



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Local Governance

A Shiraka professional development course

The Netherlands invites civil servants from the MENA region to apply for a professional development course on Local Governance.

Eligible countries are: Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territories, Sudan, 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 Shiraka Local Governance professional development course

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

- Participants will gain sufficient knowledge on decentralisation processes and will become able to implement and coordinate them in their countries
- Participants will exchange knowledge with policy and decision-makers working on issues related to decentralisation and local governance at national and sub-national government levels
- Participants will gain insight into the elements of good local governance and effective inter-administrative relations
- Participants will be able to design an action plan to support decentralisation and good local governance in their own countries.

Additionally, the course provides participants with the opportunity to develop a valuable network with other civil servants in the region and the Netherlands.

Course outline and content

The training programme consists of two parts: one online and one face to face in The Netherlands. It has a practical and interactive character which is in line with the objective of sharing knowledge and strengthening the cooperation between the civil servants of the participating countries.

The programme will stimulate the participants interaction and is built around balanced, mutually supportive and integrated components, namely:

- Main concepts and elements of good local governance and decentralisation processes
- Practical skills such as negotiation skills
- Study visits to governmental bodies in The Netherlands and in the MENA region
- Social programmes such as the welcome dinner, the networking reception and other social activities that 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 and in the MENA region
- 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 process management, change management and various practical skills.



Dates, location and language

The professional development course will take place in two nonconsecutive parts:

Part I: 31 May – 27 June 2021 (4 weeks online)
Part II: 25 October – 02 November 2021 (dates are subject to change)
The Hague, The Netherlands

The period between the two parts of the course will include coaching on developing an action plan. Part I will be in Arabic and part II in English, with interpretation into Arabic. Participants are obliged to attend both parts in full. After completing the two parts of 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. Participants from countries that are not on the OECD-DAC list will pay for their own international travel costs; flight tickets and visa. Board and lodging, insurance and tuition fees for the course will be covered by the Dutch government. **All** applicants are responsible for the organisation and costs of travelling to the airport in their own country. Participants from countries on the OECD-DAC list 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 28 March 2021. 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://www.shiraka.nl>

Click on "Register" and scroll to Shiraka Local Governance. Click on "Apply". You will be asked to login using an e-mail address and password. If you do not have an account yet click on register and fill in the required information. Click on "register". You will now receive an e-mail asking you to confirm your e-mail address. After you have confirmed, your account is created. Login to fill in the application form for Shiraka Local Governance and save the form. After saving your application form, you have successfully applied. You will receive a confirmation email.

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 of relevant work experience as a civil servant in Local Governance.
- No (previous) participation in other Shiraka or Matra-South Training Programmes.

We encourage female civil servants to apply, as we highly value diversity amongst our participants. 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, 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 sustainable transition in the MENA region and to strengthen relations between the Netherlands and the target countries.

More information

IO@rvo.nl (for questions concerning the database);
info@thehagueacademy.com (for questions concerning the course)

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

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