



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Matra Pre-Accession Training on Rule of Law (MATRA PATROL)

Strengthening government institutional capacity in the area of „the Rule of Law”

10 day- training programme on the subject

Public Finance Management

for a total of 25 civil servants from the following countries:

Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey

12 – 22 April 2015

The Hague, the Netherlands

Developed and delivered by: Ecorys Academy

www.ecorysacademy.com

Financed by: The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

This training programme is one of a series of eight individual training programmes being delivered per year in the period 2012-2015

Core Information

This training on Public Finance Management is intended for:

Senior civil servants of the Ministry of Finance, the Court of Audit, financial / budget department of a line ministry, etcetera.

The maximum number of participants is 25. The total will represent a balance in the number of participants from the individual countries.

Objectives of MATRA PATROL:

The general aim of this training programme is to stimulate and support the government of the Netherlands' policy on European integration by aiding and promoting institutional capacity building in the fields of *Rule of Law* within the government organisation in the target countries by sharing the necessary knowledge and skills with policy advisors, members of the judiciary and other civil servants working in the justice sector and helping them to lead and inspire the modernisation of the judicial systems of their home countries building from the Dutch experience (*strict and fair*).

The secondary objective of the training is the creation of networks among the participants and between the participants and the (guest) lecturers and relevant government departments in order to promote the transfer of knowledge and the strengthening of local expertise in the various areas of policy; to stimulate collaboration amongst participants and participants and lecturers; to promote the development of sustainable, transnational and transnational networks of experts, enabling the local experts, possibly together with consortium partners, to train new experts in the region (Train the trainer).

Eligible countries:	Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.
Application deadline:	15 February 2015
Training period:	12 – 22 April 2015
Language:	English
Programme Costs:	The Netherlands Government will provide full fellowships to selected participants. Each fellowship will cover the cost of international travel (economy), board and lodging, visa and insurance, tuition fees, lecture materials and excursions.
Location:	The Hague, the Netherlands
Training venue:	T.M.C. Asser Instituut R.J. Schimmelpennincklaan 20-22, 2517 JN The Hague www.asser.nl
Hotel accommodation:	Hotel Court Garden, The Hague www.hotelcourgarden.nl

Goal of the PFM training programme

This training course aims to provide participants with an understanding of Public Finance Management (PFM) in all its aspects. The course focuses on Public Finance Management in-depth and builds up knowledge on all aspects of PFM step by step, highlighting the inter-linkages between the different elements. This will enable the participants to become fully acquainted with the various aspects of PFM and to gain insight into how to apply the acquired knowledge in PFM to the reform agendas in their own countries.

The training programme emphasises the three main objectives of PFM: 1) promoting macroeconomic stability by achieving aggregate fiscal discipline; 2) enabling that policy priorities are implemented in an effective way (allocative efficiency); and 3) contributing to an efficient implementation of government services (operational efficiency). The international 'good practice' combined with the practices in the Netherlands and in target countries are the starting point throughout the training course. Besides technical 'good practice', the soft side of PFM such as institutional and cultural aspects, is taken into account.

“Effective public finance management, including the management of aid flows, is crucial to countries making progress in reducing poverty. Weaknesses in public financial management often reflect underlying interests and incentives, and the reform and strengthening of public financial management requires high-level political leadership and support as well as technical skills. For all these reasons, public financial management is likely to remain at the centre of dialogue between aid agencies and partner country governments. At the same time, donors have both a developmental and a fiduciary interest in the quality of their partners’ public financial management.”

Source: Foreword “OECD/DAC Harmonising Donor Practices for Effective Aid Delivery”

Approach

The training programme will have a practical and interactive character. This is in line with the objective to share knowledge and strengthen the co-operation between the civil servants of the participating countries.

Training programme structure

The programme will stimulate interaction and is built around three balanced, mutually supportive and integrated components, namely:

- Theory
- Practical Skills
- Study visits/Social programme

On completion of the training, participants will:

- Have insight in the best practices for Public Finance Management;
- Know how the Dutch PFM system works in practice;
- Be able to use the acquired knowledge and best practices as a source of inspiration for dealing with challenges related to improving PFM in their own countries;
- Be trained in the practical application of specific subjects and in a number of needed practical skills;
- Have had the opportunity to share knowledge and experiences;
- Have had the opportunity to create new professional cross-border networking relations.

Trainers

All programme lecturers are carefully selected and have broad European experience, particularly in the target countries, with respect to the many aspects of Public Finance Management. They have an open eye for differences in national systems and have a thorough understanding of the problems the participants face at home.

Admission Requirements

Important points on which the selection of participants will largely be based are:

- The applicant must be a professional working at a (semi) governmental organisation;
- The applicant should clearly demonstrate an immediate need for training in the field of PFM;
- The applicant should have experience with the current PFM practice and the many aspects of PFM reform in his/her country;
- The applicant should command a good level of spoken and written English;
- The applicant should be highly motivated and enthusiastic;
- The applicant should be comfortable sharing his/her knowledge with fellow participants (solo presentation during the programme and regular knowledge sharing in the digital learning environment will be required);
- The applicant should have at least 3 years of working experience and preferably be in a decision-making function;
- Signed letter of recommendation of current employer.

How to Apply

Please read the [admission requirements](#) carefully. Applicants who satisfy all of the requirements may proceed to complete the [application form](#).

Qualified applicants must obtain permission to attend this training programme and need to submit a signed letter of recommendation from their current employer/superior.

Applications should be submitted **before 15 February 2015**.

Only fully documented applications will be considered. Admission will be on a merit and competitive basis. The applicants will be selected by the applicant's National Government and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the applicants' country. Staff at the Embassy will also assist with visa requirements where applicable.

Successfully uploaded applications will receive an automatic e-mail confirmation. Please contact matrapatrol@asser.nl if you have not received an automatic e-mail within one hour. Applicants will be informed of the result of their application some three to four weeks before commencement of the training programme.

Information and training programme organisation

Ecorys Academy

The Ecorys Academy is the specialized training institute of Ecorys. Under the umbrella of the Ecorys Academy, our experts and specialists from our extensive international network, deliver training courses worldwide. Our training offer, that can be delivered as open subscription, embedded and tailor made, consists of courses about amongst others: Public Procurement, Cost Benefit Analysis, Instrument for pre-Accession (IPA), Structural Funds, Impact Assessment, Scenario-Analysis, Public Finance Management, Evaluation methods, EU funds management, European Public Affairs and European/International negotiation techniques.

For more information, see: www.ecorysacademy.com

Contact: info@ecorysacademy.com