



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Trade Promotion and Economic Diplomacy

A Shiraka professional development course



Netherlands Enterprise Agency



Clingendael

Netherlands Institute of International Relations

Berenschot

The Netherlands invites senior civil servants from the Arab region to apply for a professional development course on "Trade Promotion and Economic Diplomacy".

Eligible countries for this course are: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

This course aims at allowing civil servants working in the field of trade and economic issues to share their knowledge and skills and at supporting the modernisation of economic diplomacy and trade promotion 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 Trade Promotion and Economic Diplomacy professional development course

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

- Developing and reinforcing participant's knowledge and understanding of economic diplomacy and trade promotion;
- Empowering participants with the required skills to formulate and implement successful economic and trade policy.

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 course consists of two non-consecutive weeks. The first week will take place at the Clingendael Institute in The Hague. During this week, the focus will be on developing and enhancing the participant's theoretical and contextual knowledge regarding economic diplomacy and trade promotion. Clingendael and Berenschot experts, as well as external lecturers, will share their experiences and reflections on the best economic strategies with the participants. A working visit to the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be organized, as well as meetings with Dutch companies and practitioners.

In the second week, the course will move to the region and focus on the development of personal skills required to engage and influence potential economic partners, to effectively set up a trade mission, and how to bring about change in the participant's own organization as well the investment climate of his/her own country.

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Dates, location and language

The professional development course will cover 2 weeks in total.

Part I: 12-16 December 2016	Part II: March or April 2017
The Hague	Location to be confirmed
The Netherlands	One of the participating countries

The courses will be in English, with interpretation into Arabic. Participants are obliged to attend both parts in full.

After 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. Clingendael will send participants a list of suggestions for hotels and flight schedules. Travel to and from the training location will only be facilitated from the hotels suggested.

All applicants are responsible for the organisation and costs of travelling to the airport in their own country. In case of no-show 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 **7 November 2016**. To apply you have to first create an account 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 Trade Promotion and Economic Diplomacy. 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 Trade Promotion and Economic Diplomacy 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 economic diplomacy and trade promotion and international experience.
- No (previous) participation in other Shiraka or Matra-South Training Programmes.

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 won't 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;
- Supporting the development of constitutional democracies and human rights and minority protection systems;
- Economic growth partly by building up the economic infrastructure including the stimulation of employment.

More information

MI@rvo.nl (for questions concerning the database);
Marianne Rogier and Lot Schuringa (for questions concerning the course);
E: mrogier@clingendael.nl, lschuringa@clingendael.nl
T: +31 70 324 53 84

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 Trade Promotion and Economic Diplomacy professional development course will be organized by Clingendael and Berenschot.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Bezuïdenhoutseweg 67
P.O. Box 2006
The Hague, the Netherlands