



## **International Master in Procurement Management**

### **Joint Initiative**

### **Procurement Department at EBRD and University of Rome Tor Vergata**

#### **Introduction**

The first EBRD Public Procurement Assessment - Review of Laws and Practice in the EBRD Region 2011 ('the Public Procurement Assessment') highlights real and perceived deficiencies in most countries in the EBRD region.

The report stressed capacity building as a primary goal for the enhancement of public governance. Within capacity building, professionalism plays a major role in ensuring that staff have appropriate skills, experience and qualifications. In order to achieve efficiency and integrity in procurement, best practice guidance and professional training have to be provided to the public sector.

In order to support this goal, EBRD together with the University of Tor Vergata (Rome) has developed a pilot international (English language) version of the Master in Procurement Management specifically designed for procurement officials from the Bank's countries of operation.

The main aim of the Master is to train different types of public officials in procurement solutions to complex strategic, managerial and organizational problems. A special emphasis will be placed on professional ethics, transparency and accountability.

The training activities develop around training modules which cover relevant topics for good procurement: strategic tools for purchasing procedure, procurement law, PPP, ethical aspects involved in the procurement activities, economic analysis of markets. Training takes the form of traditional class units for a total length of three consecutive months including traditional lectures and seminars covering specific aspects of the procurement function such as abnormally low tender prices, negotiations, IT, vendor rating, etc.

The Master will be open to senior managers of public procurement agencies or large public procurement organisations in certain EBRD countries of operation.

#### **2. Selection of students**

Students will be selected as follows:

1. The public procurement authority will propose candidates to EBRD together with confirmation that they will meet the client contribution required to cover travel expenses,



accommodation and living allowance. Candidates will be proposed based on the Admission requirements defined by the University of Tor Vergata. Minimum admission requirements apply:

- A recognized magistralis degree (Master of Science or 4 years of studies at university level).
- Preference will be given to students 40 years old or younger.
- Previous experience in procurement offices (whether within the current position or not) of at least 5 full time years.
- Proficiency in English

2. Candidates' CVs will be reviewed by EBRD to select up to 18 candidates (maximum two from each country). EBRD will send the short list to University of Tor Vergata for the final selection.

3. The University of Tor Vergata will finally select ten students who have the right to attend the Master programme under this agreement.

4. University of Tor Vergata will advise the selected candidates and manage course logistics.

### **3. Details of the Master programme**

The programme's learning path is modelled upon four main activities which are outlined below.

#### 1. Modular training:

The whole programme consists of 10 modules and attendance of all modules is compulsory. Mandatory attendance is due not only to the formal requirements of the post-secondary education system but it also depends on the shape of the training activities, which entail practical sessions and knowledge sharing based on individual personal experiences.

Modules will follow a traditional learning approach defined in well-organized periods and places: the student has to undertake each module following a defined schedule and she/he will benefit of constant tutoring by one of the experienced and professionally qualified, training consultants.

#### 2. Exams.

At the end of each module students must take the relative exam to verify the acquisition of skills.

#### 3. Course Project.



Each student must be involved in a stage project within his/her own organization in which he/she puts in practice what has been learnt and during which the student has to write and complete the essay for the final dissertation.

### 3. Final Dissertation.

At the end of this Master's programme, students must submit a paper, which will be part of the final assessment. The final dissertation should be a case study on procurement issues related to their own organizations or countries and/or which refer to issues in EBRD's interest.

### 5 Training tools include.

- E-Learning
- Interactive tutoring
- 'Hands-on' application via existing organization projects
- Group discussion and seminars
- Role-playing
- Business games and team activities

## **4. Programme Implementation**

The Master in Procurement will take place at the Faculty of Economics at University of Rome Tor Vergata.

The overall duration is three months and is expected to commence in April 2013. During this period, lectures and other training activities will be held at the University of Tor Vergata in Rome. In addition to the lecturers provided by the University of Tor Vergata, EBRD professional staff will contribute and undertake training seminars as part of the course. Students will then have to write and complete their final dissertation which will be discussed during the next month after the end of courses.

The recognition of the titles for the Master course admission will be carried out by the Master Executive Committee.

## **5. Costs and Funds**

The course fee is 9.000 € per student including course fees, accommodation (private room with shared bathroom), daily lunch and dinner at the Campus Restaurant which will be met by the EBRD .

The cost of visa fees, travel (including air fares), living and incidental expenses must be met by the students.

## **6. Applications**



Applications must be issued by an authorised representative of the public procurement authority or public organisation and include:

- Full details of the candidate including a detailed *curriculum vitae*
- Confirmation that the candidate is involved at a senior level in procurement within the organisation
- Confirmation that, if selected, the organisation or candidate will release the candidate from his duties for the duration of the course and that the candidate undertakes to attend all modules.
- Confirmation that the organisation or candidate will meet all travel and other expenses not covered by the EBRD during the duration of the course.
- Confirmation that the candidate has a suitably high standard of written and spoken English.