



Universiteit
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NETHERLANDS
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COMMITTEE

The Hague Academy for
local governance

Freedom of the Media

7 DAY- TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR 36 CIVIL SERVANTS WHO WORK ON MEDIA LAW AND POLICY FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

ALBANIA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, GEORGIA, KOSOVO, MACEDONIA, MOLDOVA, MONTENEGRO, SERBIA, TURKEY, UKRAINE

5 – 11 October 2017

LEIDEN AND THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

In short

The *Matra Rule of Law Training Programme* is designed to strengthen institutional capacity in the field of rule of law within government organisations in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, and Ukraine. To this end seven training programmes are offered per year, each introducing the participants to best practices in a wide range of rule of law themes. Through interactive sessions combining theory, practical skills and study visits, policy advisors, members of the judiciary and other civil servants working in the government and justice sectors acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to drive reforms in their home countries. In addition, by taking part in the training programme, participants become part of a large transnational network of alumni, lecturers and relevant government departments in the Netherlands and in the target countries. This network offers a platform for learning, exchange and collaboration.

The Matra Rule of Law Training Programme is designed and delivered by Leiden Law School, the Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC), and The Hague Academy for Local Governance (THA). It is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, initially for a period of two years (2017- 2018).

Target audience

The training on Freedom of the Media is intended for civil servants with responsibilities for media law and policy in a broad sense. Participants will be expected to offer a valuable and active contribution to the learning process and be in a position to implement the newly gained knowledge and insights in their respective organisation.

The maximum number of participants is 36. The total will represent a balance in gender and in the number of participants from the individual countries.

Eligible countries:

Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine

Application:

Applications can be made on www.nhc.nl/matrarolt. Please note that the **deadline for submission is Sunday 20 August 2017**

Training period:

5 – 11 October 2017

Language:

English

Programme costs:

The Netherlands Government will provide full fellowships to the selected participants. Each fellowship will cover the cost of international travel (economy), full board and lodging, visa and insurance, tuition fees, lecture materials and study visits. The participants will have to cover any other costs.

Training venue:

Leiden and / or The Hague

Hotel accommodation:

Ibis Den Haag City Centre, The Hague

Introduction

In its relations with pre-accession and Eastern Partnership countries, the European Union (EU) requires stable government institutions that are able to guarantee the rule of law, human rights and protection of minorities. Freedom of the media is crucial for a democracy. Article 10 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU guarantees freedom of expression and information to everyone. The second paragraph specifies that “freedom and pluralism of the media shall be respected”. The media enjoys a special protection because of their important function in society. As a public watchdog, they contribute to public debate. Professional journalists can discover and expose instances of maladministration that would have remained secret otherwise. But freedom of expression and freedom of the media also carry with them duties and responsibilities. How does one deal with media that are politically biased or distribute “fake news”? The rise of social media has raised new questions as to the liability of platform providers.

Objectives

The training programme aims to increase understanding of the European standards relating to the concepts of media freedom and the right of the public to be properly informed. Situations will be discussed that require the striking of a balance between conflicting fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression and the right to privacy. Also a balance must be found between private market forces and State intervention, and between political accountability and political independence. Presentations on the Dutch experience in dealing with these issues will encourage the participants to reflect on the situation in their own country, to identify areas for reform and to nurture exchange on practices in other countries. Special attention will be paid to obstacles and dilemmas in the implementation process and how to overcome them.

Approach and structure

By being demand-driven in nature and by stimulating active participation, the training programme strives to achieve lasting results. When participants leave they are sufficiently equipped to implement the newly gained knowledge and insights in their respective organisations. The training programme offers a careful balance between three mutually reinforcing components: theory, practical skills and study visits.

The programme enables participants to learn from leading Dutch academics and to become acquainted with them. Furthermore, it enables discussion with Dutch practitioners and institutions in this field. Exchanging and comparing experiences is a key aspect of the programme. Study visits will include RNTC - Radio Netherlands Training Centre.

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 successful completion of the programme – which includes attendance to all components of the programme – participants will receive a certificate.

Admission requirements

Important points on which the selection of participants will largely be based are:

- The participant should clearly demonstrate his/her professional interest in a training on Freedom of the Media and the use he/she would make of the insights gained from the training.
- The participant should have practical experience as a senior civil servant with responsibility for developing media law and policy in his/her country.

- The participant should have a good command of spoken and written English.
- The participant should be highly motivated and enthusiastic.
- The participant should be comfortable sharing his/her knowledge with fellow participants (solo presentations during the programme and regular knowledge sharing in the digital learning environment will be required).
- The participant should be in the position to devote time and attention to the training programme prior to and after the 7-day training in the Netherlands. Before the training the participants will have to complete a preparatory assignment and after the training the participants will implement and report on a concrete action plan they personally developed during the training.
- Participants should submit a signed employer's statement granting permission to participate in the training programme.

How to apply

Please read the admission requirements carefully. Candidates who meet all the requirements may proceed to complete the application form which is available at www.nhc.nl/matrarolt.

Application forms need to be submitted in full to be eligible for selection. Applicants are required to up-load their Curriculum Vitae and a letter from their supervisor authorizing participation. Admission will be on a merit and competitive basis.

Successfully uploaded applications will receive an automatic e-mail confirmation.

Information and training programme organisation

Netherlands Helsinki Committee

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