

A group of approximately 15 people, diverse in age and ethnicity, are gathered on a city street. A woman in a dark jacket and red bag stands in the center, pointing her right index finger towards the sky. The group is looking in various directions, some towards the woman, others towards the background. In the background, a red and white tram is visible on the right, and a modern building with a curved facade and many windows is on the left. The foreground is filled with green grass and yellow dandelions. The sky is clear and blue. A blue banner is in the top left corner.

The Hague Academy for
local governance

A local governance experience!



Jan van Zanen
Mayor of The Hague

“The Hague Academy for Local Governance offers a unique platform for professionals from across the world to meet, learn, and exchange experiences. Their practice-oriented approach fosters innovation and inspiration for local solutions that truly contribute to peace, stability, and development.”



The Hague Academy is based in The Hague, city of Peace and Justice. The Hague is home to the parliament and all government ministries of The Netherlands as well as 200 international organisations, including embassies, international courts, UN-agencies, and NGOs in the field of peace and justice.



Cecile Meijs
Director The Hague
Academy for Local
Governance

“Our work is driven by three core principles. First comes people’s access to basic rights and services. Second is the need for responsive, inclusive, and capable institutions that guarantee these rights. And third is citizens’ empowerment to participate in the sustainable development of their communities.”



Our mission and vision

Local governments have been increasingly recognised for their role in tackling global challenges, from adapting to climate change to reducing poverty and inequality and preventing conflict and polarisation. Moreover, as the government layer closest to the people, local authorities are crucial to realise locally led development.

The Hague Academy aims to strengthen local governance worldwide by offering practice-oriented training and knowledge exchange. By supporting change-makers in both governments

and civil society and promoting effective cooperation between them, we contribute to better public services, more inclusive economic development, and stable and peaceful societies.

With our programmes we promote practices of good governance that apply the principles of:

- Participation and Responsiveness
- Accountability and Transparency
- Equity and Inclusiveness
- Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Respecting the Rule of Law and Human Rights



Our organisation

The Hague Academy strengthens the capacity of governments to become more responsive to citizens' needs, more effective in delivering services, and more confident to lead development processes. Moreover, we enhance the knowledge and skills of citizens to better voice their concerns and advocate for their rights. To ensure lasting change, we facilitate dialogues between governments and citizens and involve local training partners.



Our values

Our organisational values define the way we operate as an organisation and communicate with our clients, partners and staff:

Expertise

We bring the best experts together to create a great learning experience.

Innovation

We continuously explore new topics and methods for training delivery.

Diversity

We embrace differences and promote a diversity of perspectives.

Passion

We are committed to achieving our mission and prepared to go the extra mile.

Responsiveness

We put the needs of our participants at the heart of everything we do.

Quality

We take pride in providing high quality services.



Our training programmes

Next to our open subscription courses in The Hague, we design short and multi-year programmes, customised to the needs of our partners and clients. In addition to training content and delivery, we offer high quality logistic arrangements and support.



Talent for Governance



Talent for Governance is The Hague Academy's scholarship programme. With the support of Dutch municipalities, young and ambitious local government employees participate in training and knowledge exchange activities in The Netherlands. Afterwards, they initiate a project that promotes inclusive local development in their home countries.

Training of Trainers



Our Training of Trainer programmes help trainers to strengthen their training design and delivery skills, usually combined with thematic training. They learn about adult learning principles, and practice with participatory training methods and managing diverse participant groups. To sustain learning impact, we offer coaching and refresher courses.

Customised Training



We design programmes that suit the context and needs of our partners, in close collaboration with local experts. We deliver training online and in-person, across the world and in different languages. Our training team includes English, French, Spanish, and Arabic native speakers.

Training Centre Development



We partner with training centres around the world to equip them with the tools and guidance needed to develop their organisational and training capacity. We co-design training curricula and trainer's guides. We offer on-the-job coaching, refresher training, and continued institutional exchange.

Open Subscription Training



Our short courses in The Hague bring together practitioners from a variety of countries and organisations. During these highly interactive courses, participants exchange ideas, learn from high-level international experts, and visit innovative projects and organisations in the Netherlands.

Our unique approach

Our programmes are highly interactive and offer a combination of expertise, exchange, and experience. Our focus on the local level brings together the different perspectives of people across sectors, working for governments, businesses, academia, and civil society.

• Designed for adult learners

We ensure that lessons learned are applicable to real-life work challenges. We help develop result-oriented action plans and offer individual coaching, online feedback sessions, and refresher courses.

• Global experience, local relevance

We ensure that lessons learned have local relevance by drawing on our extensive experience and our network of practitioners from across the world.

