

## ABOUT THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

The Virtual School *is the first UN learning platform to train UN counterparts on UN paradigms*. It is an initiative specializing in building capacity in three academic areas: Human Development (HD), Democratic Governance (DG) and Crisis Prevention and Early Recovery (CPR). We *work hand in hand with and at the service of UN Regional Centres and their Country Offices*. The Virtual School was launched by the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean but given its results is now offered to other regions and UN Agencies.

### GOALS

- Promote academic debate whilst introducing the United Nations perspective.
- Train decision makers and policymakers on the United Nations paradigms.
- Introduce tools for political action.
- Build capacity within youth leaders and promote the participation of women within the political arena.
- Reduce the digital gap, by using Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) which generate digital networks and communities.

### VALUE ADDED

- Joint initiatives between Country Offices, Regional initiatives and the Virtual School allows for knowledge sharing and therefore greater impact in the Region.
- A Virtual School enables standardizing regional training initiatives. Resources are flexible to adapt services for national needs and realities.
- Courses allow Country Offices to train counterparts on UN paradigms providing them with tools for action. Utilizing worldwide lessons learnt, the UN's intervention is more efficient and effective.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

Persons and institutions directly involved in policy formulation and implementation of development projects and programs in the region, including:

- Political, civic and social leaders
- National public servants
- International aid agencies and civil society organization members
- Media

## TEACHING MODEL

Our short courses operate on full or partial virtual basis. The “virtual classrooms” are structured for 35-40 students and include personalized teaching support.

The Virtual School teaching strategies include:

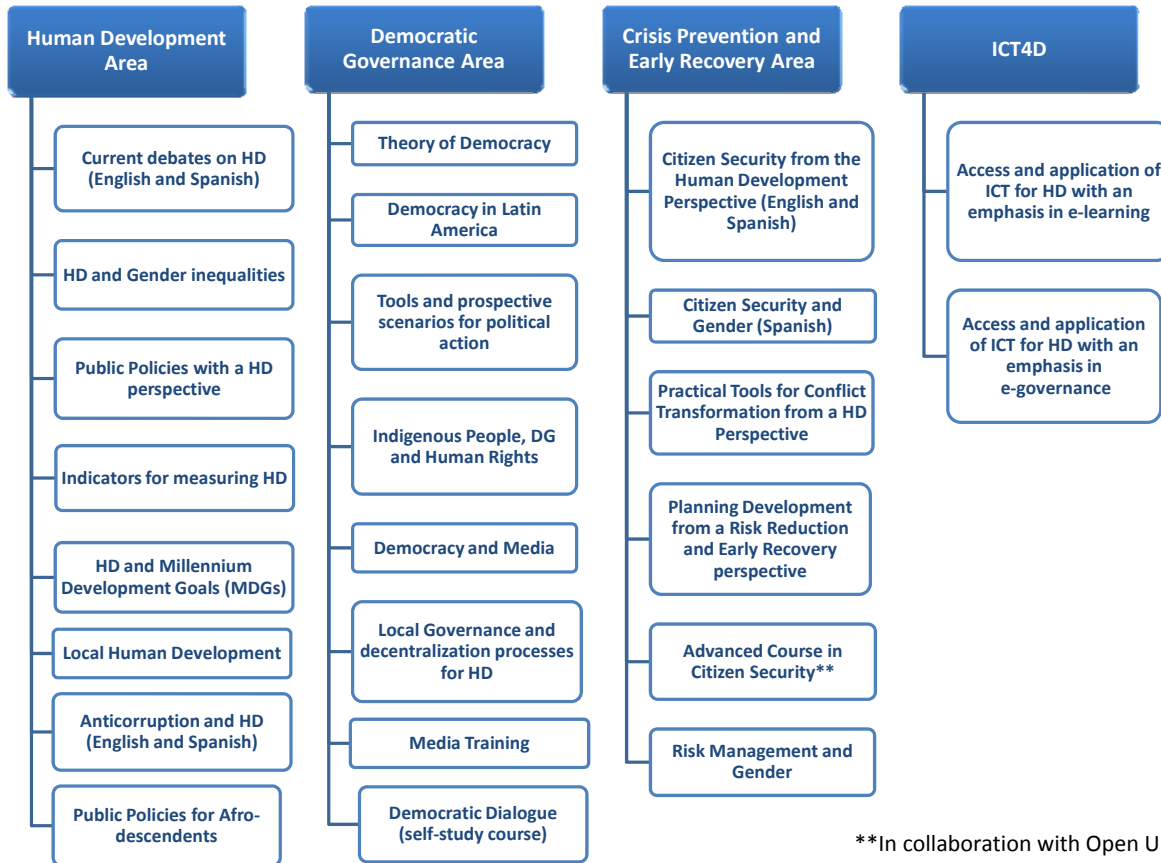
- ✓ **Self-management**, positioning the student at the centre of the process.
- ✓ **Collaborative learning**, encouraging peer cooperation.
- ✓ **Significant learning**, helping students to analyze within their own context.

