



## PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Ref. No.: 22-IP-14-GE-DLN-A-PN2200055-004

<b>Date of Issue</b>	01 June 2022
<b>Project Code</b>	22-IP-14-GE-DLN-A
<b>Title</b>	APO e-Course on Public-sector Innovation Labs
<b>Launch Date</b>	30 September 2022
<b>Hosting Country(ies)</b>	APO Secretariat
<b>Modality</b>	Digital Learning
<b>Implementing Organization(s)</b>	APO Secretariat
<b>Participating Country(ies)</b>	Open
<b>Overseas Participants</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Local Participants</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Qualifications of Participants</b>	Open
<b>Nomination of Participants</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Closing Date for Nominations</b>	Not Applicable

## 1. Objectives

- a. Explain the principles and practices of public-sector innovation labs.
- b. Learn about the different kinds of public-sector innovation labs and how their structure and relation to government affect their performance.
- c. Understand the rationale behind the use of innovation labs and the types of public and social problems they can help address.

## 2. Background

Governments have turned to public-sector innovation labs to develop new approaches to designing policies and public services. Worldwide, more than 100 government innovation units have sprung up to find solutions to pressing social challenges (Deloitte 2020). Among APO members, some of the notable ones include the Public Service Division's Innovation Lab in Singapore, the Innovation Bureau in the Republic of Korea, and the Thailand Policy Lab that was launched in collaboration with the UNDP.

Innovation labs provide platforms and protocols for engaging civil society, technologists, the private sector, and government to solve social and public challenges with experimental methods. They can take various forms from small, distributed teams to a physical office, and employ diverse methodologies. These include design thinking, behavioral insights, randomized controlled trials, and advanced data analytics. The labs share some common features. First, they are focused on people-centered policymaking. This means that innovation labs involve co-designing proposals with citizens and bringing in diverse stakeholders to develop empathy and ensure successful design and implementation. Second, they employ design-thinking approaches, i.e., processes of iterative, user-centric problem-solving originating from tech and product design. Third, they promote cross-departmental collaboration, enabling different government agencies to work together and share learning.

This course will offer both a theoretical and practical guide to public-sector innovation labs, including an analysis of their practices and how to develop them. The information provided will help make understanding labs easier for those considering setting up or supporting the establishment of this type of unit.

## 3. Modality of Implementation

- a. The course is offered through the APO e-learning platform: <https://www.apo-elearning.org>
- b. Participants should register on this portal and create their own accounts.
- c. Certificates of completion will be provided for those who satisfactorily complete all the modules of the course, including quizzes and a final examination.

## 4. Scope and Methodology

The course will comprise five modules:

Introduction

Module 1:

Introduction to public-sector innovation labs

Module 2:

The pilot phase: Inquiry, scope, and pilot projects

Module 3:

Operating a lab: Structure, staffing, budget, and activities

Module 4:

Innovation lab methods and project models: Tools and techniques

Module 5:

Looking at innovation labs from around the world: Learning from real-world experience

Self-assessment quizzes and a final examination

**Methodology**

Module study, additional study material for participants, quizzes for self-assessment, and a final examination.

**5. Requirements**

- a. Have necessary devices and software comprising a computer/smartphone, updated browser, microphone, and speaker or headphones.
- b. Access to internet connections.
- c. Completion of all the modules, quizzes, and final examination.
- d. The APO e-certificate will be given to participants who score a minimum of 70% on the final examination.

**6. Financial Arrangements**

The APO will meet the assignment costs for resource persons to develop the course modules including quizzes and a final examination.

**7. Actions by APO Members**

- a. Promote the courses nationwide.
- b. Provide the link to the APO e-learning platform on NPOs' websites and social network services.

**8. Actions by the APO Secretariat**

- a. Identify and assign the resource person(s) to develop the course.
- b. Announce course commencement on the APO website and social network services.



Dr. AKP Mochtan  
Secretary-General