• Interactive and engaging

To create optimal learning impact, we involve and inspire participants as much as possible through dialogues with high-level experts, exchange of experiences, simulations, and engaging study visits.

• Tailored and needs-based

Each training starts with the participants' goals. We identify specific training needs and organisational challenges and adapt training content accordingly.

• Capacity that lasts

Through the involvement of local trainers in multi-annual programmes, we strengthen local capacities to deliver training beyond the end of the programme.

• A neutral and trusted partner

As an independent organisation, we are well positioned to facilitate discussions on sensitive issues openly and constructively, creating space for dialogue and reflection.

• Peer-learning and networking

We encourage peer-to-peer learning, enabling practitioners to share their expertise and experience with each other. Our alumni network supports continued professional exchange across regions and sectors.





Expertise areas

We combine expertise in training design and delivery with state-of-the-art knowledge from our international network. The didactical knowledge and methodologies of The Hague Academy's trainers ensure that the knowledge shared by experts is relevant to participants and offered in an easily accessible way.

Lobby & Advocacy

Increase capacities to influence decision making.

Multilevel Water Governance

Create the conditions for effective cooperation in the water sector to plan, manage and finance water resources and services.

Gender Responsive Governance

Work on gender mainstreaming and increased participation of women in local policies.

Integrity & Anti-corruption

Promote integrity, transparency and anti-corruption in government institutions.

Fiscal Decentralisation & Local Finance

Increase local financial capacities by clear fiscal arrangements and local revenue generation.

Migration & Cities

Develop strategies to deal with the impact of migration in cities.

Leadership & Municipal Management

Enhance your skills to create a shared vision, communicate with stakeholders and manage the municipal organisation.

Citizen Participation & Inclusive Governance

Include voices of all citizens in policy and decision making.

Our Expertise

Disaster Management & Climate Resilience

Increase resilience and improve local responses to the impact of climate change.

Decentralisation & Multilevel Governance

Develop a framework for effective cooperation between different levels of government and improved service delivery.

Social Affairs & Employment

Ensure inclusive economic growth that goes hand in hand with social reforms.

Project Management

Boost your skills to manage projects in complex government settings.

Democratic Resilience

Develop strategies to defend and strengthen democratic institutions.

Local Economic Development

Develop an LED-strategy and improve eco-systems for entrepreneurship and job creation.

Inclusive Local Service Delivery & the SDG's

Increase the quality of and access to services for all citizens.

Local Security & Peacebuilding

Promote conflict prevention, social cohesion, and security in local communities.

Digital Government

Lead digital transformation processes in the public sector.

Human Rights & the Rule of Law

Promote access to justice and protect the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups.



Our impact

We train around a thousand people annually from governments, civil society, and donor and development organisations, with an equal balance of men and women.

98% of our alumni report that they initiated change actions after the training, such as sharing knowledge with colleagues, involving new stakeholders, and adjusting or initiating new policies or projects. The training strengthened their confidence and competences to execute their change actions successfully.



Ghana

Community assembly to involve indigenous women in preserving the Ambalara Forest.



Colombia

Workshops in rural communities to foster inclusive, local post-conflict development.



Iraq

Young women receiving vocational training to access the labour market.



Bangladesh

Women advocating for women's and girls' rights.



Our expert network

We work with a variety of high-level, international research and training institutes, professional networks, and individual experts across the globe. This ensures high-quality, context-specific training for partners and clients worldwide.

“Effective multi-level governance depends on strong local governments and capable civil servants. As responsibilities move closer to citizens, local authorities are no longer just implementers, they are enablers of public services, working with civil society and private partners to respond to complex societal needs.”



*Frits van der Meer
Professor Public Sector and
Civil Service Reform at Leiden University*



“The Hague Academy offers participants a great mix of theory and practical learning, paired with concrete experiences of how Dutch institutions and municipalities put inclusive policies into practice. As an expert, I get to share global experiences and best practices with frontline practitioners, who are immediately able to go back home and implement reforms that are meaningful.”

Dr. Jamie Boex, Executive Director of the Local Public Sector Alliance



“The Hague Academy’s strength lies in its philosophy of ‘learning by doing’: sharing and learning from each other’s experiences and linking theory to practice through a hands-on approach while respecting the local context and the professional background and standards of the trainees. I enjoy coaching participants to apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills to tackle challenges at home.”

