



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

# *Social Affairs and Employment*

## *A Shiraka professional development course*

**The Netherlands invites civil servants from the MENA region to apply for a professional development course on Social Affairs and Employment.**

**Eligible countries are: Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territories and Tunisia.**

The objective of the course is for civil servants working in the field of Social Affairs and Employment to share their knowledge and skills enabling them to lead and inspire the modernisation of Social Affairs and Employment in their home countries. The course also aims to strengthen participants' ties with the Netherlands and the Dutch government; especially between Dutch civil servants and their counterparts in the target countries.

### **Goals of the Social Affairs and Employment professional development course**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands is organising the professional development course with the following aims:

- Increasing the knowledge of theories and concepts related to the different aspects of policy in the field of social affairs and employment.
- Promoting practical skills, such as change management and project management, working in teams, dealing with cultural differences, negotiating and presentation skills.
- Increasing the knowledge of the Dutch practice and the practice in the MENA region in the field of Social Affairs and Employment policy.
- Making contacts between participants from different countries and between the participants and their Dutch colleagues.

Additionally, the course provides participants with the opportunity to develop a valuable network with other civil servants in the region and in the Netherlands.

### **Course outline and content**

Sufficient employment possibilities, social security and welfare are important matters for citizens. These all touch upon the area of Social Affairs and Employment, in which the government plays an important role.

How can the government increase economic growth and create job opportunities for the youth? How can a social security system be organised? What are practical examples from the Netherlands and other regions? And what can be learned from experiences in the Middle-East and North-Africa?

These and many more questions will be discussed during this training programme offered by the Hague Academy for Local Governance in cooperation with CNV International.

Through an interactive and diverse program, participants will learn more on the subjects that touch upon social affairs and employment. With the help of international experts, field visits and practical examples from the Netherlands, participants will discuss how economic growth can go hand in hand with social security reforms in their home countries. Participants will also discuss employment strategies to reform the labour market and how to create more and better jobs.

The training course deepens the knowledge of civil servants from the 13 target countries in the field of social affairs and employment policies. In addition, it strengthens their capacity to effectively contribute to the development and implementation of such policies in their home countries. During the course, the participants have many opportunities to share experiences with each other as well as with their colleagues from The Netherlands so that international networks between civil servants will be stimulated.

### Dates, location and language

The professional development course is composed of two parts. The first part is an online 4-week course and the second part will take place in the Netherlands.

- Part I: 7 March – 3 April 2022  
Online (4-6 hours of workload per week)
- Part II: 16 May – 24 May 2022  
The Hague, The Netherlands

The courses will be in English, with interpretation into Arabic. Participants are obliged to attend both parts in full. The dates and format of the training are subject to change. After completing the course, participants will receive a certificate.

### Costs and fees

The Dutch government will take care of all relevant costs for participants from countries on the [OECD-DAC list](#). This includes international travel, board and lodging, visa and insurance, and tuition fees for the course. Participants from countries that are not on the OECD-DAC list will pay for their own international travel costs; flight tickets and visa. Board and lodging, insurance and tuition fees for the course will be covered by the Dutch government. All applicants are responsible for the organisation and costs of travelling to the airport in their own country. Participants from countries on the OECD-DAC list departing from an international airport outside their own country, will have to cover local travel expenses themselves and will be compensated for the international part of their journey.

Participants are responsible for the organisation of their visa application.

In case of no-shows or cancellations within four weeks before the start of the first part of the training, the organisation has the right to claim all costs incurred from the participants' employer.

### Application

Applications should be made online before February 7<sup>th</sup> 2022. To apply you have to create an account first which will enable you to fill out the online application form. Go to the website: <http://www.shiraka.nl>

Click on "Register" and scroll to Social Affairs and Employment. Click on "Apply". You will be asked to login using an e-mail address and password. If you do not have an account yet, click on register and fill in the required information. Click "register". You will now receive an e-mail asking you to confirm your e-mail address. After you have confirmed, your account is created. Login to fill in the application form for Social Affairs and Employment and save the form. After saving your application form, you have successfully applied. You will receive a confirmation e-mail.

### Eligibility criteria:

- Administrative check. Fully documented applications received before the deadline.
- Match of job position and learning goals with the topics of the course and motivation.
- Between 5 and 10 years relevant work experience as civil servant in Social Affairs and Employment.
- No (previous) participation in other Shiraka or Matra-South Training Programmes.

We encourage female civil servants to apply, as we highly value diversity amongst our participants. There are 25 places available, which will ideally be divided equally between the invited countries. A passive understanding of the English language would be a plus. Please be aware that this won't be used as a selection criteria.

### Shiraka training programme

The course will be organised as part of the Shiraka programme, an initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Shiraka is a Dutch bilateral effort dedicated to contributing to political development in the MENA region. Through this Shiraka training programme, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs aims to stimulate and support sustainable transition in the MENA region and to strengthen relations between the Netherlands and the target countries.

### More information

[IO@rvo.nl](mailto:IO@rvo.nl) (for questions concerning the database);  
[info@thehagueacademy.com](mailto:info@thehagueacademy.com) (for questions concerning the course)

The Shiraka Training Programme is an initiative of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The department International Entrepreneurship of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency implements the Shiraka Training Programme. The *Shiraka: Social Affairs and Employment* professional development course will be organised by The Hague Academy for Local Governance in cooperation with CNV International.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Rijnstraat 8  
P.O. Box 20061 | 2500 EB  
The Hague, the Netherlands

The Hague Academy for  
local governance

**cnv** Internationaal



Netherlands Enterprise Agency