Students have access to different learning resources:

- ❖ Contextualized teaching guides
- ❖ Readings and multimedia resources
- ❖ Virtual Library (more than 2,000 references and access to digital archives like JSTOR)
- ❖ Video channels
- ❖ Analytical and practical exercises
- ❖ Discussion and chat forums
- ❖ Bi-monthly newsletter updated with our academic offerings and areas of interest

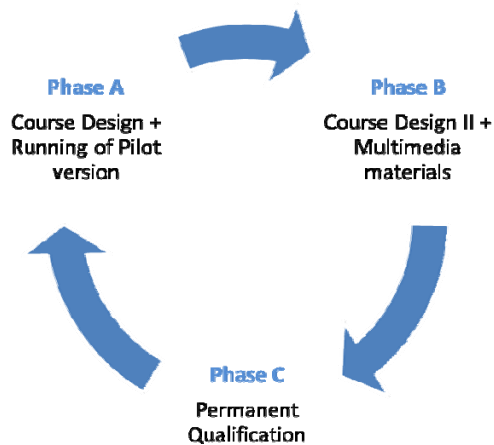
## ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

The courses offered by the VS are adapted to the needs of the country offices' projects and students' profiles, through the **adjustment of contents and methodologies**



\*\*In collaboration with Open University Catalonia (UOC).

