



NETHERLANDS  
HELSINKI  
COMMITTEE



Universiteit  
Leiden

The Hague Academy for  
local governance

## Human Rights and Minorities 2023

HYBRID (ONLINE AND IN THE HAGUE) TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR 22 CIVIL SERVANTS WHO WORK ON THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

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

Online 17 May – 7 June 2023

In person, in The Hague 14 June – 21 June 2023

ONLINE SESSIONS & PRE-RECORDED CONTENT ON A MOODLE BASED EDUCATIONAL PLATFORM



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.

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 six years.

## **Target audience**

The training on Human Rights and Minorities is intended for civil servants holding (senior) positions in state bodies that are working on monitoring and improving the implementation of internationally agreed human rights standards. They can come either from independent institutions (such as National Human Rights Institutes, Ombudsman bodies) or from government ministries such as the Ministry of Justice or, Ministry of Interior or the ministry in charge of promoting social equality. The programme is not primarily aimed at members of the judicial branch of government; affinity and familiarity with legal concepts is however needed, but an academic law degree is not required.

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 22. 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 and Ukraine

**Application:** **Application deadline is 9 April 2023 – midnight (CET).**

**Training period:** Online: 17 May – 7 June  
The Hague: 12 June – 16 June 2023

**Language:** English

**Programme costs:** The Netherlands Government will provide full scholarships to selected participants, covering the cost of international travel (economy), board and lodging, visa and insurance, tuition fees, lecture materials and excursions.

**Training location:** The online NHC Academy & Nutshuis The Hague, the Netherlands

**Hotel accommodation:** Ibis Den Haag City Centre, The Hague <https://bit.ly/2My8206>

## **Background**

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. This means that national legislation is in line with international standards, that procedures exist to update legislation when necessary, and that this legislation is implemented properly. Government policy initiatives should be checked regarding their human rights impact, and mechanisms for the correction of practices that are in violation of human rights need to be in place. For government bodies that are in regular direct contact with the public, such as the police, policies and practices that are aligned with human rights are particularly important. Groups such as children and disabled persons have particular human rights needs, as do women, queer persons and those belonging to ethnic minorities.

## **Objectives**

The training programme aims to provide participants with an overview of mechanisms and policies that can be employed to implement internationally agreed human rights standards, and how these can be set in motion and made successful. The focus will be on practical implementation; government interaction with civil society will also be covered. Presentations on the Dutch approach in dealing with these standards will encourage the participants to reflect on the situation in their own country, to identify areas for reform and nurture exchange on practices in each other's countries. In addition, knowledge and skills to develop a sustainable policy for the improvement of human rights protection will be enhanced.

## **Approach and structure**

By being demand-driven in nature and by stimulating active participation, the training programme strives to achieve lasting results. When participants complete the training, 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 and to become acquainted with leading Dutch academics and professionals. 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.

The programme is hybrid. This means that part of the programme is online and part of the programme is in-person in The Hague. The participants need to successfully complete the online training programme before they travel to The Hague.

We are giving participants the opportunity to arrive one day early, on Saturday 10 June 2023. There is no programme on Saturday or Sunday, but participants can make use of this "Cultural Day" to enjoy various cultural attractions in the Netherlands. Participants who would like to make use of this option can indicate this in their application form. Participants who do not wish to use this option, can opt out in the application form, and will arrive on Sunday 11 June 2023.

Upon successful completion of both the online and the offline components – which includes attendance to all components of the programme – participants will receive a certificate.

## **Admission requirements**

The selection of participants will largely be based on:

- The participant should currently be a (senior-level) civil servant;
- The participant should clearly demonstrate his/her professional interest in a training on human rights and minorities and the uses he/she would make of the insights gained from the training;
- The participant should have practical experience as an office holder with responsibility for human rights protection and/or the application of international human rights standards 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 (contributing during the live sessions and regular knowledge sharing in the digital learning environment is required);
- The participant should be in the position to devote time (roughly 4-6 hours per week) and attention to the online training programme, which includes attending online live sessions during work hours;
- 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 upload their Curriculum Vitae and a letter from their supervisor authorising participation. Admission will be on 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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