Ghada Zeidan, Owner and Senior Adviser of Middle East Partners





Experience and exchange

Municipalities, ministries, knowledge institutes, and community organisations offer unique insights into their organisations during engaging study visits. They show the impact of policies, projects, and participatory approaches that address challenges in society. They encourage training participants to ask questions and share experiences from their own work practice. This way, we connect different perspectives and stimulate out-of-the-box thinking, both for participants and host organisations.



“Study visits offer a unique opportunity to see how public institutions work in practice. Direct exchange with peers creates space for learning and inspiration.”



Lars Burema
Head of Programmes
The Hague Academy
for Local Governance



Ahmed Mahrous Khodair
Lecturer at the University
of Sadat City, Egypt



Building a culture of integrity through youth engagement

“The Hague Academy gave me the tools and confidence to turn my knowledge and experience into action. After completing the training on integrity and anti-corruption, I became a professional trainer in Egypt, leading integrity and anti-corruption courses for civil servants and young people across the country.

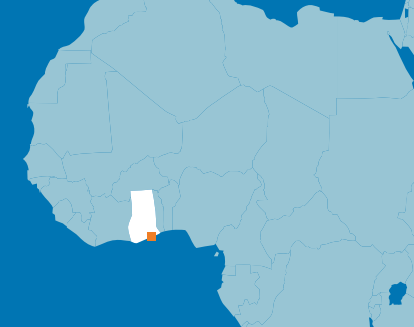
I am currently supporting youth in all governorates to become active agents in curbing corruption. Through school and community campaigns in all governorates, my team reached more than 50,000 students, raising awareness about the importance of transparency, ethics, and accountability in the government. We also

created a network of 270 young people who were trained to organise local initiatives and dialogues with their authorities.

The Academy’s sessions on change management and behavioural insights helped me design these activities and inspire others. The project began small and is now becoming a growing movement of young Egyptians advocating for more transparency, integrity, and accountability.”



Dorothy Karmasa
Founder and Director of the Centre
for Women and Food Security, Ghana



Indigenous women are leading climate action

“The Local Climate Response course gave me new tools to support women and apply community-led approaches to climate adaptation. My work with indigenous women aims to restore the Ambalara Forest Reserve, by sustainable farming based on traditional ecological knowledge.

Through my Back Home Action Plan, I started the project ‘Nature’s Guardians’. I trained over 800 women from six communities in sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, and conservation practices. They learned how to reverse low soil fertility and diversify local livelihoods, to alleviate the economic pressures faced by the local communities and protect the reserve.

I also encouraged the women to take on leadership positions by training them in governance, dispute resolution, and advocacy. In cooperation with the local authorities, we opened a rehabilitated forest area to visitors. A sign at the entrance officially recognises indigenous women for their leadership and local expertise as ecological stewards.”



Idfi Septiani
Head of sub-district Keluهران,
city of Samarinda, Indonesia



Engaging citizens in Indonesia through participatory governance

“In Indonesia we still have to empower the citizens, even to do small things such as attend public meetings and feel confident enough to share opinions. This course helped me gain insights and clarity on the concepts of inclusive governance to help my community.

The highlight for me was our discussion about the conditions that encourage successful participation. Also, I still use the participation ladder and the stakeholder analysis matrix that were introduced in the course. In two weeks, I came to understand the concepts of participatory governance and how to apply them in practice. My previous semester-long course on

citizen participation never addressed these real-life situations the way this course did.”



Nataliia Aliushyna
Head of the National Agency
of Ukraine on Civil Service, Ukraine



Partnership to strengthen the capacity of the civil service in Ukraine

“The High School of Public Governance, under management of the National agency of Ukraine on Civil Service, promotes professional development and advanced training of all public servants in Ukraine. Since 2017, our partnership with The Hague Academy has helped us to become more effective trainers and develop new curricula.

We benefit a lot from The Hague Academy's expertise in good governance. To promote a culture of integrity in our institutions, we jointly developed training modules that we currently deliver in-person and online to ministries, provinces and municipalities. One of the concrete

results is an initiative in the Ministry of Finance, where employees meet in an informal setting to share experiences with integrity dilemmas in their work.

In 2023, we extended our cooperation to the field of transitional justice. Through training, workshops and dialogues, we promote awareness about inclusive approaches for truth finding, reparation, and reconciliation. By engaging local leaders, legal professionals, and civil society representatives, we create an informal network of practitioners and contribute to the development of a national roadmap for transitional justice.”

The Hague Academy for Local Governance is a not-for-profit organisation based in The Hague. The Hague Academy is recognised by the Dutch tax department as an organisation that serves the general interest of society.

Learn how you
can support our
organisation. Visit:



The Hague Academy for Local Governance

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