



Universiteit
Leiden



NETHERLANDS
HELSINKI
COMMITTEE

The Hague Academy for
local governance

Public Finance & Procurement

ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR 36 PROFESSIONALS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

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

ONLINE

7 APRIL – 12 MAY, 2021 [ONLINE]

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, several 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 and practical skills, 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 participants are invited to partake in an (online) Alumni event, organised 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.

Target audience

This training on public finance and procurement is intended for (senior) civil servants with responsibilities in public finance management and public procurement, at the local or national level. Participants will be expected to offer valuable and active contributions to the learning process and to generally 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 28 February, midnight
Training period:	7 April – 12 May 2021
Language:	English
Programme costs:	The Netherlands Government will provide full fellowships to the selected participants. There are no costs for the participants to take part in this course.
Training platform:	Moodle [log-in to platform will be available upon selection]

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.

The Dutch public financial management system is internationally acknowledged for its transparency and high level of decentralisation. Strong independent institutions safeguard the system's integrity and independence, protecting it from excessive political and personal influence. The training *Public Finance and Procurement (PFP)* 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.

Objectives

The training programme aims to increase understanding of the Dutch standards relating to public procurement and public finance management, and of factors that determine the legitimacy, integrity and transparency of the processes. 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 and public finance management will be enhanced. Special attention will be paid to obstacles and dilemmas in the implementation process and how to overcome them. Through interactive (group) assignments and the guidance of experts from the field, participants will get the chance to apply their knowledge and skills to learn from their peers and Dutch colleagues.

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, as well as individual and group exercises.

The programme enables participants to learn from leading Dutch academics, practitioners and institutions in the field of public procurement and public finance management. 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 Public Finance and Procurement and the use he/she would make of the insights gained from the training.
- The participant should have practical experience with issues on Public Procurement and/or Public Finance Management.
- 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 have access to the internet and a (personal) computer or laptop.
- 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 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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