



Are you a civil servant in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region, or do you work for a semi-public organisation in that region? If so, please register for a professional development training course on
Integrated spatial planning

Who is the course for?

We invite professionals¹ who are ambitious about professionalising their public services in integrated spatial planning 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 and employees of semi-public organisations in the target countries of Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territories and Tunisia.



To register, you must have between five and ten years of relevant professional experience in spatial planning, agriculture, environmental management, transport and/or water management. Preference will be given to applicants with experience in national government ministries, other levels of government such as municipalities or provincial and regional authorities, or organisations closely affiliated with government, including semi-public agencies, advisory bodies and implementing agencies working on spatial-planning-related issues.

¹ Civil servants are the main target group. However, a limited number of places are available for participants from semi-public organisations. We welcome participants from organisations that are closely linked with public actors in the relevant field, play a direct or active role in the value chain, or are directly affected by policy development and therefore have a good reason to be involved.

Since this is a once in a lifetime experience, you can only participate in a Shiraka training once, and only if you have not previously participated in another Shiraka training programme.

Since we value diversity among our participants, we encourage women to take part. This training programme is part of the 'Shiraka' training programme, an initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Shiraka aims to strengthen and improve bilateral relations between the Netherlands and the MENA region in the public sector and offers an opportunity to improve public services through reciprocal inspiration. For more information on the Shiraka Training Programme please watch this [video](#).

Training course goals

The Integrated Spatial Planning course will help you:

- Develop a holistic understanding of areas and landscapes by recognising the connections between spatial, environmental, social and economic functions;
- Gain knowledge of Integrated Spatial Planning and explore how it can be applied in practice;
- Use methods for landscape analysis, stakeholder analysis and engagement;
- understand how early and meaningful stakeholder involvement can contribute to more resilient and widely supported spatial development;
- Identify opportunities, conditions and barriers for applying Integrated Spatial Planning in your own institutional and national context;
- Develop a practical Back Home Action Plan addressing a concrete challenge within your organization;
- Be inspired by learning about integrated spatial planning through the study of Dutch and international experiences, build a valuable network with peers from the MENA region and the Netherlands.

Training course topics

The training course covers the following topics:

- Coordinated and integral approach of spatial planning;
- Interconnected and potential synergy between spatial functions;
- (Citizen) participation methods;
- Synergy between the spatial functions to benefit society, the environment and economy as a whole;
- Collaboration between the public sector, private sector, civil society and knowledge institutions;
- Different approaches: top-down versus bottom-up;
- Landscape aspects taken into account in decision making processes;
- Policy making: shaping policy and strategy in spatial planning;
- Planning: planning of policy implementation in practice;
- Implementation: stakeholder engagement and managing spatial processes during implementation.

Training course details

- Since all the sessions are in English, we recommend an intermediate level of English;
- Live interpretation during meetings and sessions into Arabic and/or French is available;
- We can offer the training course to 25 people. We will allocate these places to the participating countries based on the quality of the applications;
- The entire training course will last for 2 weeks (10 working days). We expect you to attend all sessions;
- Study visits and social activities are part of the training course;
- You will receive a certificate of participation upon completing the course.

Training course itinerary

The training course will be in 2 parts, and held at 2 locations:

	Dates	City	Country
Part 1	16 till 22 November	Utrecht or The Hague	The Netherlands
Part 2	T.b.a. January	T.b.a.	Tunisia

Part of the course may take the form of blended learning (partly online, partly offline).

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.

If the training is held online, 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 organizing 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 and 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 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 training course, the organisation has the right to claim all the associated costs from your employer.

How to apply

- Applications should be made online **before 24 August 2026**.
- Visit our [Shiraka training courses overview](#) and select the course of your choice by clicking on 'apply'.
- [Log in](#) or create an account using the '[register](#)' button.

More information

shiraka@rvo.nl (for questions concerning your application and the database)

rowan.vangeloven@rvo.nl (for questions concerning the course)

The Shiraka Training Programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Department for International Entrepreneurship of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency implements the Shiraka Training Programme. The Integrated Spatial Planning professional development course will be organised by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Rijnstraat 8
P.O. Box 20061 | 2500 EB
The Hague, the Netherlands

Experts

Experts who are involved in this training course



- National Energy system Planning
- Participation processes
- Policy processes
- Integrated spatial planning



- Maintains the national register of land and property ownership.
- Records property boundaries and cadastral maps.
- Provides official property and land information to citizens, businesses, and government agencies.
- Supports legal certainty in property ownership and land rights.
- Maintains geographic and spatial data used for planning and infrastructure projects.



- Synergy in assignments for the physical living environment and integration of different national policy goals.
- Program management
- NOVEX: intergovernmental collaboration considering municipalities, regions, provinces, water authority and the national government.

Study visits

During the training course the following study visits may be organised from an ISP perspective. Covering subjects such as the energy transition, agriculture, urban planning and nature development.

Rotterdam city and harbor	Food Valley	National Park
➤ Visiting the city of Rotterdam, how the city addresses heat stress and restores biodiversity. ➤ Visiting the port of Rotterdam. Focusing on energy transition projects and logistical innovations. 	➤ Working towards a better food system. ➤ Organising and initiating role, by bringing stakeholders together to turn ideas into action. ➤ Bringing together farmers, producers, retailers, investors, and policymakers to work collaboratively towards shared goals.	➤ Visiting one of the national parks. Maintaining nature development and biodiversity. ➤ Exploring farming activities in the surrounding area.

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.

Problem: Rapid urban growth is placing increasing pressure on agricultural land, water resources and natural areas, while these impacts are not yet assessed in an integrated way.

Problem: High operational costs and inefficiencies in desalination and water distribution systems in Oman. During coaching, participants outlined steps towards piloting new energy-saving desalination mechanisms and training local operators in the next 6 months.

Problem: Scarce land is not used efficiently because land ownership, zoning regulations and sectoral plans are insufficiently coordinated. This makes it difficult to balance competing needs for housing, infrastructure, agriculture, economic development and nature.

“Really fantastic experience gave us the chance to share our water issues. Furthermore, to explore more about our Arabian, African origins, and other brilliant cultures.” - Omar Badr, Egypt