States and donors mobilisation towards designing education system development plans has generated a demand for new skills in education ministries. As part of the response to this demand, the French version of the SAMES training was created in 2007.

The programme’s objective is to impart the analytical methods developed in the course of its work by the Pôle de Dakar (UNESCO/IIPE/Pôle de Dakar) to senior African staff responsible for the management, financing and evaluation of education systems (in ministries of education and partner ministries). Each year, this training, which is provided on-the-job, is offered in 2 countries in the Africa region to 10 candidates in each country.

In light of the relatively broad scope of the training (planning, financing, evaluation, performance evaluations, etc.) and its strong applied and operational dimension, the programme has been designed to run over a 15-month period, during which 7 distance education modules are alternated with 4 group events (one distance meeting and three face-to-face meetings taking place at the beginning, middle and end of the training, providing opportunities for in-depth methodological work and validation activities).

The English version of the PSGSE training was introduced in October 2011. Known as the SAMES training, it is jointly administered by the Pôle de Dakar and the University of The Gambia (UTG). The SAMES training
covers the first year of a full Master’s degree programme. Thus, for candidates who can prove that they have completed a Bachelor’s-level degree and who pass their exams, it is worth 60 ECTS credits and allows them to go on to complete their Master’s degree.

French and English versions of the training have obtained rather exceptional retention rates (82.7% for PSGSE and 85% for SAMES) and success rates (81.7% for PSGSE and 94.2% for SAMES) for distance training.

These positive results are due in part to the contents of the training, which are very closely aligned with the professional practices of our students as can be seen in the findings of the evaluations organised at the close of each module.

The evaluation summary sheets, such as the one presented here, reveal that the students were extremely positive as to the relevance of the training: what they learned in the PSGSE programme was of interest to them and was useful for their work.

Based on the results obtained with their three SAMES graduating class, made up entirely of Gambians (for the first), of Gambians ad Sierra Leoneans (for the second), still running (for the third), UTG and the Pôle de Dakar are currently seeking candidates for their fourth cohort (classes to begin in May 2016). Country applications for SAMES training can be broken down into three steps.

**Step 1 – Notice of nomination:** the Minister(s) responsible for education in the candidate country send(s) a country application letter to the Coordinator of Pôle de Dakar and/or the Vice Chancellor of UTG accompanied by a list of candidates for training (if possible approximately twenty candidates in order to give the selection committee some leeway).

**Step 2 – Submission of the candidates’ application files:** for each SAMES training candidate, the Minister(s) send(s) a letter of interest, a CV and a copy of the diplomas certifying that the candidate holds a Bachelor’s-level degree to UTG and/or to the Pôle de Dakar (see Applicants’ Guide) **before 31st January 2016.**

**Step 3 – National fundraising:** the candidate countries must obtain donor financing for their students’ participation in the three face-to-face events held in Banjul (airplane tickets, accommodation expenses and part of meal expenses) as well as their university registration and tuition fees in the Post Graduate Diploma in Education and Training (PET) at UTG (5.000 USD/student).

All of the elements of the country application files may be sent by email to the training administrator (anjie@utg.edu.gm and/or td.kinkin@iipe-poledakar.org).
The candidate countries are notified of the Selection Committee’s deliberations and the remainder of the process involves more individual treatment: finalisation of the registration files by the applicants selected for the programme, payment of tuition fees, participation in the activities organised, and so on.

All candidates selected for the programme must complete their applications **before 28th May 2016** (end of face to face event 1). A complete application file includes the following 09 items:

- registration application (addressed to the Training Administrator)
- letter of interest
- curriculum vitae
- birth certificate
- certificate of nationality
- certificate of service (certifying at least three years of seniority and detailing the positions occupied as well as the tasks involved)
- certified copies of diplomas (secondary and postsecondary)
- postsecondary grade transcripts
- medical certificate

For further information on the recruitment of the fourth SAMEs training cohort, please find the following documents appended to the present call for applications:

1. a SAMEs training presentation brochure,
2. the Applicants’ Guide,
3. a description of the online mechanism,
4. the 2016-2017 training schedule,
5. a sample country budget.