



Universiteit
Leiden



NETHERLANDS
HELSINKI
COMMITTEE

The Hague Academy for
local governance

Public Finance Management (PFM)

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

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

10 - 19 June, 2020

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, North 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. 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 Finance Management (PFM) is intended for civil servants working in the field of PFM – either in the field of taxation or in Public Expenditure Management. The aim is to further enhance their knowledge and skills, thus enabling them to lead and inspire in their home countries.

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 5 April 2020 – 12:00 midnight.
Training period:	10 - 19 June 2020
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:	Hotel Ibis Leiden Centre & Ibis Den Haag City Centre

Introduction

In its relations with pre-accession and Eastern Partnership countries, the European Union requires stable government institutions that should be able to guarantee democracy, rule of law, human rights and protection of minorities. In this respect a sound system of Public Finance Management is of tremendous importance as it provides the very foundation for a democratic State governed by the rule of law. Both the taxation system and the management of the State budget must meet – and must be perceived by the public to meet – the highest standards. This requires continuous reflection on key themes such as effectiveness and efficiency; integrity and transparency; communication and innovation, also in the light of technical developments.

The Dutch public financial management system is internationally acknowledged for its transparency and high level of decentralization. Strong independent institutions safeguard the system's integrity and independence, protecting it from excessive political and personal influence.

The training *Public Finance Management (PFM)* offers a tailor-made programme allowing professionals to discuss key issues amongst themselves and with leading academics and experienced colleagues from the Dutch civil service. The programme will include a visit to one of the major infrastructural works of The Netherlands, which will serve as a case study of financial project management.

Objectives

The training programme aims to offer – on the one hand – a thorough introduction into the system of Dutch taxation, and – on the other hand – a comprehensive insight into the management of expenditures in the Netherlands: the process of preparing, implementing, monitoring, reporting and spending reviews of the budget. The programme 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 PFM 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:

- Have insight in the importance of a sound system of Public Finance Management as the foundation for democracy and the rule of law;
- Know how the Dutch policy for taxation and management of the State budget is shaped and organised;
- Be able to use the acquired knowledge and best practices as a source of inspiration for dealing with challenges related to PFM 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, and be able to continue doing so through the network that has been established during the training;
- 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 and experienced government officials who work on a daily basis in the Netherlands public financial management system.

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 PFM, and the use he/she would make of the insights gained from the training.
- The participant should have an academic degree and about 5 to 10 years of working experience.
- The participant should have a good command of English (translation will *not* be provided during the course).
- The participant should be highly motivated and enthusiastic.
- The participant should be comfortable sharing his/her knowledge with fellow participants (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 10-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 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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