



NETHERLANDS  
HELSINKI  
COMMITTEE



Universiteit  
Leiden

The Hague Academy for  
local governance

## Human Rights and Minorities

**10 DAY- TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR 36 CIVIL SERVANTS WHO WORK ON THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:**

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

**15 – 24 May 2019**

**THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS**



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, 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**

The training on Human Rights and Minorities is intended for persons 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 needed, but an academic law degree is not required.

The 2019 course will, in addition to covering general mechanisms for human rights policy setting and protection, pay special attention to gender and children's rights issues. (In 2020, human rights aspects of the work of law enforcement agencies are planned to be given special attention.)

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, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine

**Application:** **Application deadline is 3 March 2019 – 12:00 pm (CET).**

**Training period:** 15 – 24 May 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 University Campus The Hague, Nutshuis The Hague

**Hotel accommodation:** Ibis Den Haag City Centre, The Hague

### **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. Vulnerable groups such as children and disabled persons have particular human rights needs, as do women, persons with an LGBTI background 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 dealt with. 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 practises 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 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. Study visits will include introductions into national and local activities to monitor, promote and protect human rights including the processing of citizen's complaints about unequal treatment.

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

Upon successful completion of the programme – which includes attendance 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 human rights and minorities and the use 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 (solo 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 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**

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