

## **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**

# **Decentralisation**

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

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

**4 – 14 October 2015**

**The Hague, the Netherlands**

**Developed and delivered by:**

**The Hague Academy for Local Governance**

**Financed by:**

**The Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Affairs**

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

## **Core information**

### **This training on Decentralisation is intended for:**

Senior civil servants and policy makers at national Ministries or subnational governments charged with the development and implementation of decentralisation policies in their respective countries are invited to apply. Key figures will be selected who are capable of delivering a valuable contribution to this process and distributing the newly gained knowledge and insights in their respective organisations.

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

### **Objectives:**

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 government organisations in the target countries. This is done by sharing the necessary knowledge and skills with policy advisors and other civil servants working in the government and helping them to lead and inspire the modernisation of the institutions of their home countries building from the Dutch experience (*strict and fair*).

The secondary objective of the training is creating transnational networks to promote the exchange of knowledge and future collaboration between the participants and between the participants and the (guest) lecturers and relevant government departments.

<b>Eligible countries:</b>	Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.
<b>Application deadline:</b>	2 August 2015
<b>Training period:</b>	4 – 14 October 2015
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Programme Costs:</b>	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.
<b>Location:</b>	The Hague, the Netherlands
<b>Training venue:</b>	The Hague Academy for Local Governance Nassaulaan 12, The Hague <a href="http://www.thehagueacademy.com">www.thehagueacademy.com</a>
<b>Hotel accommodation:</b>	<a href="#">Bilderberg Europe Hotel</a> , The Hague

## **Introduction**

Countries that are on the road to European Union (EU) accession need to meet the Copenhagen criteria before being admitted as a member to the Union. The stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy is one of these criteria, and the public administration system needs to be functioning well on all government levels, from state government to provinces, towns and municipalities. The White Paper on European Governance, published by the European Commission in 2001, formulates five main principles of good governance: openness, participation, accountability, effectiveness and coherence. Taking subsidiarity and proportionality into account, as laid down in the European Charter of Local Self-Government, each policy area should be allocated to the lowest possible government layer.

At the same time, public administration at all levels has to be prepared for the implications of EU laws and regulations and should be aware of the possibilities of EU funds and subsidies. On an increasing scale EU regulation and policy influences the work of provinces and municipalities, and a considerable part of the implementation and execution of EU regulation is the responsibility of decentralised governments. Involving municipalities and provinces is therefore crucial for an effective implementation of EU-rules and policies.

## **Objectives**

The training programme aims to increase awareness of policy and decision makers at national and subnational government level on fields related to decentralisation and the EU, such as European regulations, lobbying techniques, European subsidies and international cooperation between European regional government bodies.

After completing the course participants will have sufficient knowledge of decentralisation processes, EU regulations and funding to implement and coordinate decentralisation processes in their respective countries. They are aware of the importance of good governance at all government levels and have insight in the elements that contribute to effective interadministrative relations. They are able to assess the level of decentralisation in their country and have made an action plan to further support the process. Participants have knowledge on EU funding and subsidies and are able to influence EU policy making and regulations.

## **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 and magistrates of the participating countries.

## **Structure**

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

- Theory
- Practical skills
- Study visits

A social programme will facilitate network development between the participants from the various countries as well as between the participants and their Dutch counterparts.

On completion of the training, participants will:

- Have a thorough understanding of the basic concepts of decentralisation and multilevel governance;
- Have insight in the EU-framework for decentralised government and the relevant EU-institutions dealing with decentralised government;
- Have insight into the way decentralisation and local governments function in the Netherlands;

- Be able to use the acquired knowledge and best practices as a source of inspiration for dealing with challenges related to integrity policies 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.

## **Experts**

All contributors to the programme are carefully selected and have practical experience in the field of decentralisation, interadministrative relations and/or local government. Experts come from amongst others the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, the Netherlands Ministry of Home Affairs, Dutch municipalities and academic institutions.

## **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 this specific training;
- The applicant should have experience with the current judicial practices and the many aspects of the judicial (legal) 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 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 2 August 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](mailto: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**

### **The Hague Academy for Local Governance**

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