

Roxana Bassi is a tutor and author of Module 5 *ICT Applications and the role of Government* and co-author of Module 4 *Telecommunications infrastructure and Quality Internet Provision*.



**Q. Roxana can you tell us a bit about yourself?**

**A.** I'm an IT & telecommunications engineer with 25 years of experience in ICT for development. I have worked for the private, academic, NGO, public sector and international organisations in several countries of the world, including Afghanistan, Rwanda and Bolivia.

**Q. What is your role at GESCI?**

**A.** For the last six years I have been Senior ICT Specialist at GESCI, advising Ministries of Education on several technical areas related to the development of the knowledge society, like IT policy development, planning infrastructure, large-scale deployment, project management, e-learning, e-waste and monitoring and evaluation of IT projects.

**Q. Why was Module 4 *Telecommunications Infrastructure and Quality Internet* seen as an essential component of the ALICT course?**

**A.** Module 4 will ensure that participants critically examine and thus understand the central role of high-speed or broadband internet access for social and economic development. We have included this telecommunications module in ALICT because we understand that ICT infrastructure is a key pillar for knowledge society development, and it is critical that our leaders understand more about its concepts, barriers and drivers for infrastructure deployment, telecommunications business modules and the role of their government in supporting infrastructure development.

**Q. What would you like participants to get out of this module?**

**A.** I would like to see participants with an enhanced ability to champion the best approaches to the development, deployment and application of core broadband infrastructures for economic development.

**Q. How did participants perform on this module?**

**A.** This module is heavy with technical jargon and concepts, but the participants did not complain about that but instead showed very clear insights into telecommunication issues in their country and in the African region in general.

**Q. What would you like to see participants doing with this new knowledge at the end of the course?**

**A.** We hope that by the end of the course participants can critically analyse the economic value and need for developing broadband networks in their countries and identify and examine a range of government interventions to promote the development of broadband network infrastructure.

**Q. How challenging was it to develop this modular content?**

**A.** It was not challenging to develop the content, but it is a bit complicated to support the virtual audience when they are going through it. In a normal *live* or face-to-face class you can look at the faces of the participants while they are listening and so you know when you are going too fast or too slow, whether they are bored or interested. You can then adjust the content. In virtual self-paced learning environments we have tools like the discussion forums, the chats, the online glossary and individual email support, but I do not know exactly how each participant is doing, if they have questions or doubts, if the concepts are too difficult or boring for them. With the other co-tutor we are enjoying the debate forums and chats, and we believe that ALICT participants are already applying what they have learned in their daily work. We look forward to seeing the assignments they will be developing in groups about imagining different future scenarios of infrastructure development in their countries.