



# *Ecosystems for Entrepreneurs*

## *A Shiraka professional development course*



**The Netherlands invites civil servants and entrepreneurs from Palestinian Territories and Iraq to apply for a professional development programme on the role of the government in the ecosystem for entrepreneurs.**

The objective of the programme is to provide civil servants and entrepreneurs with a framework of knowledge and skills on how to improve the enabling environment for entrepreneurs. Within this framework, participants will address an identified problem within their country's ecosystem for entrepreneurs in order to tackle this problem. This is under guidance of the programme's coach and experts. The course also aims at strengthening participants' ties with stakeholders in the Dutch ecosystem for entrepreneurs.

### **The 'Ecosystem for entrepreneurs' professional development programme**

A good business environment stimulates the creation of new businesses and is of great importance for the economic development of the MENA region. The government plays an important, condition-creating and stimulating role in this. It must first of all ensure that the basic infrastructure is in place, such as good accessibility to cities and regions, good education, and facilities such as electricity and broadband. In addition, it must develop targeted strategies for entrepreneurs and start-ups, through legislation and regulations, access to knowledge and capital, the creation of networks, the facilitation of housing, and (financial) incentives.

This must be based on a clear vision and strategy that

has been established in consultation with the various stakeholders.

### **Objectives**

The programme aims to support the participants in building this enabling environment for entrepreneurs. Specifically it aims to achieve the following results:

- A good picture of the implications of (national) strategy on entrepreneurs and incubators;
- Increased knowledge and insight about facilitating an ecosystem for entrepreneurs from organizational and strategic perspectives;
- Understanding of the ingredients needed for a good ecosystem and possible interventions to achieve them;
- Better insight on the roles of the various stakeholders in the ecosystem and how they can better work together;
- Skills to effectively perform their role as a 'change agent';
- Development and implementation of action plan that stimulate entrepreneurship;
- A network among the participants, the trainers and the guest speakers to exchange knowledge and practical tips in the field, to stimulate entrepreneurship

### **Course outline and content**

The programme duration will be one year. It consists out of a combination of training workshops in-country and in the Netherlands. In between, participants are expected to develop their action plans, and once stakeholders are known, implement their action plans.

**Phase 1:** A four-week online training dedicated to map the ecosystem for entrepreneurs

**Phase 2:** A one-week training in the participants' home countries. Participants will examine the ecosystems for entrepreneurship in their own country, visit relevant local stakeholders, and write an action plan to strengthen the ecosystem for entrepreneurs.

**Phase 3:** Two months to further develop the action plans. Coaching will be available.

**Phase 4:** A seven-day training in the Netherlands, during which participants will visit several Dutch stakeholders in the field of entrepreneurship and finalise their action plans.

**Phase 5:** Six months to implement the action plans. Coaching will be available.

**Phase 6:** Participants will present their results in presence of the Netherlands Representation and other relevant stakeholders.

### Dates, location and language

#### Online training

4-29 July 2022 – Online (4 hours per week)

#### In-country training

18-23 September 2022 – Palestinian Territories

24-29 September 2022 - Iraq

#### Training in the Netherlands

24 November – 2 December The Hague, The Netherlands

The courses will be in English, with interpretation into Arabic and Kurdish. Participants are expected to have good computer skills, a computer with operating system and good internet during the training. If Covid-19 restrictions make it impossible to organise a live training, an alternative online training will be offered. Participants are obliged to attend all parts in full. After completing the course, participants will receive a certificate.

### Costs and fees

The Dutch government will take care of all relevant costs. This includes international travel, board and lodging, visa and insurance, and tuition fees for the course.

All applicants are responsible for the organisation and costs of travelling to the airport and the training location in their own country. Participants 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.

### Application

Applications should be made online before 7 May 2022.

To apply go to the website: <http://www.shiraka.nl/en/courses/>. Scroll to 'Ecosystem for Entrepreneurs'. Click on 'Apply'. Click on 'register' and enter your personal information and login information. Click on 'register' and your account is created. Login to fill in the application form for 'Ecosystem for Entrepreneurs' and save the form. After saving your application form, you have successfully applied. You will receive a confirmation email.

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 participant's employer.

### 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 economic development, private sector support or entrepreneurship.
- Participants should be willing and able to make available the time to 1) participate in all training activities and 2) develop and implement action plans;
- 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 12 places available per country, which will be divided between relevant institutions. A good command of the English is a plus.

### 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 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. 'Ecosystem for Entrepreneurs' professional development course will be organized by The Hague Academy for Local Governance

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*'This training is a wonderful opportunity for anyone aiming to build a sustainable business. The team is professional and the program very rich, don't miss the chance to be part of this journey'*

*Ouafa Benterki, participant in Algeria  
Entrepreneur in AI sector Algeria*



Netherlands Enterprise Agency

The Hague Academy for  
local governance