The Moldovan BRIDGE programme commenced in December 2009 with a Train the Facilitator workshop for 12 staff of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) and its partners. The BRIDGE programme is a component of the multi-year UNDP Electoral Support to Moldova Project, and has continued since the TtF with six thematic workshops; these needed to be scheduled around three national electoral events in 2010 and 2011. There are now eight Moldovan workshop facilitators (4 women and 4 men), and workshop participants have been drawn from CEC members and staff, central government agencies, local public administrations and the CEC’s international partners UNDP and IFES. In 2010, the CEC has also participated in three regional BRIDGE workshops. Plans for the future include more regional participation and national workshops in 2012 and 2013 with the support of the UNDP project. The overall BRIDGE programme in Moldova will also be subject to an evaluation of external assistance to the CEC planned for 2013.

While operating in a very challenging political and electoral environment – and running five national electoral events in 26 months – the Moldovan CEC has shown a deep commitment to the use of BRIDGE to improve the electoral knowledge and skills of both its own members and staff, and those professionals who perform electoral functions in other public bodies. As is typical, the choice of topics for workshops reflects Moldova’s electoral situation; for example, the fact that up to a quarter of Moldovan electors are abroad suggested that the External Voting module would be relevant. The impact of BRIDGE is clearly evident to observers and clients of the CEC – from the recently adopted CEC Strategic Plan to the use of modern facilitation skills at workshops and conferences.

Below are profiles of some of the more active of Moldova’s workshop facilitators. Other accredited facilitators are Dr Iurie Ciocan, the Chair of the CEC; Mariana Musteata, Head of the CEC Secretariat; Slava Balan, of UNWomen’s Moldova programme; and Renata Lapti, former CEC Vice-Chair. In addition, Dr Stefan Uritu, current Vice-Chair of the CEC, recently completed his partial accreditation as a workshop facilitator.

Name: Doina Bordeianu
Organisation: CEC Moldova
Facilitator category: Accrediting Facilitator
Position: Head of Civic education, training and secretariat, CEC/Moldova
BRIDGE workshops: TtF (received semi-accreditation in Dec 2009); Strategic and Financial Planning (received accreditation of workshop facilitator in April 2010); External Voting; Civic Education; Introduction to Election Administration; Voter Registration.
What do you like most about being a BRIDGE Facilitator? In BRIDGE I like the facilitation itself, the training methods and the joy of the participants during the course.
Interests: Reading; walking; training
Languages: Romanian, Russian, English
Tell us about a time in your BRIDGE journey that stands out in your memory: BRIDGE is the course where participants get to know each other and have the chance to build bridges within their own organization, or between different organizations, countries and cultures. It is true for the facilitators as well. BRIDGE workshop where I got my full accreditation has been lead by Skye Christensen. During the five days of the workshop we discovered that Skye knows very well my friends in America whom I met when I visited US and that the town I have been visiting was his home town. It’s amazing how BRIDGE is able to get people together!
Name: Pavel Cabacenco  
Organisation: IFES Moldova  
Facilitator category: Accrediting Facilitator  
Position: Deputy Country Director, IFES/Moldova  
BRIDGE workshops: TtF (received semi-accreditation in Dec 2009); Strategic and Financial Planning; External Voting (received accreditation of workshop facilitator in July 2010); Civic Education; Introduction to Election Administration; Voter Registration.

What do you like most about being a BRIDGE Facilitator? Most of all I like the spirit of BRIDGE workshops: interaction, openness, humor and creativity. I also enjoy working in a team with other facilitators and bringing participants to a new level.

Interests: I enjoy playing different board games. It is a good way to spend time with my family.

Languages: Romanian, Russian, English

Tell us about a time in your BRIDGE journey that stands out in your memory: I am proud to be a part of the first group of BRIDGE facilitators in Moldova. TtF at which we were semi-accredited took place in December 2009. The workshop ended just few days before Christmas. Thus, at the TtF we enjoyed not only the BRIDGE spirit, but also the spirit of happiness and joy of the winter holidays. It was a wonderful start of my BRIDGE journey.

Name: Ludmila Bârsa  
Organisation: CEC Moldova (Legal Department)  
Facilitator category: Workshop Facilitator  
Position: Head of Legal Department (acting), CEC Moldova  
BRIDGE workshops: TtF (received semi-accreditation in Dec 2009), Strategic and Financial Planning (Apr 2010 in Moldova, Oct 2011 in Hungary); Voter Registration (received full accreditation as workshop facilitator)

What do you like most about being a BRIDGE Facilitator? I like being a facilitator because during the BRIDGE workshops you are meeting new people, getting new experience, using different learning methodologies and working in a team, with a lot of fun!

Interests: I like traveling. My dream is to travel around the world!

