



Are you a civil servant in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region? If so, please register for a professional development training course on

Local Governance

Who is the course for?

We invite professionals who are ambitious about professionalising public services in local governance to register for this training course. This is a unique opportunity to share your knowledge and skills with other participants and be inspired by colleagues abroad.

This training course is for civil servants in the target countries of Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territories, and Tunisia.



To register, you must have between 5 to 10 years of relevant work experience in the field of local governance. This is a once in a lifetime experience: this means that you can only participate in a Shiraka training once, and only if you have not previously participated in another Shiraka training programme. We value diversity among our participants, and we encourage women to take part.

This training is part of the 'Shiraka' programme, an initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With the Shiraka programme, the Netherlands partners with government organisations in the MENA region to cooperate on improvement of public service delivery through reciprocal inspiration, while building a network of peers and fostering bilateral relations. For more information on the Shiraka Training Programme you can watch this [video](#).

Training course goals

The Shiraka training on local governance will help you:

- Gain insight into the principles of good local governance and effective inter-administrative relations
- Share your knowledge and skills in your home country
- Develop a valuable network of peers in your region, country and in the Netherlands
- Strengthen your connections with the Netherlands and stakeholders in the Dutch local governance sector

Training course topics

The training course covers the following topics:

- Main concepts and elements of decentralisation and multi-level governance
- Local economic development
- Good local governance: participation, inclusion, transparency and accountability
- Practical skills such as negotiation skills, project management and change management
- Study visits to governmental bodies in the Netherlands

Training course details

- All the sessions are in English, so we recommend at least an intermediate level of English.
- Live interpretation during meetings and sessions into Arabic and/or French is available.
- We can offer this training to a maximum of 25 people. We will allocate these places to the participating countries based on the quality of the applications.
- The entire training course consists of a 5-week online training and a 2-week online refresher, for which we expect a time commitment of around 6-8 hours per week, and a 1-week training in-person in the Netherlands.
- Study visits and social activities are part of the training programme.
- You will receive a certificate of participation upon successfully completing all the parts of the training.

Training course itinerary

The training course consists of an online part and a refresher, followed by a training in The Hague, the Netherlands:

	Dates	City	Country
Part 1	02/02/26 - 06/03/26	Online	Online
Refresher	27/04/26 - 08/05/26	Online	Online
Part 2	18/05/26 - 22/05/26	The Hague	The Netherlands

If international health and travel restrictions make it impossible to hold a training session in the Netherlands, an alternative will be offered. This may be an online training.

For the online part, we expect participants to have good computer skills, access to an adequate computer with a recent operating system and a good internet connection (participants must be able to use Zoom, Word, PowerPoint, etc.).

For all participants



- You must organise and pay for your journey to the airport in your home country.
- You are responsible for organising your visa in your home country.

Costs for participants from countries on the [OECD-DAC list](#)



- The Dutch government will cover all relevant costs. This includes international travel, accommodation, meals during training days, visa, insurance and tuition fees.
- If you travel from an international airport outside your home country, you will need to cover local travel costs yourself. You will receive compensation only for the international leg of your journey.

Costs for participants from countries not on the [OECD-DAC list](#)



- You must organise and pay for your own international travel and visa.
- The Dutch government will cover the cost of accommodation, insurance, and tuition fees.

No-show or cancellation costs



- If you cannot attend or cancel your participation within 4 weeks prior to the start of the training course, the organisation has the right to claim all the associated costs from your employer.

How to apply

- Applications should be filled in and submitted online **before 29 December 2025**.
- Visit the [Shiraka training courses overview](#) webpage, select the course of your choice, and click on 'Apply'.
- [Log in](#) or create an account using the '[register](#)' button.

For more information

Contact IO@rvo.nl for questions concerning your application and the database.

Contact Shiraka.LG@thehagueacademy.com for questions concerning this course.

This project is funded by Shiraka, a programme commissioned by the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). The Shiraka Local Governance professional development course is organised by The Hague Academy for Local Governance.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Rijnstraat 8
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The Hague, the Netherlands

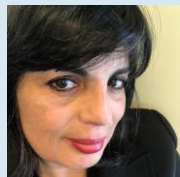
Information on the training course

Experts

Experts who are involved in this training course



Alfonso Garcia Salaues is a local governance and decentralisation expert with over 25 years of experience advising governments and donors in 40+ countries across North Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Pacific. He specializes in public finance management and economic development. He has led major reforms in Bolivia, Jordan and beyond.



Ghada Zeidan is a seasoned trainer with over 27 years of experience in development, gender, social inclusion and leadership, in the MENA region. A regular partner of The Hague Academy, she brings intercultural expertise from her work in Palestine and the Netherlands on local and European Middle East policies.



Yassine Turki is a senior expert at the International Development Center for Innovative Local Governance (CILG) in Tunisia. He specializes in decentralisation, local governance reform, and urban studies, with extensive experience supporting public policy and strategy development across the Middle East and North Africa.

Study visits

During the training course the following study visits may be organised

The **Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management** has developed a national approach to participatory policymaking. The visit addresses how the Ministry integrates public input into decision-making through clear communication, stakeholder inclusion, and transparent feedback, fostering trust and improving the quality and legitimacy of policies.

The role of **five Tunisian local governments** in driving social and economic development is showcased in a virtual study visit during the online part. The visit is followed by a discussion with experts from CILG to reflect on their different countries' local development responsibilities and practices.

At a **Dutch municipality** such as The Hague, practical insights into local governance are shared, focusing on effective service delivery, citizen engagement, and accountability mechanisms. It highlights how Dutch municipalities promote transparency, efficiency, and trust between local authorities and non-governmental stakeholders.

Back Home Action Plan

During your participation in the training course you will work on a Back Home Action Plan (BHAPs). Hereunder you find a few examples of the BHAPs participants worked on in the past.

To modernise and digitise the housing card system to enhance efficiency, transparency, and inclusivity. Focus on introducing a secure digital platform, strengthening administrative capacity, and ensuring women's equal access to identification and public services.

To create of a participatory local development plan and improve coordination, and citizen engagement in local governance. The plan will strengthen municipal capacity for data-driven planning and establish a framework for sustainable urban development and service delivery.

To reform legal and institutional frameworks governing the energy and water sectors. To enhance regulatory efficiency, stakeholder participation, and evidence-based policymaking to support sustainable and innovative sectoral governance.

"The programme allowed me to better understand how to mobilize local actors, design participatory strategies, and implement governance mechanisms adapted to local contexts while measuring their impact on sustainable development and social cohesion."

Oussama Daly, Assistant Director of Planning, Ministry of Health, Tunisia