

TC ABSTRACT

I. BASIC PROJECT DATA

▪ Country/Region:	Regional
▪ TC Name:	Design and development of a massive online open course on early childhood development
▪ TC Number:	RG-T2494
▪ Team Leader/Members:	M. Caridad Araujo (SCL/SPH), Edgar González (KNL/SDI), Romina Tomé (SCL/SPH), Claudia Pévere (SCL/SPH).
▪ Indicate if: Operational Support, Client Support, or Research & Dissemination.	Research and dissemination
▪ If Operational Support TC, give number and name of Operation Supported by the TC:	n/a
▪ Reference to Request:	n/a
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	May 14, 2014
▪ Beneficiary :	Regional
▪ Executing Agency and contact name	IDB
▪ IDB Funding Requested:	US\$ 140,000
▪ Local counterpart funding, if any:	n/a
▪ Disbursement period:	July 2014-December 2015
▪ Required start date:	July 1 st , 2014
▪ Types of consultants:	Firm
▪ Prepared by Unit:	SCL/SPH
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	SCL
▪ Included in Country Strategy (y/n);	n/a
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	n/a
▪ GCI-9 Sector Priority:	Social policy for equity and productivity

II. OBJECTIVE AND JUSTIFICATION

- 2.1 In 2012-2013, as a result of collaboration between INDES, EDU and SPH, a virtual course on “Management of Early Childhood Development Policies and Programs in Latin America” was designed and developed. The course was tailored for policymakers and public officials working on early childhood development (ECD) policies, programs and projects.
- 2.2 375 policymakers and public officials integrated in 84 organizational teams in 18 Latin-American countries registered in the three editions of this course offered by IDB between 2013 and 2014. This course was delivered through the INDES virtual platform (Moodle).
- 2.3 The following observations and lessons learned should be noted from the experience of the first three editions of this course:

- a. There has been a very large demand for the course, much larger than initially expected. Several countries have requested special editions of the course targeted to their subnational governments. There have been multiple requests from non-governmental organizations that provide services to poor and vulnerable populations to participate in the course. Multiple government teams that applied for the course were not granted a spot due to space constraints.
 - b. The current course design and methodology based on teams and facilitated by online tutors does not allow the participation of a larger audience to satisfy the unmet demand for the course in Spanish.
 - c. The course is currently only offered in Spanish, but there is an additional unmet demand from practitioners in Portuguese and English-speaking countries.
 - d. Due to the slow internet connections in the region, the current platform for the delivery of the course limits the amount of non-text material (video, audio, etc.) that can be made available for course participants.
 - e. While participants value the course's focus on management, they are eager to gain more access to material that allows them to strengthen their technical knowledge on the different conceptual frameworks related to ECD and to accessible information on the state-of-the-art work from different disciplines: neuroscience, economics, pedagogy, to name a few.
 - f. Participants have suggested that the course material should be further enriched with more examples of successful programs and initiatives, or good practices, for the different themes that are being analyzed.
- 2.4 The objective of this TC is to design and develop a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on Early Childhood Development (ECD) to satisfy the unmet demand of the course in Spanish. This MOOC will be built and delivered through IDBx, the IDB virtual space in the edX platform¹, which will allow the delivery of more engaging materials and richer media content, and will foster a more interactive learning experience and interaction among participants. A virtual community of practice can be also designed and developed as part of this MOOC to promote the interaction and knowledge exchange of participants after the conclusion of each edition of the course and to facilitate the follow-up and evaluation of results, in terms of application of knowledge gained in the improvement of ECD policies, programs and projects over the years.
- 2.5 This MOOC on ECD will constitute a public good that will strengthen the technical capacities of teams implementing ECD programs and policies across the region (many of them supported by Bank operations). The Bank's value added is precisely the production of a regional public good of this nature, allowing knowledge sharing and capacity building across policy makers from the region. In the framework of GCI-9, this technical cooperation contributes directly to improving indicators related to regional goals on the area of social policy for equity and productivity.

¹ edX, founded by Harvard and MIT and other 30 universities, is one of the leading providers of MOOC platform in the market. The IDB subscribed an agreement with edX to build and deliver MOOCs developed by the Bank and strategic partners in the Region.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

- 3.1 Analysis and design of the MOOC on ECD with the characteristics described earlier. The experience accumulated during the three editions and the requirements of the edX platform will be taken into account to undertake this activity.
- 3.2 Adaptation of existing materials and development of new training materials and activities to promote learning and knowledge exchange among participants. This includes production of video, audio, and graphic material that can enrich the learning process.
- 3.3 Translation of course material into Portuguese and/or English to reach a larger audience in the region.
- 3.4 IDB will work with the Center for the Developing Child from Harvard University in the design of this MOOC in ECD. The end-product of this work will be a complete set of material for the delivery of the course through the edX platform.

IV. BUDGET (INDICATIVE)

Activity/Component	Description	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Design and development	Development of MOOC material	140,000	0	140,000

V. EXECUTING AGENCY AND EXECUTION STRUCTURE

- 5.1 This technical cooperation will be Bank-Executed. Given the regional nature of this course, the fact that many countries of the region are likely to benefit from it, and the fact that the Bank's additionally is precisely producing a service of this nature, this seems to be the most efficient executing arrangement.

VI. PROJECT RISKS AND ISSUES

- 6.1 Given that this project will be Bank-executed and that the Bank will work in partnership with Harvard University, we do not expect to encounter major risks that might hinder project execution and achieving project objectives.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CLASSIFICATION

- 7.1 We do not expect that this technical cooperation will generate any negative social or environmental impacts. Therefore, we propose a classification of "C", considering the Environmental Safeguards Policy (OP-703).