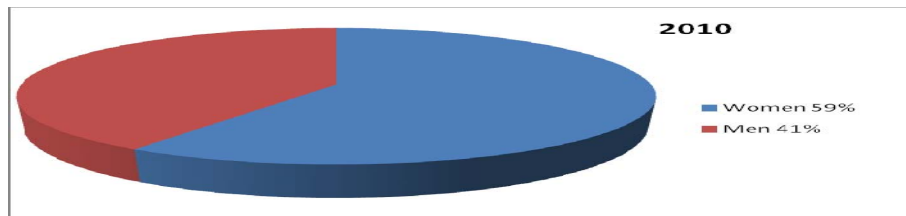
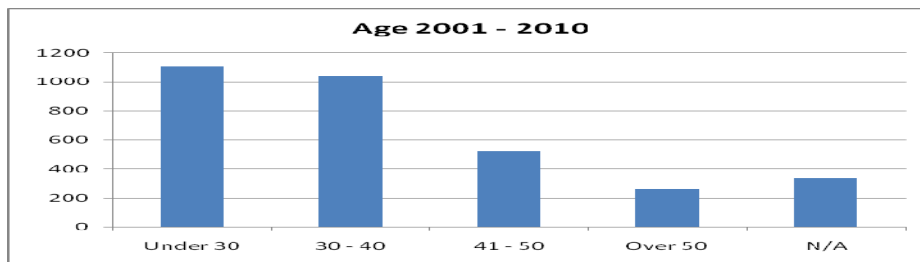
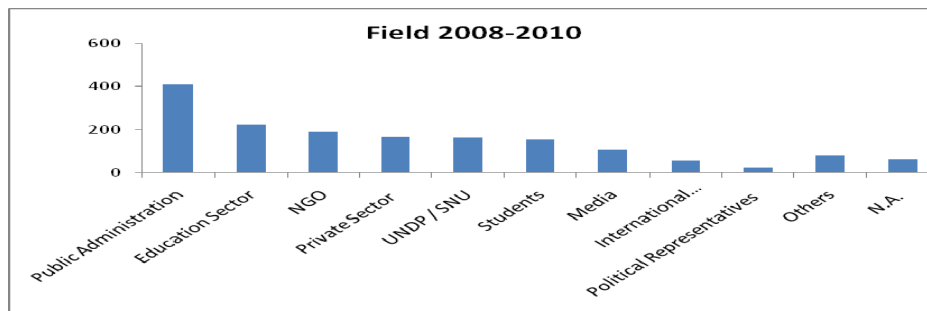
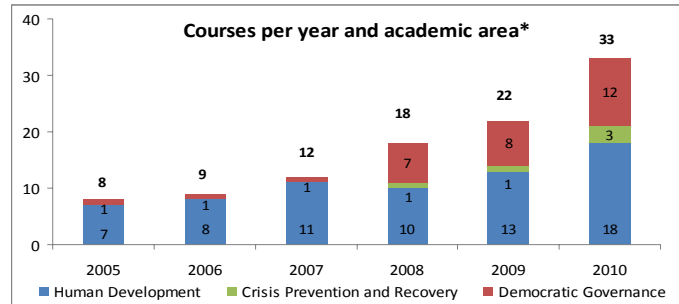
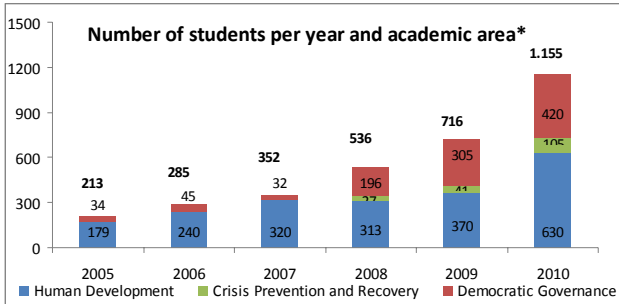
## HOW COURSES ARE DESIGNED



<b>PHASE A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Design (Units, Sub-Units and Topics) by an/a team of expert</li> <li>• Teaching Materials                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Guides</li> <li>○ Complementary and basic readings</li> <li>○ Multimedia resources</li> <li>○ Discussion and chat forums</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pilot Course Testing</li> </ul>
<b>PHASE B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer review with experts and counterparts</li> <li>• Design of the final version with defined study outlines and contents</li> </ul>
<b>PHASE C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of updated research</li> <li>• Incorporating case studies</li> <li>• New learning exercises</li> <li>• Adaptation of course to national contexts</li> <li>• Comparative Studies</li> </ul>