Languages: Romanian, Russian, English (intermediate level)

Tell us about a time in your BRIDGE journey that stands out in your memory: It is amazing how BRIDGE is combining fun with learning. For me it is the most dynamic and amazing professional experience! I am happy to be a part of the BRIDGE Moldovan team and continue my BRIDGE journey together with Moldovan colleagues as well as with electoral professionals from other countries.

Name: Cornel/Corneliu Pasat  
Organisation: Central Electoral Commission  
Facilitator category: Workshop Facilitator  
Position: Senior advisor of Civic Education, Training and Secretariat Division, CEC/Moldova  
BRIDGE workshops: TtF (received semi-accreditation in Dec 2009); Strategic and Financial Planning; External Voting (received accreditation of workshop facilitator in June 2010); Civic Education; Voter Registration.

What do you like most about being a BRIDGE Facilitator? Working/networking with different people using BRIDGE methodology!

Interests: Travels, music, cooking.

Tell us about a time in your BRIDGE journey that stands out in your memory: My first BRIDGE workshop, TtF – the first time is always memorable. Everything was new for us and all of us were very enthusiastic. We had a very friendly and productive team that has done a GOOD JOB!!! People were very creative when applying the punishments, so we had also a lot of fun (singing, drawing, poetry). The training was organized right before Christmas, so we felt also the spirit of the winter holidays. At the end of the workshop we have organized a mini party with carols.
Photos from recent BRIDGE workshops in:
- Indonesia
- Bhutan
- Ethiopia
- Hungary
- Moldova
- Lebanon
- Papua New Guinea
- São Tomé e Príncipe
- Angola
- Niger
- France
- USA
- Tunisia
- Ghana
- Senegal

Fun with BRIDGE
BRIDGE Statistics 2011

2011 was BRIDGE’s biggest year yet. Every week BRIDGE was being run somewhere in the world and we welcomed lots of new BRIDGE facilitators and implementers to the BRIDGE community. Here are the statistics for BRIDGE facilitators and events to December 2011—it’s great to see BRIDGE evolving and growing!

Facilitators

BRIDGE facilitator ranks swelled in 2011 with 20 Train the Facilitators run all over the world and many facilitators making the progression to Workshop and Accrediting status, as well as several new Expert facilitators. We now have over 1600 facilitators from 129 countries as shown in the map on the right, over a quarter of these fully accredited.

The majority of fully accredited BRIDGE facilitators are in the Asian region (113) with Oceania (97) and Africa (95) not far behind, thanks to the programs and workshops being run there. There are also strong cohorts in the Middle East (46) and Europe (55).

The many BRIDGE workshops run in 2011 provided ample opportunity for many facilitators to complete their accreditation, with 40 new Workshop facilitators in the last quarter alone. Congratulations to you all!

We also saw our ranks of Accrediting Facilitators grow and there are now 42 around the world, with particular growth in some of the broader BRIDGE programs in Indonesia and the lusophone world.

Events

Since 2001 there have been at least 485 BRIDGE workshops run around the world. In 2011 alone we saw nearly double the number of workshops of 2010! We have 152 in our records, and there may be a couple missing—please check the events calendar and make sure all your workshops are listed.

At some point in 2012 we will see workshop number 500 run—we wonder what it will be and where!

Africa continued to be fertile ground for BRIDGE with workshops being run for the first time in countries like Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Tunisia and Rwanda. Indonesia and Bhutan led BRIDGE in Asia and there are plans for more BRIDGE in the Pacific to run in 2012. Eastern Europe is also seeing a lot of BRIDGE activity.

The most popular module to run continues to be Introduction to Electoral Administration, but Registration, Planning, Gender and Information were all well-represented and there was a growth in customised workshops that took in topics from many modules.
Facilitator Profile—Ibrahima Niang

What is your name? My name is Ibrahima Amadou Niang. Everybody knows me as Ibou but without the “H” because Hibou means “owl” in French.

What organization do you work for? I work for the Gorée Institute, a pan-African non-profit organization based on Gorée Island, in Senegal.

What is your nationality? I am Senegalese.

What is your facilitator category? Since September 2011 I am an Expert Facilitator.

Can you tell us about your work in elections and training? I started working in elections in July 2007 as the ACE Project focal person for West Africa. For about 2 years I was in charge of coordinating the activities of the West African Electoral Resource Center based at The Gorée Institute. These activities consisted in collecting, uploading and disseminating electoral knowledge and materials to electoral stakeholders in the whole of West Africa. In addition, my work with The Gorée Institute in the field of democratization and elections became broader as I was appointed Programme Coordinator for Democratization, Governance and Elections. Taking on this new position, I have managed a network of over 200 African stakeholders, providing assistance to election management bodies, conducting needs assessment missions, training ECOWAS observers at the Koffi Anan Center, developing training curricula in elections and democracy, building the capacity of election administrators and civil society experts around Africa through trainings, actively participating in over 10 international electoral observation missions, managing projects with a regional focus and I am now coordinating an important Senegalese civil society network of domestic observers for the 2012 Senegal elections.

