MEPA is an online Master Programme providing advanced learning on electoral processes for current and aspiring election professionals. It targets mid/upper level professionals who want to acquire the specific knowledge and skills to work as election administrator, and/or to work as a part of Election Management Bodies (EMBs).

Boasting the most reputed international experts in this field, the Master Programme is based on the 2014 International IDEA designed “Model Curriculum – Master of Electoral Policy and Administration”, which will be piloted for the first time.

MEPA is composed of an online component (eight months) and an optional residential component at the Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna in Pisa, Italy (up to three weeks). Internships are encouraged but they are not compulsory in order to earn the Master degree.

Individual modules are also available, leading to the attainment of a Certificate of Completion of the specific module taken.
MEPA is composed of an online component lasting eight months, at the end of which students are required to write a 15,000-words dissertation on a relevant topic of interest. In addition, students may attend the optional residential phase at the Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna in Pisa, Italy.

The Master Programme is based on the 2014 International IDEA designed “Model Curriculum – Master of Electoral Policy and Administration” and the contemporary needs of the field. The MEPA Curriculum framework relies on the concept of the electoral cycle, pioneered by International IDEA. The Model Curriculum is composed of the following topics divided in 18 modules:

1. Election Law and Administration
2. Electoral Systems and Management
3. Policy Design, Implementation, and Evaluation
4. Election Management Bodies (EMBs)
5. Election Systems and Management Revalidation
6. Institutional and Management Evaluation
7. Political Parties, Campaigning, and Political Parties
8. Election Security and Conflict Prevention
9. Electoral and Political Systems Analysis
10. Election Development
11. Electoral Integrity and Malpractice
12. Civic and Voter Education
13. Media and Elections
14. Lessons from the Field
15. Public Administration and Management
16. Election Security and Conflict Prevention
17. Election Justice System
18. Election Observation, Education, and Validation

MEPA adopts an approach that highlights experiential and collaborative learning, allowing participants to share knowledge and experiences and contribute dynamically to the learning process. This approach focuses on the learning needs, interest and expectations of the participants to ensure the relevance and retention of content and puts particular emphasis on the active participation of learners through practice-oriented learning activities (both during the online and residential components). A maximum of 67 academic credits will be awarded for individual modules.

Candidates must meet the following minimum requirements:
1) Three-year (at least) university degree in a relevant field, combined with some (ideally at least 6 months) working experience in the field of electoral policy and administration or related areas. Students expecting to graduate within a period of three months from the application are not eligible.
2) Fluency in English – at least at level C1 (please refer to: CEFR for Languages, Coe, www.coe.int/lang-CEFR).

Applicants will be selected on the basis of the information provided in their CV and in the online application form which will be available on the website. The application process will start on 15 May 2016 and admitted participants will be informed about the results within eight weeks from the application. Once admitted, applicants will receive an Admission Letter and they will have up to six months to secure enough funding and start attending the courses.

www.mepa.dirpolis.sssup.it / www.mepa.sssup.it