NETHERLANDS HELSINKI COMMITTEE

Universiteit Leiden

The Hague Academy for local governance

ONLINE AND IN-PERSON TRAINING PROGRAMME ON ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

ALBANIA, ARMENIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, KOSOVO, MOLDOVA, MONTENEGRO, NORTH MACEDONIA, SERBIA, TÜRKIYE, UKRAINE

Online: 15 – 26 February 2027
Leiden & The Hague: 15 – 26 March 2027

LEIDEN & THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

The programme 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 and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine. We offer seven training programs each year, providing participants with insights into best practices across a wide range of rule of law topics.

Through interactive sessions that blend theory with practical skills, as well as study visits, our programme equips policy advisors, members of the judiciary, and other civil servants working in the government and justice sectors with the knowledge and skills needed to drive reforms within their respective countries.

In addition, by taking part in the training programme, participants become part of a large international network of alumni, lecturers, and public institutions in the Netherlands and in the target countries. This network serves as 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. The programme is commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and implemented by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) on behalf of the Ministry.

Target audience

The training on Administration of Justice is intended for English-speaking (mid to senior) civil servants and policy makers in public institutions such as Ministries or other state institutions in charge of judicial matters. More specifically, senior judges, prosecutors, civil servants as well as policy makers with responsibilities for court management and the organisation of the administration of justice are invited to apply.

Participants will be expected to offer an 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 per training is 27. The selection process will ensure gender balance and adequate representation of the countries concerned.

Eligible countries:	Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine
Application deadline:	**08 November 2026 – 23:59 CET**
Training period:	**Online:** 15 – 26 February 2027 **In-person:** 15 – 26 March 2027
Language:	English
Programme costs:	The Netherlands Government will cover all costs related to this online and in-person training programme.
Training location:	Online and in-person training in Leiden/The Hague, The Netherlands, with a study visit to EU institutions in Brussels, Belgium.

Background

The European Union in its relations with pre-accession and Eastern Partnership countries requires stable government institutions that should be able to guarantee democracy, rule of law, human rights and protection of minorities. In this respect, independent and impartial courts are of crucial importance since they provide the very foundation for the rule of law. It is of special importance that the courts enjoy the confidence of both the parties appearing before them and the public at large. What is needed, therefore, is continuous reflection on key themes such as efficiency, professional ethics, the rights of the defence, transparency, communication and court management. The training programme *Administration of Justice* allows judges and policy makers to discuss these and other issues with leading academics and practitioners from the Dutch judiciary.

Objectives

The training programme aims to provide participants with an overview of mechanisms and policies that they can use within their area of expertise and how these can be set in motion and successfully implemented. The focus is on practical implementation. Presentations on the Dutch approach encourage the participants to reflect on the situation in their own country, to identify areas for reform, and additionally nurture exchange on practices in each other's countries. Ultimately, knowledge and skills of participants are improved and networks for the exchange of best practices created.

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 online training programme offers a careful balance between theory and practice. The in-person part of the programme allows for further deepening of skills and knowledge and for networking. The in-person programme enables participants to learn from and to become acquainted with leading (Dutch and international) academics and professionals. Furthermore, it enables discussion between Dutch and EU practitioners and institutions in this field. Exchanging and comparing experiences is a key aspect of the programme.

Upon successful completion of the programme – 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 (mid to senior-level) civil servant;
- The participant should clearly demonstrate their professional interest in this training and the uses they would make of the insights gained from the training;
- The participant should have a good command of spoken and written English;
- The participant should be highly motivated;
- The participant should be comfortable sharing their knowledge with fellow participants (contributing during the live sessions and regular knowledge sharing in the digital learning environment is required);
- Participants should submit a signed employer's statement granting permission to participate in the training programme.

Required time commitment

The participant should be able to dedicate sufficient time to the programme. For the 2-week online programme, 6-8 hours per week are required. For the 2-week in-person programme in the Netherlands, 8 hours per day are required. Furthermore, the participant should be available for several follow-up activities as described in this brochure.

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.

Application forms need to be submitted in full to be eligible for selection. Applicants are required to upload a signed employer's statement granting permission to participate in the programme. 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

A non-governmental organisation that promotes human rights, the rule of law and justice in all countries of wider Europe. We consider it our mission to inspire, engage and support catalysts of change in building just and rights-respecting societies.

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The Hague Academy for Local Governance

A non-profit, non-governmental organisation that aims to strengthen local democracy worldwide. We offer practice-oriented training in The Netherlands and abroad.

Website: www.thehagueacademy.com

Leiden Law School

Leiden Law School is one of the seven faculties of Leiden University, the first university established in the Netherlands in 1575. It currently ranks 23rd in the QS World University Ranking for best law faculties worldwide.

Website: www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/law