



Public Finance Management

A Shiraka professional development course

The Netherlands invites senior civil servants from the MENA region to apply for a professional development course on Public Finance Management (PFM), with a focus on Public Expenditure Management.

Eligible countries for this course: Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Algeria, Libya, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestinian Territories, Mauritania, Sudan and Egypt.

The objective of the course is for civil servants working in the field of PFM to share their knowledge and skills enabling them to lead and inspire 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 PFM professional development course

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

- Gain comprehensive insight into the budget cycle of the Netherlands: from budget preparation to accountability;
- Learn about decentralized budget responsibility and the importance of independent institutions;
- Discuss with the Inspectorate of State Finances on best practices in monitoring, reporting and evaluating public expenditures;
- Bring your own country specific issues to the table for in-depth analysis and discussion.

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 two-week training course is divided into two distinctive elements. It will focus in the first week on the public financial management system in the Netherlands. Public finance management concerns the mobilization of resources on the one hand and the management of expenditures on the other hand. The training course will center on the management of expenditures and the budget cycle, but will also touch upon audit and taxation. Management starts with strategic planning, drafting budgets, execution, accounting and evaluation to complete a cycle.

The Dutch public financial management system is internationally acknowledged for its transparency and high level of decentralization. Strong independent institutions safeguard the system's transparency and independence whilst protecting it from excessive political and personal influence. The financial system within the central government is to a large extent decentralized, i.e. line ministers are responsible for their own budget chapter and defend their budgets in parliament. Policy implementation and evaluation is largely mandated or delegated to agencies. The focus of the course is on the central government, as local government is a separate and largely autonomous tier of government. Moreover, the Netherlands has years of experience with so-called Program Based Budgeting, which will also be an element of the course.

In the second week of the training, attention will shift to public finance management systems of the countries of the participants themselves and various case studies will be analyzed.

The training course will have a practical and interactive character. This approach enhances knowledge sharing and strengthens the cooperation amongst the participants and lecturers. The lecturers are Dutch senior civil servants and experts, who work on a daily basis in the Netherlands public financial management system.

Dates, location and language

The professional development course will take 2 weeks in total.

Part I	Part II
15 - 22 Sept 2018	20 - 27 Oct 2018
The Hague	Beirut
The Netherlands	Lebanon

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 the eligible countries. This includes international travel, board and lodging, visa and insurance, and tuition fees for the course.

The organisation of the training course will take care of your hotel and flight arrangements and an insurance. Participants are responsible for the organisation of their visa application.

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 1 August 2018. To apply you have to create an account first which will enable you to fill out the online application form.

Go to the website: www.shiraka.nl/en/courses/

Click on 'Apply' and scroll to Public Finance Management. 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 Public Finance Management 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 Public Financial Management 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 will not be used as a selection criteria.

Shiraka training programme

The course will be organized 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 MENA 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)

For questions concerning the course

Mr Gijs Bakker
Project leader Public Finance Management training course

E g.r.bakker@minfin.nl
T +31 6 11 80 26 89

Mrs Shafien Golamun
Project Advisor Public Finance Management training course

E s.golamun@minfin.nl
T +31 70 342 49 59

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 Public Finance Management professional development course will be organized by the National Academy for Finance and Economics in collaboration with the Court of Audit.

Ministry of Finance

National Academy for Finance and Economics
Zeestraat 86-90
P.O.Box 20201, 2500 EE The Hague
The Netherlands

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Rijnstraat 8
P.O. Box 20061, 2500 EB The Hague
The Netherlands

Ministry of Economic Affairs

Netherlands Enterprise Agency
Prinses Beatrixlaan 2
P.O. Box 93144, 2509 AC The Hague
The Netherlands