Can you tell us about your experience in facilitating BRIDGE? What workshops, where etc.? I attended my TtF in Pretoria, in May 2008. From there, my BRIDGE journey started and I facilitated the following workshops: four TtFs (Senegal, Guinea, and Ghana), 12 modular workshops (Congo DRC, Gabon, Senegal, Rwanda and South Sudan). I also took part in a needs assessment mission in Niger (September 2010).

What do you like most about being a BRIDGE facilitator? Belonging to an international network and being able to relate with other people with similar interests in various parts of the globe is extremely enriching. As a BRIDGE facilitator I have met some of my best friends and companions in life and since our first BRIDGE meeting, the relationships keeps flourishing. As a BRIDGE facilitator I am on a continuous journey to discover, to dream and to design what I believe should be our common destiny: a peaceful world with fewer misunderstandings.

Tell us about a time in your BRIDGE journey that stands out in your memory. The BRIDGE TtF I co-facilitated with my companions (Kamissa Camara and Corneille Nangaa) in Guinea, February 2011, was the best BRIDGE training in my life. From a hostile environment (remote hotel far from the capital city, shortage of water and electricity supplies, showering with buckets of cold water, oily food and poor infrastructure) we were able to build a team and a family who were so thrilled to discover one another that they decided to be bound for life. I remember the “night of tales” we organized as part of the social activities. As we gathered around a big fire in the wild outskirts of the hotel, everybody sat on mattresses and traditional tea was served as the various participants told stories and tales of greedy hyenas, brave lions or clever rabbits! It was a lifetime human fulfilling experience.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of BRIDGE? Outside of BRIDGE, I enjoy the island where I work from at Gorée Institute. From Gorée Island I am able to go fishing with friends. I enjoy fishing!! I also enjoy writing: in 2010 I published a poetry collection entitled Les Raisins du baobab, I am a big fan of traveling, reading, playing football and watching movies. Recently, I discovered the joys of owning an iPad and I can’t stop playing at Veggie Samurai or Risk.

What advice would you have for any new BRIDGE facilitators? To any new BRIDGE facilitator I would say: BRIDGE is a family and a chain of solidarity. Do not wait for others to create opportunities for you. You have all you need and all it takes to create your own opportunities. Do not think about what BRIDGE can do for you. Think about what you can do for BRIDGE.
### Upcoming BRIDGE workshops

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>JANUARY</th>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th>MARCH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-13 EU funded</td>
<td>1-5 EU funded Registration workshop in Mozambique</td>
<td>1-7 EU funded</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU funded Introduction</td>
<td>1-5 EU funded Training workshop in Guinea-Bissau</td>
<td>Worldwide</td>
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<td>workshop in East Timor</td>
<td>6-17 AEC/VEC funded TtF workshop in Australia</td>
<td>IDEA Africa TtF</td>
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<td>6-17 IDEA Africa TtF workshop in South Africa</td>
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<td>13-16 UNDP/GPECS Gender</td>
<td>Africa TtF workshop</td>
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<td>workshop in Georgia</td>
<td>in South Africa</td>
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<td>22 Jan–25 Feb Series of 15 IFES/USAID customised workshops in Georgia</td>
<td>26-30 UNDP/GPECS Access and Management workshop in Romania</td>
<td>26-30 EU Planning workshop in Mozambique</td>
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<td>30 Jan–12 Feb AusAID funded TtF in Bhutan</td>
<td>19-30 AusAID funded Introduction workshops in South Africa</td>
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Accreditations

Congratulations to the following BRIDGE facilitators who have completed their accreditation or been accredited at Expert or Accrediting category in the last few months!

