



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Local Governance

A Shiraka professional development course

The Netherlands invites civil servants from the MENA region to apply for a professional development course on Local Governance.

Eligible countries are: Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territories and Tunisia.

The objective of the course is for civil servants working in the field of local governance to share their knowledge and skills, enabling them to lead and inspire the modernisation of local governance in their home countries. The course also aims to strengthen participants' ties with the Netherlands and the Dutch government; especially between Dutch civil servants and their counterparts in the target countries.

Goals of the Shiraka Local Governance professional development course

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands is organising the professional development course with the following aims:

- Participants will gain in depth knowledge on decentralisation processes and will become able to better implement and coordinate them
- Participants will gain insight into the principles of good local governance and effective inter-administrative relations
- Participants will be able to design an action plan to support effective local governance in their own countries.

Study visits and social activities are part of the course. Additionally, the course provides participants with the opportunity to develop a valuable network with other civil servants in the region and in the Netherlands.

Course outline and content

The training programme will take place online and face to face. It has a practical and interactive character, in line with the objective of sharing knowledge and strengthening the cooperation between the civil servants of the participating countries.

The programme will stimulate the participants interaction and is built around balanced, mutually supportive and integrated components, namely:

- The dimensions and principles of good local governance and decentralisation processes
- Practical skills such as negotiation skills
- Study visits to governmental bodies in The Netherlands and virtual study visits in the MENA region
- Social programmes such as the networking reception and other activities that will facilitate network development between the participants from the various countries, as well as between the participants and their Dutch counterparts.

Upon completion of the training, participants will:

- Gain a thorough understanding of the basic concepts of decentralisation and multilevel governance
- Have insight into the way decentralisation and local governments function in The Netherlands and in the MENA region
- Be able to use the acquired knowledge and best practices as a source of inspiration for dealing with challenges related to decentralisation policies in their own countries
- Be trained in the practical application of change management and various practical skills.

Dates, location and language

The professional development course is composed of three parts. The first part is an online 4-week course, the second is online coaching on back home action plans, and the third part is a course that will take place in the Netherlands.

Part I: 4 - 31 May 2022, Online (8 hours of workload at least per week)

Part II: 1 June – 5 July 2022, Online (5 days of workload in total)

Part III: 6 – 14 July 2022, in The Netherlands (9:00 am – 5:00 pm)

If the international health and travel restrictions make it impossible to organise a training in the Netherlands, an alternative solution will be offered; this could be an online training.

The courses will be in English. Interpretation into Arabic is available during online meetings and the face to face training part. Participants are obliged to complete the three parts in full. After completing the course, participants will receive a certificate. The dates and format of the training are subject to change.

Costs and fees

The Dutch government will take care of all relevant costs for participants from countries on the [OECD-DAC list](#). This includes international travel, board and lodging, visa and insurance, PCR tests and tuition fees for the course. Participants from countries that are not on the OECD-DAC list will pay for their own international travel costs, flight tickets and visa. Board and lodging, insurance and tuition fees for the course will be covered by the Dutch government. All participants are responsible for the organisation and costs of travelling to the airport in their own country. Participants from countries on the OECD-DAC list departing from an international airport outside their own country, will have to cover local travel expenses themselves and will be compensated for the international part of their journey. Participants are responsible for the organisation of their visa application and PCR tests. Participants have the obligation to comply with the Covid-19 (travel) measures and regulation of the Dutch Government, in force upon their arrival and stay in The Netherlands. For more information see: [Coronavirus COVID-19 | Government.nl](#)

In case of no-shows or cancellations within four weeks before the start of the first part of the training, the organisation has the right to claim all costs incurred from the participants' employer.

Application

Applications should be made online before 20 March 2022.

To apply you have to create an account first which will enable you to fill out the online application form. Go to the website:

<http://www.shiraka.nl>

More information

IO@rvo.nl (for questions concerning the database)

info@thehagueacademy.com (for questions concerning the course)

The Shiraka Training Programme is an initiative of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The department International Entrepreneurship of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency implements the Shiraka Training Programme. The *Shiraka Local Governance* professional development course will be organised by The Hague Academy for Local Governance in cooperation with the International Center for Innovative Local Governance (CILG).

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Click on "Register" and scroll to Shiraka Local Governance. Click on "Apply". You will be asked to login using an e-mail address and password. If you do not have an account yet click on register and fill in the required information. Click on "register". You will now receive an e-mail asking you to confirm your e-mail address. After you have confirmed, your account is created. Login to fill in the application form for Shiraka Local Governance and save the form. After saving your application form, you have successfully applied. You will receive a confirmation e-mail.

Eligibility criteria:

Eligibility criteria:

- Administrative check. Fully documented applications received before the deadline.
- Match of job position and learning goals with the topics of the course and motivation.
- Between 5 and 10 years relevant work experience as civil servant in local governance.
- No (previous) participation in other Shiraka or Matra-South Training Programmes.

We encourage female civil servants to apply, as we highly value diversity amongst our participants. There are 25 places available, which will ideally be divided equally between the invited countries.

An intermediate level of English language is required to understand the written online modules.

Shiraka training programme

The course will be organised as part of the Shiraka programme, an initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Shiraka is a Dutch bilateral effort dedicated to contributing to political development in the MENA region. Through this Shiraka training programme, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs aims to stimulate and support sustainable transition in the MENA region and to strengthen relations between the Netherlands and the target countries.



Netherlands Enterprise Agency