

Fostering Strategic Social Accountability GPSA E-Course

The Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA) is launching its first e-learning course on “Fostering Strategic Social Accountability” on October 6, 2014. This e-learning course will be delivered through the GPSA Knowledge Platform administered by Fundar, Center for Analysis and Research from Mexico: <http://gpsaknowledge.org/>.

About the course

This introductory course targeted primarily to CSO applicants to the GPSA Global Call for Proposals, while is also open to other CSOs with working on social accountability initiatives. In addition, CSOs that were awarded GPSA grants will also contribute with their experiences through the course’s moderated forums.

The E- course will address the meaning of “Strategic social Accountability” for CSOs’ analytical and operational work. It is structured around the elements that are considered critical for social accountability to work effectively in practice. These elements were explored as part of the GPSA’s analysis of the more than 600 applications it received during its two Global Call for Proposals. The results were published in a six-part note series “Are we ready for Strategic Social Accountability?” available in the [GPSA website](#) and the [Knowledge Platform](#). The course will focus on key axes (modules) to understand Strategic Social Accountability:

Module 1: Political Economy for Strategic Social Accountability

Module 2: Social Accountability, Citizen Engagement and Feedback Mechanisms

Module 3: Working with partners and allies – Dynamics and challenges

Learning goal

Broaden and master the meaning of “Strategic Social Accountability”, and how it could be embedded into CSOs’ analytical and operational work.

Course Format:

The E-course will be structured around three modules. Each module will last 2 weeks and will host at least one social accountability expert or academic. Each module will include 2 learning materials (one reading and one interactive material), 1 activity (a “points to ponder” exercise, a forum or a blog), 1 Q&A exam and complementary materials.

Throughout this e-learning course, we will emphasize a horizontal approach to knowledge and learning through the exchange and collaboration between peers. We strongly invite all participants to contribute with their opinions, questions and feedback through the course’s forum and actively contribute to all our activities.

Structure and contents

INTRODUCTION:

Oct 6-10, 2014

Presentation of the course: objective, learning goals, syllabus and methodology.

Strategic social accountability as a process that encompasses:

- The use of a combined set of linked, fit for purpose tactics, mechanisms and “tools” including formal (mandated by laws and regulations) and informal (set up or organized by CSOs and citizen groups themselves).
- The choice of mechanisms and tools grounded on several considerations. These include a cost-benefit analysis of alternatives, an analysis of the political-institutional context, an assessment of needs and problems regarding the service delivery chain or the management process, among others, as well as of “entry points” for introducing the process, and of existing capacities and incentives of the actors to be engaged, including service users, CSOs, service providers and public sector institutions.

MODULE 1: Political Economy for Strategic Social Accountability.**DURATION:**

2 weeks | Week 1: Oct 13 | Week 2: Oct 17

This module will introduce participants to Political Economy as a framework that allows the understanding of power and resources, and the way they are distributed and contested in different contexts, between different groups and individuals, and the processes that create, sustain, and transform these relationships over time.

Learning goals:

- Participants will be able to understand the value that political economy adds to the design and implementation of strategic social accountability initiatives.
- Participants will be able to learn how political economy diagnostics and tools could help inform engagement with social and political actors, their potential for collective action, the relevant institutions and incentives.

Guest experts: Gaia Gozzo, CARE. UK. , María Poli, GPSA. World Bank

Moderators: María Poli, GPSA. World Bank, Gina Chacón. Fundar. Center for Analysis and Research. Mexico.

MODULE 2: Social accountability, citizen engagement and the importance of feedback mechanisms.

2 weeks | Week 1: Oct 27 | Week 2: Nov 7

This module will focus on citizen engagement as a key element for implementing strategic social accountability initiatives. It also addresses the relevance to build tactics that are accompanied by effective feedback mechanisms.

Learning goals:

- Participants will be able to design citizen engagement strategies that respond to their

social accountability initiatives.

- Participants will learn about the need of linking tactics and the use of different citizen feedback mechanisms.

Guest Expert: Almudena Ocejo. Center for Social Accountability. CIESAS Mexico.

Moderator: Gina Chacón. Fundar, Center for Analysis and Research. Mexico.

MODULE 3: Working with partners and allies – Dynamics and challenges

2 weeks | Week 1: Nov 10 | Week 2: Nov 21

Implementing strategic interventions should consider actions taken by diverse actors, where coalitions and partnerships are crucial to achieve impact. This module highlights the importance of identifying partners and allies to strengthen social accountability efforts to generate change.

Learning goals:

- Participants will be able to map the key social and political actors, potential allies to implement and develop their social accountability projects.
- Participants will be able to identify existing capacities and incentives of the actors to be engaged, including service users, CSOs, service providers and public sector institutions.

Guest Expert: Tina Nabatchi. Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Faculty Research Associate, Campbell Institute of Public Affairs, at Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs, Syracuse University.

Moderator: Gina Chacón. Fundar, Center for Analysis and Research. Mexico.

Benefits for participants

Participants will have the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and capacities on strategic social accountability to ultimately enhance their Social Accountability initiatives and work. They will learn from and exchange with experts or academics recognized for their experience in the topic.

At the end of the E-course, the GPSA and Fundar, Center for Analysis and Research will deliver certificates to the participants who fulfilled all the requirements: having carried out the three activities proposed during the E-course; having passed the three Q&A tests, at least 5 days before the course ends.

This E-course has been designed so that participants spend between 2 and 3 hours a week doing the course's activities. The number of participants will be limited to 150 participants.

The E-course will be free of charge. Application process will start on September 22, 2014. Applicants will be expected to fill out the form before October 1, 2014. Notifications to E-course participants will be sent three days before the course starts.