



Universiteit
Leiden



NETHERLANDS
HELSINKI
COMMITTEE

The Hague Academy for
local governance

Public Procurement

10 DAY- TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR 36 PROFESSIONALS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

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

6 – 15 November, 2019

LEIDEN AND THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

FINANCED BY:



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, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, 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. As members of this network, all trainees are invited to participate in an Alumni Day, organised in one of the participating countries, between six to ten months after the training programme.

The Matra Rule of Law Training Programme is designed and delivered by the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, Leiden Law School, and The Hague Academy for Local Governance. It is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, for a period of four years (2017- 2020).

Target audience

This training on public procurement is intended for civil servants with responsibilities for public procurement, either at the level of central government or local authorities. 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 a balance in the number of participants from the individual countries.

Eligible countries: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine

Application: The link to the application form can be found on www.nhc.nl/matrarolt. **The application deadline is Sunday 8 September, 2019 – 12:00 midnight.**

Training period: 6 – 15 November, 2019

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 venues: Leiden Law School, Leiden
Leiden University Campus The Hague

Hotel accommodation: Ibis Leiden City Center, Leiden
Ibis Den Haag City Centre, The Hague

Introduction

Public procurement is a subject of great economic and strategic interest. It is estimated that public expenditure on goods, work and services accounts for approximately 19% of GDP in the EU: every year central and local authorities award contracts worth of some 2 trillion Euros. Because of the huge financial interests and the close public/private relationships, public procurement is a vulnerable process that may entail conflict of interests, nepotism and corruption. Thus, economic criminality may undermine the very foundations of the rule of law. For these reasons the European Union has developed an elaborate regulatory and supervisory framework, aiming to secure that public contracts are awarded in an open, fair and transparent manner. In its relations with pre-accession and Eastern Partnership countries the EU puts great emphasis on the quality and effectiveness of public procurement procedures.

Objectives

The training programme aims to increase understanding of the European standards relating to public procurement, and of factors that determine the legitimacy, integrity and transparency of the process of public procurement. Presentations on the Dutch experience in dealing with these standards will encourage the participants to reflect on the situation in their own country, to identify areas for reform and to nurture exchange on practises in other countries. In addition, knowledge and skills to develop a sustainable policy for the improvement of public procurement will be enhanced. 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.

A social programme will facilitate network development between the participants from the various countries as well as between the participants and their Dutch counterparts.

On completion of the training, participants will:

- Be familiar with the EU legal framework relating to public procurement;
- Have insight in domestic experiences in implementing this framework and the dilemmas and obstacles that one encounters;
- Be able to use the acquired knowledge and best practices as a source of inspiration for dealing with challenges related to public procurement in their own countries;
- Be trained in the practical application of specific subjects and in a number of needed practical skills;
- Have had the opportunity to share knowledge and experiences;
- Have had the opportunity to create new professional cross-border networking relations.

Upon successful completion of the programme – which includes attendance to all components of the programme – participants will receive a certificate indicating the topic of the course and the number of training hours.

Experts

All contributors to the programme are carefully selected. They include leading academics, experienced lawyers, as well as civil servants responsible for public procurement.

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 the public procurement, 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 and be familiar with questions pertaining to public procurement.
- 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 presentation during the programme and regular knowledge sharing in the digital learning environment will be required).
- The participant should be in the position to devote sufficient time and attention to the training programme, and be available for the full duration of the programme. Before the training the participants will have to complete a preparatory assignment; after the training they will implement and report on a concrete action plan developed by themselves during the training.
- Participant 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 satisfy all of the requirements may proceed to complete the application form which is available at www.nhc.nl/matrarolt.

Qualified applicants must submit a letter from their employer showing that they have authorisation to attend this training programme.

Application forms need to be submitted in full to be eligible for selection. 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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