

The Hague Academy for  
local governance



NETHERLANDS  
HELSINKI  
COMMITTEE



Universiteit  
Leiden

# Decentralisation and Citizen Participation

ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR 36 CIVIL SERVANTS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

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

**26 October – 27 November 2020 [Online]**



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 multiple (online) training programmes are offered since 2017. Each training introduces the participants to best practices in a wide range of rule of law themes. In these online training programmes, you will become familiar with important theoretical concepts, reflect on your own context and work with fellow civil servants from different countries on group assignments. We involve policy advisors, content matter experts and professional trainers to make sure you will benefit from these trainings. The trainings are designed to be interactive, and to enable you to apply the lessons learned after completing the full training. 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 eleven countries of origin from the participants. This network offers a platform for learning, exchange and collaboration. As members of this network, all trainees are invited to participate in an international live event called “Alumni Days”, which will take place within 1 year after the completion of the course, conditions permitting.

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**

The training on Decentralization and Citizen Participation is intended for senior civil servants and policy makers at national Ministries or sub-national governments in charge of the development, implementation and enforcement of decentralisation policy and participatory local governance in their respective 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 in the number of participants from the individual countries.

<b>Eligible countries:</b>	Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine
<b>Application:</b>	The link to the application form can be found on <a href="http://www.nhc.nl/matrarolt">www.nhc.nl/matrarolt</a> . <b>The Application deadline is September 20<sup>th</sup> 2020, midnight</b>
<b>Training period:</b>	26 October – 27 November 2020
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Programme costs:</b>	Access to the online environment for this course is free. There are no costs related to this course for the participants. The international live event “Alumni Days” is fully covered by the Netherlands government, including travel, lodging, and DSA.

**Training platform:**

Moodle [log in to platform will be available upon selection]

**Introduction**

In its relations with pre-accession and Eastern Partnership countries, the European Union requires stable government institutions that are able to guarantee the rule of law, human rights and protection of minorities. Decentralised governments play an increasingly important role in the execution of policy and legislation. They bring decision-making processes closer to the citizens, contributing to the creation of more responsive and transparent governance. The training programme Decentralisation and Citizen Participation helps participants to analyse decentralisation policy and promote inclusive, participatory and transparent decentralised governance.

**Objectives**

The training programme aims to increase the knowledge and skills of the participants to promote decentralisation and citizen participation within their national contexts. After completing the course, participants will have improved knowledge of decentralisation processes and EU regulations to contribute to decentralisation processes in their respective countries. They will be aware of the importance of citizen participation and inclusive governance, understand different tools for citizen participation and have insight in the elements that contribute to effective inter-administrative relations. Participants will be able to understand EU policy making and regulations in the field of decentralisation. They will be able to assess the level of decentralisation in their country and finalize an action plan to further support the process after completion of the course. 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. After completion of the training, participants are sufficiently equipped to implement the newly gained knowledge and insights in their respective organisations. The training programme offers a careful balance between multiple mutually reinforcing components: theory, practical tools, examples from the Dutch context and individual and group exercises.

The programme enables participants to learn from leading Dutch academics. Furthermore, it shares insights from Dutch practitioners and institutions in the field of decentralisation and citizen participation. Exchanging and comparing experiences is a key aspect of the programme.

Upon successful completion of the programme – which includes participating and contributing 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 decentralisation and citizen participation and the use he/she would make of the insights gained from the training.
- The participant should have practical experience with issues on decentralisation and citizen participation.
- 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 (presentations during the programme and regular knowledge sharing in the digital learning environment will be required).
- The participant should reserve about 6 to 8 hours per week to take part in this training programme.

- The participant should be in the position to devote time and attention to the training programme prior to and after the training. 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](http://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**

Website: [www.nhc.nl/matrarolt](http://www.nhc.nl/matrarolt)

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