

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The IAP2 Federation completed updating the former Certificate training program in Public Participation in mid-2014. As of July 1, 2014 the updated training will be called the *Foundations in Public Participation* program.

This flagship program of the IAP2 Federation builds on the previous material. **It is internationally known and recognised** and the only international program of its kind, delivering a consistent model of public participation in each and every country where the training is conducted.

The training is delivered in many parts of the globe including the USA, Australia, Botswana, Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, the UK and France. The updated program builds on the solid foundations of the Certificate program and responds to our participant evaluations as well as the changes in the practice of public participation and community engagement around the world.

These FAQs respond to questions arising out of the transition from the Certificate to the Foundations programs:

Q. Will the IAP2 Certificate program be delivered after July 1, 2014 around the world as it has been over the past 15 years?

A. Yes, although it is important to understand the Certificate program has undergone significant revision and as of July 1, 2014, it will be delivered as the IAP2 Foundations in Public Participation program.

Q. Does the Foundations program replace the Certificate program?

A. It is not an entirely new replacement for the Certificate program; it is an updated and thoroughly revised version. Much of the rich foundational material from the Certificate program is included in the Foundations in Public Participation program. These core elements are supported by new material to further enhance this program and keep it relevant, both around the globe and within local contexts.

Q. Is the Foundations program endorsed by the IAP2 Federation?

A. The IAP2 Federation is the proprietary owner of the original Certificate program and the updated Foundations program, which is authorised for delivery under the IAP2 brand.

Q. Who will deliver the IAP2 Foundations program?

A. Beginning July 1, 2014, the Foundations in Public Participation program will be delivered by experienced trainers who are licensed by the IAP2 Federation. IAP2 licensed trainers live

and work in a variety of locations around the globe. IAP2's trainers all have significant experience and expertise, both as public participation professionals and as trainers. They bring real-world experience into the classroom and offer practical guidance, based on lessons learned from their own projects and from fellow professionals around the globe.

Q. How do I contact an IAP2 Federation licensed trainer in an area close to me?

Please visit www.iap2.org for trainer information, profiles, and contact details. Should you wish to receive more information or guidance in contacting an IAP2 Federation licensed trainer, you are welcome to contact the IAP2 International Headquarters at the following email addresses:

Training Administrator: training@iap2.org

Professional Development Manager: pdm@iap2.org

Q. How will the Foundations program be delivered?

A. There are three modes of delivery:

- Licensed trainers organise and run public courses open to whoever wants to attend them
- In-house courses can be organised through licensed trainers
- The IAP2 Federation also works with trainers to run public courses

Visit www.iap2.org for more trainer information and course dates.

Q. I've completed the Planning module under the Certificate program. I haven't completed the Communications or Techniques modules. If I do not complete these two modules before June 30, 2014 what options are open to me to finish the training?

A. There may be various options available to you through the end of 2014. Visit the IAP2 Federation website to view those options, or contact us for more information.

Q. Do I have to take both new courses at the same time from the same trainer or can I spread them out to better fit my needs?

A. You can take the Planning course from one trainer and come back and later take the Techniques course from a different trainer at a different location. In all cases, the Planning course must be taken first. Once you complete the Techniques course, you will receive a certificate for completion of the Foundations program.

Q. Will I be certified as a public participation professional when I complete the Foundations program?

A. No, taking the Foundations in Public Participation program training is one of the first steps to becoming a professional. IAP2 Federation members, led by IAP2 USA with active participation from IAP2 Canada and IAP2 Southern Africa are working on a *certification*

program and will have more details to share about the proposed requirements for certification in late 2014. The team working on this project envisions completion of the Foundations in Public Participation program as one of the primary ways to gain the initial knowledge that will lead to professional credentials.

Q. If I've already taken the IAP2 Federation's Certificate program, should I take the Foundations program?

A. This is for you to decide. Some people find that by repeating a course after a few years of working in the field, they gain new insights because they have much more experience on which to base their learning. In addition, there is new material in the Foundations in Public Participation program that would not have been covered in the Certificate program.

Q. If I've already taken the Certificate program, can I audit or "sit in" on the Foundations program (take it without earning credit for it and without taking any tests)? If so, what is the fee for this?

A. Since IAP2 is not a crediting body, there are no credits and thus no auditing option available. The Foundations program involves numerous hands-on and group activities. Participants are expected to fully take part in all activities. Currently, an end-of course assessment, or knowledge test, is not required to receive a certificate for completing the Foundations program. Individual trainers may choose to offer a "refresher rate" for past participants who want to refresh their knowledge base. Check with your previous trainer for options that may be available.

Q. Does IAP2 offer other public participation training?

A. Yes, the IAP2 Federation offers a Decision Makers course which consists of key elements of the Foundations in Public Participation program. In addition, the IAP2 Federation also offers a globally recognised two-day course called Emotion, Outrage and Public Participation (EOP2), and the IAP2 Federation Trainer Licensing Program. Further information on these programs is available on the website: www.iap2.org

Q. When I looked at the websites of some trainers, I saw other related courses. Are these also IAP2 Federation training offerings?

A. Some trainers deliver a variety of training programs that help improve skills used by public participation professionals. The IAP2 Federation currently licenses trainers from around the world to deliver the Foundations in Public Participation program, the Decision Makers course (a condensed version of the Foundations course for decision makers) and the EOP2 course. The IAP2 licensed trainer you work with provides you a Certificate of Attendance issued by the IAP2 International Federation which is recognised and respected globally. It attests to your participation in an international course of the IAP2 Federation.