

Decentralisation and Citizen Participation

10 DAY- TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR 36 CIVIL SERVANTS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

**ALBANIA, ARMENIA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, GEORGIA, KOSOVO, MOLDOVA, MONTENEGRO,
NORTH MACEDONIA, SERBIA, TURKEY, UKRAINE**

19 – 28 June 2019

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

In short

The *Matra Rule of Law Training Programme* is designed to strengthen institutional capacity in the field of rule of law within government organisations in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, and Ukraine. To this end seven training programmes are offered per year, each introducing the participants to best practices in a wide range of rule of law themes. Through interactive sessions combining theory, practical skills and study visits, policy advisors, members of the judiciary and other civil servants working in the government and justice sectors acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to drive reforms in their home countries. In addition, by taking part in the training programme, participants become part of a large transnational network of alumni, lecturers and relevant government departments in the Netherlands and in the target countries. This network offers a platform for learning, exchange and collaboration. As members of this network, all trainees are invited to participate in an Alumni Day, organised in one of the participating countries, between six to ten months after the training programme.

The Matra Rule of Law Training Programme is designed and delivered by the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, Leiden Law School, and The Hague Academy for Local Governance. It is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, for a period of four years (2017- 2020).

Target audience

The training on Decentralization and Citizen Participation is intended for senior civil servants and policy makers at national Ministries or sub-national governments in charge of the development, implementation and enforcement of decentralisation policy and participatory local governance in their respective countries. Participants will be expected to offer a valuable and active contribution to the learning process and be in a position to implement the newly gained knowledge and insights in their respective organisation.

The maximum number of participants is 36. The total will represent a balance in gender and in the number of participants from the individual countries.

Eligible countries:	Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine
Application:	The link to the application form can be found on www.nhc.nl/matrarolt . The application deadline is 14 April, 2019 – 12:00 midnight.
Training period:	19 – 28 June 2019
Language:	English
Programme costs:	The Netherlands Government will provide full fellowships to the selected participants. Each fellowship will cover the cost of international travel (economy), full board and lodging, visa and insurance, tuition fees, lecture materials and study visits. The participants will have to cover any other costs.
Training venue:	The Hague, the Netherlands
Hotel accommodation:	Ibis Den Haag City Centre, The Hague

Introduction

In its relations with pre-accession and Eastern Partnership countries, the European Union requires stable government institutions that are able to guarantee the rule of law, human rights and protection of minorities. Decentralised governments play an increasingly important role in the execution of policy and legislation. Thus, they bring decision-making processes closer to the citizens, contributing to the creation of more responsive and transparent governance. The training programme Decentralisation and Citizen Participation helps participants to analyse decentralisation policy and promote inclusive, participatory and transparent decentralised governance.

Objectives

The training programme aims to increase the knowledge and skills of the participants to promote decentralisation and citizen participation within their national contexts. After completing the course participants will have sufficient knowledge of decentralisation processes and EU regulations to implement and coordinate decentralisation processes in their respective countries. They will be aware of the importance of citizen participation and inclusive governance and have insight in the elements that contribute to effective inter-administrative relations. Participants will be able to influence EU policy making and regulations in the field of decentralisation. They will be able to assess the level of decentralisation in their country and have made an action plan to further support the process. Special attention will be paid to obstacles and dilemma's in the implementation process and how to overcome them.

Approach and structure

By being demand-driven in nature and by stimulating active participation, the training programme strives to achieve lasting results. When participants leave they are sufficiently equipped to implement the newly gained knowledge and insights in their respective organisations. The training programme offers a careful balance between three mutually reinforcing components: theory, practical skills and study visits.

The programme enables participants to learn from leading Dutch academics and to become acquainted with them. Furthermore, it enables discussion with Dutch practitioners and institutions in this field. Exchanging and comparing experiences is a key aspect of the programme.

A social programme will facilitate network development between the participants from the various countries as well as between the participants and their Dutch counterparts.

Upon successful completion of the programme – which includes attendance to all components of the programme – participants will receive a certificate.

Admission requirements

Important points on which the selection of participants will largely be based are:

- The participant should clearly demonstrate his/her professional interest in a training on decentralisation and citizen participation and the use he/she would make of the insights gained from the training.
- The participant should have practical experience with issues on decentralisation and citizen participation.
- The participant should have a good command of spoken and written English.
- The participant should be highly motivated and enthusiastic.
- The participant should be comfortable sharing his/her knowledge with fellow participants (solo presentations during the programme and regular knowledge sharing in the digital learning environment will be required).

- The participant should be in the position to devote time and attention to the training programme prior to and after the 10-day training in the Netherlands. Before the training the participants will have to complete a preparatory assignment and after the training the participants will implement and report on a concrete action plan they personally developed during the training.
- Participants should submit a signed employer's statement granting permission to participate in the training programme.

How to apply

Please read the admission requirements carefully. Candidates who meet all the requirements may proceed to complete the application form which is available at www.nhc.nl/matrarolt.

Application forms need to be submitted in full to be eligible for selection. Applicants are required to up-load their Curriculum Vitae and a letter from their supervisor authorizing participation. Admission will be on a merit and competitive basis.

Successfully uploaded applications will receive an automatic e-mail confirmation.

Information and training programme organisation

Netherlands Helsinki Committee

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