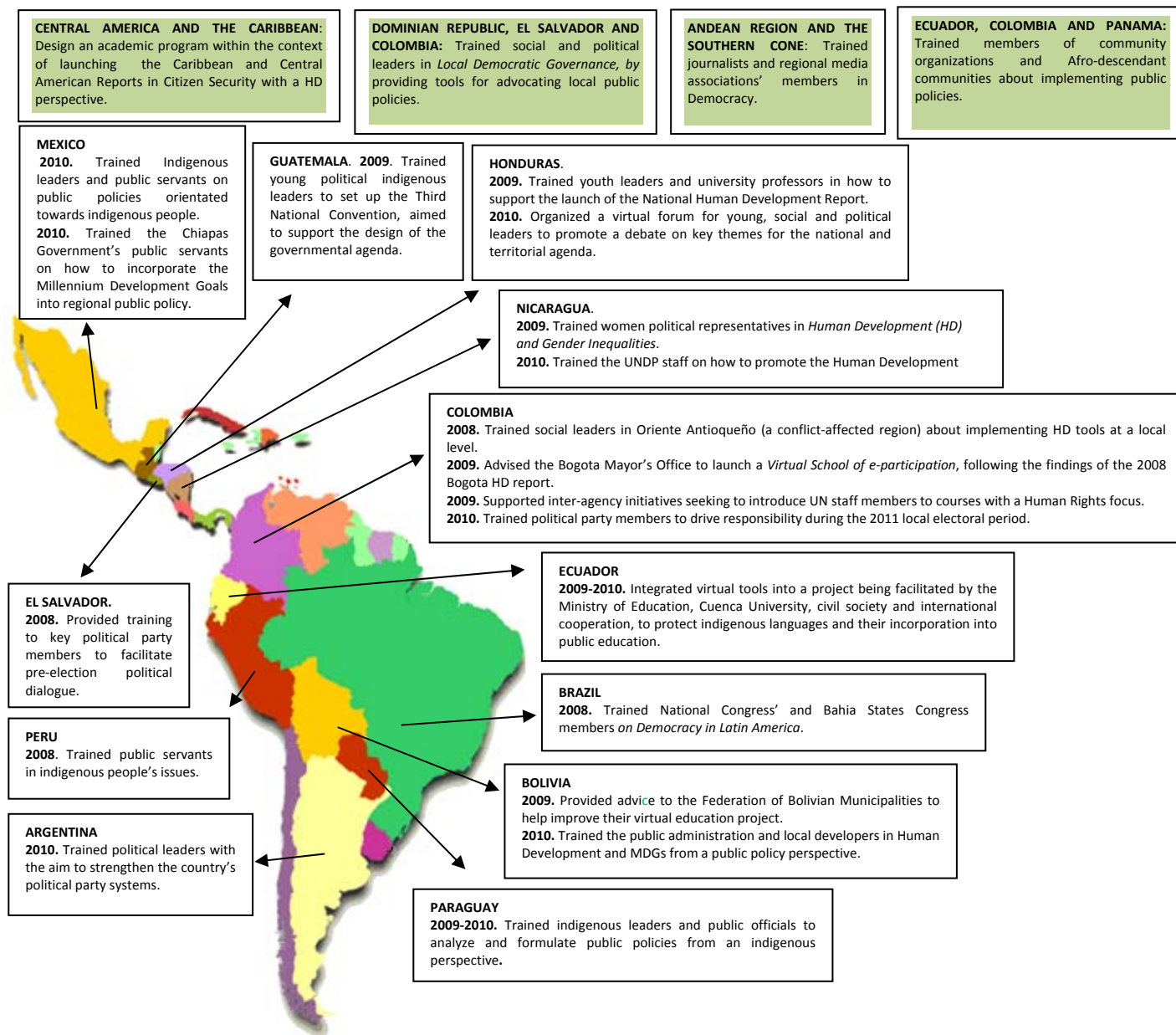
## OUR STUDENTS

Since we first started, we have virtually trained and qualified more than 3,500 people in association with more than 13 Latin American Universities and 24 UNDP Country Offices. The School has supported more than 120 projects and initiatives of the United Nations System. Courses can be adapted to other languages and regions and offered in joint collaboration with Regional Centers and Country offices from all over the world. Courses may be offered in partnership with Universities.



## EXPERIENCE WITH UNDP REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND COUNTRY OFFICES

In collaboration with the Regional Centres, the Virtual School helps and supports Country Offices to reach their goals and objectives. The Virtual School also supports the One UN reform at a regional and country levels. Our experience in Latin America in the last 3 years:



## PARTNERS



## CONTACT US

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