



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

# *Social Affairs and Employment*

## *A Shiraka professional development course*



Netherlands Enterprise Agency



**The Netherlands invites senior civil servants from the Arab region with relevant work experience to apply for a professional development course on Social Affairs and Employment.**

**Eligible countries for this course are: Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia**

The objective of the course is for civil servants working in the field of Social Affairs and Employment to share their knowledge and skills enabling them to lead and inspire the modernisation of social affairs and employment 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 Social Affairs and Employment professional development course**

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

- Increase theoretical knowledge on and understanding of social affairs and employment policies, both at an international and at a national level
- Increase knowledge of and insight in Dutch practice and best practices in the MENA-region
- Enhance the following practical skills:
  - Working in teams
  - Analytical and presentation skills
  - (International) negotiation
  - Change management

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**

What policies help to increase economic growth and job creation for the youth?

How is the social security system organised in The Netherlands? And what can be learned from experiences in the Middle East and North Africa?

These and many more questions will be discussed during a blended learning programme offered by The Hague Academy in cooperation with PBLQ and CNV International.

With the help of international experts, field visits and practical examples from The Netherlands, participants will discuss how economic growth can go hand in hand with social security reforms in their home countries. Employment strategies to reform the labour market and how to create more and better jobs will be discussed.

The training course deepens the knowledge of civil servants from the five target countries in the field of social affairs and employment policies.

In addition, it strengthens their capacity to effectively contribute to the development and implementation of such policies in their home countries.

During the course, the participants have many opportunities to share experiences with each other as well as with their colleagues from The Netherlands so that international networks between civil servants will be stimulated.

### Dates, location and language

The professional development course will take 2 weeks in total.

Part I: 21 – 29 November 2016	Part II: February 2017
The Hague	Tunisia
The Netherlands	

The courses will be in English, with interpretation into Arabic.

Participants are obliged to attend both parts in full.

After successfully completing the course, participants will receive a certificate.

### 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, and tuition fees for the course.

All applicants are responsible for the organisation and costs of travelling to the airport in their own country. 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 13 October 2016. 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://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/shiraka/stp>

Click on "Apply" and scroll to Social Affairs and Employment Training. Click on "Apply here: application form". Click on create an account and enter your personal information and login information. Click on register. After you have registered, your account is created. Log on to fill in the application form for Social Affairs and Employment training and save the form. Once you save your application form, you will have successfully applied. You will receive a confirmation e-mail.

### Selection criteria are:

- 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 social affairs and employment and international experience.
- No (previous) participation in other Shiraka or Matra-South Training Programmes.
- Permission from your employer to attend this training course in writing.

We encourage female civil servants to apply. There are 25 places available, which will ideally be divided equally between the invited countries. A passive understanding of the English language would be a plus. Please be aware that this will not be used as a selection criteria.

### Shiraka training programme

The course will be organised as part of the Shiraka programme for Arab Countries, 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 Arab region. Through this Shiraka training programme, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs aims to stimulate and support democratic transition in the Arab region and to strengthen relations between the Netherlands and the target countries.

The aim of Shiraka is to support:

- democratisation, including organization of free and transparent elections and the government being held accountable;
- construction of the constitutional state and protection of human rights and minorities;
- economic growth partly by building up the economic infrastructure including the stimulation of employment.

### More information

MI@rvo.nl (for questions concerning the database);

Samir Marmouri (for questions concerning the course)

E: [info@thehagueacademy.com](mailto:info@thehagueacademy.com)

T: +31 70 373 8695

The Shiraka Training Programme is an initiative of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The unit International Projects, Missions & Matchmaking of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency implements the Shiraka Training Programme. The Social Affairs and Employment professional development course will be organized by The Hague Academy for Local Governance, PBLQ and CNV International.

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Bezuidenhoutseweg 67

P.O. Box 2006

The Hague, the Netherlands