. It emphasises an understanding of the relationships between different tasks as a vital tool for meeting tight deadlines effectively
- **emphasises teamwork and network building.** Participants get to know each other, and have the chance to build networks either within their own organisation, or between different organisations, countries and cultures
- **is global in scope** and seeks to use comparative examples to illustrate options and best practice
- **uses content developed by electoral experts** from around the world

Overview of BRIDGE Version 2 Modules

BRIDGE Version 2 comprises 23 modules. These include 2 Foundation modules. These are an introduction to the standards and principles that underpin and the skills needed for effective electoral administration. Version 2 also contains 3 thematic groups: Electoral Architecture (5 modules), Working With Stakeholders (9 modules) and Electoral Operations (7 modules). BRIDGE Version 2 is due to be completed by the end of June, 2007.

FOUNDATION MODULES	Introduction to Electoral Administration
	Strategic & Financial Planning

ELECTORAL ARCHITECTURE
Legal Framework
Boundary Delimitation
Electoral Systems
Electoral Management Design
Electoral Technology

WORKING WITH ELECTORAL STAKEHOLDERS
Access to the Electoral Process
Voter Information
Electoral Contestants
Electoral Observation
Media & Elections
Electoral Assistance
Gender & Elections
Electoral Dispute Resolution
Civic Education

ELECTORAL OPERATIONS
Voter Registration
Pre-election Activities
Training of Electoral Officials
Polling, Counting & Results
Post-election Activities
External Voting
Security

Capacity Development and Quality Assurance

Training of Facilitators

To ensure the highest possible quality of BRIDGE course delivery, **the project partners only authorise fully accredited BRIDGE facilitators to conduct BRIDGE training courses.**

Accreditation as a BRIDGE facilitator requires potential facilitators to successfully complete the following:

Step 1: A BRIDGE Train the Facilitator's (TTF) Course. As part of the capacity development philosophy of BRIDGE, the Project partners conduct regular international TTF courses. Participants at a TTF are not only taught how to deliver the BRIDGE course, they are also exposed to generic training skills, writing skills, and adaptation skills that ensure that subsequent BRIDGE courses are tailor-made to their participants. **For this reason, TTFs not only produce high quality BRIDGE trainers, they also teach skills that any electoral management body will find useful in the development and implementation of operational training and voter education programs.**

Step 2: Co-facilitating a BRIDGE training session, supervised by a fully accredited BRIDGE facilitator. This allows new BRIDGE facilitators to take a lead role in the planning and implementation of BRIDGE modules while being supported and mentored by experienced BRIDGE facilitators.

It is only after successful completion of both of the above that one becomes a fully accredited BRIDGE facilitator

Implementation Manual and Workshop

To further enhance the quality of BRIDGE courses, the BRIDGE Project Partners have also developed a BRIDGE Implementation Manual and associated 3-day workshop in order to offer:

Greater implementation **guidance and support** for organisations wanting to use and adapt BRIDGE material and courses and to assist **implementers, project managers and facilitators** (for different courses) to implement BRIDGE in the most effective way.

BRIDGE courses to date

Number of countries conducting BRIDGE module courses to date:

Afghanistan, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, East Timor , Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Jordan, Liberia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sweden, Vanuatu, Yemen

People from the following countries have taken part in BRIDGE Courses:

Afghanistan, American Samoa, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaïdjan, Bangladesh, Bénin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chad, Columbia, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (DRC), Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, East Timor, Egypt, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guam, Haiti, Holland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kosovo, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Niue, Palau, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sénégal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somaliland, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Who is it for?

BRIDGE is designed to give people new to the field of electoral administration a comprehensive introduction to their work, to offer experienced officials new insights into the principles underlying their tasks, and to inform those outside the field about the key challenges that arise in conducting elections. It aims to accelerate the learning of skills and knowledge of all participants, as well as to instill a commitment to ethical behaviour and professionalism. Other potential audiences include:

- Electoral Commissioners
- EMB Staff
- Members of the Media
- Political Parties
- Parliamentarians
- Security Forces
- Civil Society Groups
- Academics and University Students

How do I participate in a course?

Contact the BRIDGE Project Office (details on back page) who will be able to provide a list of upcoming courses (including modules, TTFs and Implementation workshops) or who can offer advice as to how to set up your own program

What is the major source for BRIDGE materials?

BRIDGE draws heavily on the ACE (Administration and Cost of Elections) Project and is designed to meet the needs of organisations that have embraced, or wish to embrace, modern management principles of diversity, equity, cross-cultural sensitivity, inclusiveness, and maximum use of the skills of all staff.

Can BRIDGE materials be modified for a specific country?

Experience has shown that BRIDGE courses are most effective when they are carefully tailored to the needs of participants; and this is best achieved by developing and delivering them in partnership with local bodies that can contribute to and/or drive the tailoring process.



How can BRIDGE be used or modified?

To date, BRIDGE has been used in the following ways. Modules have been taught essentially without any modifications ("Pure BRIDGE"). Specific activities have been extracted from the modules and incorporated into operational training ("ABRIDGE"). The resulting shortened and/or modified versions may mix BRIDGE modules and/or feature new tailored modules that use BRIDGE methodology. The contents from a number of different modules have been used to develop a short course to meet specific needs or to work within limited time frames ("HYBRIDGE"). Such a combination of BRIDGE methodology and contents with specific operational training aims at enhancing the client organisation's own operational training activities. This can be done by inserting existing manuals, laws and regulations into the curriculum. Generic examples and principles may be used but only to introduce specific information. The activity-based methodology and elements of the curriculum have been used for exercises other than training ("Applied BRIDGE"). This type of BRIDGE may prove useful as an electoral assistance or dialogue tool. For example, in a country where boundary delimitation is a problem, Module 4 (Boundary delimitation) may serve as a possible way of reaching greater clarity and contributing to a solution. Other modules have also been used as a model for bringing electoral administrators together at a conference or meeting. These approaches can be tailored to enable the use of BRIDGE for local, national, regional or truly international audiences. Specialised courses can also be developed for particular target audiences, for example, administrators at a particular level of an organisation or specific stakeholders, such as political party functionaries.

What is the basis for the teaching methodology of BRIDGE?

Rather than relying heavily on traditional lecturing, BRIDGE is focused on practical issues and is activity-based, with each module offering a range of activities designed to convey clearly identified key understandings, and to achieve specified learning outcomes. BRIDGE uses a methodology based on adult learning principles, prioritising teamwork and experiential learning. It reflects the insight that people learn best when they take responsibility for their own learning, and are faced with material that is relevant to them and presented in a memorable and innovative way. Participants get to know each other and have the chance to build bridges within their own organisation, or between different organisations, countries and cultures.

Do I have to pay to attend a course?

To date no BRIDGE participant has been asked to pay tuition fees for attending a BRIDGE course. However, funding for facilitators, materials, venue, travel, etc will have to be found by the host organisation.





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BRIDGE is supported by a website which contains all of the BRIDGE curriculum and more detailed background information

BRIDGE Project Website:

www.bridge-project.org

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