



Government of the Netherlands

Public Financial Management

A Shiraka professional development course

The Netherlands invites senior government officials from the MENA region to apply for a professional development course on Public Financial 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 government officials 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 government service 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 the Budget on best practices in monitoring, controlling 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 an opportunity to develop a valuable network with other government officials from the MENA region and the Netherlands.

Course outline and content

The two-week training course is divided into two distinctive elements.

Online course, November-December 2020

It will focus in the first week on the public financial management system in the Netherlands. Public financial 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 taxation. Financial 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 programme based budgeting, which will also be an element of the course.

Training – February 2021, The Netherlands

In the second week of the training, attention will shift to public financial management systems of the countries of the participants themselves and a number of case studies will be discussed.

The training course will have a practical and interactive character. This approach enhances knowledge sharing and strengthens the cooperation amongst the participants and the experts. The experts are senior Dutch government officials, who work on a daily basis in a financial function in the Netherlands.

Dates, location and language

The professional development course is composed in 2 parts. The first part is an online course which is spread-out over 4-5 weeks. The second part will take place in the Netherlands.

Part I	November–December 2020	Online course (5-6 hrs per week)
Part II	8-12 February 2021	The Hague, The Netherlands

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.

Shiraka and the COVID-19 outbreak

Because of the current outbreak of COVID-19 throughout the world we offer a part of this training program as an online course. If the health and travel restrictions in our countries make it impossible to attend the training in The Netherlands, this training week will also be held online.

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.

All participants are responsible for the organisation and costs of travelling to the airport in their own country. Participants departing from an international airport outside their own country, will have to cover local travel expenses themselves and will be compensated for the international part of their journey. Participants are responsible for the organisation of their visa application.

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 31 August 2020. To apply you first have to create an account 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 Financial 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. Login to fill in the application form for [titel training] and save the form. After saving your application form, you have successfully applied. You will receive a confirmation email.

Eligibility criteria:

- 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.
- ICT; to follow the online course you the participant must have good computer skills and sufficient access to a computer with a recent operating system and a good internet connection. (Participants must be able to use zoom, google chrome/safari, word and powerpoint).

We encourage female government officials to apply. There are 25 places available, which will 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, 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 MENA region and to strengthen relations between the Netherlands and the target countries.

More information

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(for questions concerning the registration database)

For questions concerning the course

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The Shiraka Training Programme is an initiative of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The department International Entrepreneurship of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency implements the Shiraka Training Programme. The Public Financial Management professional development course will be organised by National Academy for Finance and Economics.

Ministry of Finance

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