



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Strengthening government institutional capacity on

Local Governance

A Shiraka professional development course



Netherlands Enterprise Agency

The Hague Academy for
local governance

The Netherlands invites senior civil servants from the Arab region with relevant work experience to apply for a professional development course on Local Governance.

Eligible countries for this course are: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco 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 Local Governance professional development course

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

- Increase awareness of and knowledge exchange between policy and decision-makers at national and sub-national government level working on issues related to decentralisation and local governance
- Participants have sufficient knowledge of decentralisation processes, to implement and coordinate these in their countries
- Participants are aware of the importance of good local governance and have insight in the elements that contribute to effective inter-administrative relations
- Participants are able to assess the level of decentralisation in their country and have made an action plan to further support good governance on a local level

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 have a practical and inter-active character. This is in line with the objective to share knowledge and strengthen the cooperation between the civil servants of the participating countries.

The programme will stimulate much participant interaction and is built around three balanced, mutually supportive and integrated components, namely:

- Theory
- Practical skills
- Study visits

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 completion of the training, participants will:

- Have 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;
- 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 specific subjects and in a number of needed practical skills.

Dates, location and language

The professional development course will take 2 weeks in total.

Part I: 7 – 15 December 2016
The Hague
The Netherlands

Part II: February 2017
Tunisia

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 training organisation has the right to claim all costs incurred from the participants' employer.

Application

Applications should be made online before 23 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 Local Governance 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 Local Governance 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 local governance 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

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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 Local Governance professional development course will be organized by The Hague Academy for Local Governance.

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