Workshop facilitators

★ Radhika Regmi (Nepal)
★ Ali Al-Bayati (Iraq)
★ Donia Ben-Romdhane (Tunisia)
★ Samia Mahgoub (Egypt)
★ Handi Mulyaningsih (Indonesia)
★ Sekar Linasti (Indonesia)
★ Bambang Aryanto (Indonesia)
★ Joaquim da Silva Xavier (Timor Leste)
★ Melina dos Reis (Timor Leste)
★ Anna Solyam (Hungary)
★ Lysiane Darnat (France)
★ Joram Rukembe (Namibia)
★ Shana Kaiser (Canada)
★ Pauline Adoeba Dadzawa (Ghana)
★ Kelechi Akubueze (Nigeria)
★ Augustine Okrah (Ghana)
★ Elba Pires (Cape Verde)
★ Helena Garene (Mozambique)
★ Helga Marques (Portugal)
★ Komal Prasad Dhamala (Nepal)
★ Shashma Manandhar (Nepal)
★ Sharada Prasad Trital (Nepal)
★ Madhu Regmi (Nepal)
★ Bibha Prajapati (Nepal)
★ Salina Joshi (Nepal)
★ Charles N. Maina (Kenya)
★ Eisha Mohamed (Kenya)
★ John Muia Mwangi (Kenya)
★ Liban Mohamed (Kenya)
★ Moses Ledama Sunkuli (Kenya)
★ Samuel Lepati Seki (Kenya)
★ Jide Ojo (Nigeria)
★ Ludmila Birsa (Moldova)
★ Endang Sulastri (Indonesia)
★ Ahmad Fayumi (Indonesia)
★ Andi Krisna (Indonesia)
★ Nikila Shrestha (Nepal)
★ Raphael Pouye (France)
★ Binsar Slagian (Indonesia)
★ Jean Hanna (Lebanon)

Accreditors

★ Claudio Albasine Langa (Mozambique)
★ Felisberto Naife (Mozambique)
★ Doina Bordeianu (Moldova)
★ Pavel Cabacenco (Moldova)

Expert facilitators

★ Corneille Yobeluo Nangaa (DR Congo)
★ Ibrahima Niang (Senegal)

Apologies to Ibrahima who was missed in the last edition!

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) sponsors an annual democracy-themed photography contest to highlight the many ways people around the world demonstrate a sense of civic responsibility. The contest seeks images of individuals taking part in the electoral process and other activities that demonstrate the values of democratic governance and civic engagement.

ELIGIBILITY: The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers and will be divided into two categories:
• The Public Category is open to all photographers who are at least 18 years of age at the time of entry
• The IFES’ Choice Category is open only to current and former IFES employees, consultants and interns

PRIZES: One winner and up to 10 finalists will be chosen in each category. The winner of each category will receive $600 (USD).

HOW TO ENTER: Full contest rules and entry information are available online at http://photocontest.ifes.org. All entries must be received by February 16, 2012, at 11 p.m. Eastern Time.
New Electoral Fraud module

The BRIDGE curriculum framework is about to expand just a little more! IFES have initiated the development of a new Electoral Fraud module, which is currently being completed and edited.

The Electoral Fraud module is one that the BRIDGE community has long discussed and it’s great that it is finally coming to fruition!

Accreditation changes

Please note that the forms for accreditation at Workshop, Accrediting and Expert level have all changed slightly. The rules for accreditation have not changed (although they may be reviewed this year), however applicants and referees are now required to provide more information about their assessment of competency at the new category.

Facilitator Evaluation Form

The BRIDGE Office is trialling a new Facilitator Evaluation Form which is available on the BRIDGE website Facilitator Page. This form is to replace the current one included at the end of all modules.

The BRIDGE Office is hoping to capture some useful information about what is good and bad about the curriculum and structure of BRIDGE, and also to provide facilitators with a useful evaluation tool for their own needs.

We are asking all BRIDGE facilitators to make use of this form over the next few months. The BRIDGE Office will review the form in April. Please note that it is most definitely a work in progress, and any feedback is most welcome!

In other evaluation news, International IDEA have been using a participant evaluation tool in their African BRIDGE programs over the past six months and we hope to make this great resource available to the wider BRIDGE community in the coming months.

A broad partner-led evaluation of BRIDGE is also about to commence. For more information, contact the BRIDGE Office.

BRIDGE Office movements

Many of you will have been in contact with the lovely Fatima (aka Tania) Tabaja who has been an essential part of the BRIDGE Office for the past year. Sadly Fatima has now left us to return to Canberra to work in another part of the AEC—and to have a little baby in May 2012!

We would like to thank Fatima for doing so much for BRIDGE and being just a sweetheart to work with. She will be missed!

We would also like to thank the fabulous Bassam Alyaseri, who also did a stint in the BRIDGE Office last year and did great work on the database and website. Bassam has also moved elsewhere in the AEC but also continues to do BRIDGE facilitation work within the organisation.

The BRIDGE Office is currently staffed by some very familiar faces—Ross Attrill remains BRIDGE Coordinator (he’s the one with the moustache!), supported by Ben Murray and Melanie Chan. If you need to contact us, please do so at: projectoffice@bridge-project.org.

The Interwebs

A reminder that BRIDGE has a Facebook presence at www.facebook.com/EBRIDGEOffice! The great fanpage that International IDEA was running has now been deleted (thanks to Margot and her team for their work!)

We have also set up a gmail account as we have not been able to receive larger attachments at the usual address. If you need to send us an attachment that is larger than 3MB, please send it to: ebridgeoffice@gmail.com, or we also have a Dropbox account (please contact us for details).