



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

Access to Justice

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

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

15 – 25 March 2015

The Hague, the Netherlands

Developed and delivered by: T.M.C. Asser Instituut www.asser.nl

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 the Access to Justice is intended for:

Senior civil servants, Judges, Public Prosecutors and Officers employed by the national Ministries of Justice/(semi) governmental organisations dealing with the organisation of judiciary and permanent education of judges in their respective countries are invited to apply. They are key figures capable of delivering a valuable contribution to the process of reforms and are in a position to make sustainable 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 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:	18 January 2015
Training period:	15 – 25 March 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

Introduction

Reform of the judiciary in the target countries is one of the most delicate political criteria that must be complied with by these countries to become a member of the European Union.

The overall objective of the reform is to ensure an equal and fair access to justice for citizens and legal persons. Enhancing the efficiency in the administration of justice is crucial in the strengthening of *Rule of Law* in the target countries. The development of an efficient and impartial system of judiciary is essential in increasing the access to justice, enhancing legal certainty and predictability for the citizens and legal persons and accordingly in strengthening democracy and the rule of law.

Also, an increased use of various methods of alternative dispute resolution enhances the access to justice. The entire population, with no discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, gender, religion, race or income must have equal access to justice. All citizens and legal persons have the right that their disputes and differences are resolved efficiently and relatively inexpensively. The European Commission has repeatedly emphasised the need to enhance the access to justice in the target countries. In view of the importance that EU legislators attach to increasing the access to justice and to proper functioning of the internal market, it is crucial that the legal reforms are carried out in the target countries so as to improve the efficiency in the administration of justice. Strengthening the efficiency of the judiciary and an increased use of out-of-court methods in resolving disputes are essential in improving the access to justice.

Training programme goal

The Access to Justice training programme aims to provide participants with insights into various aspects that compound and strengthen access to justice. Thus, it will first discuss general aspects of The *Rule of Law* such as the organisation and independence of the judiciary in the Netherlands, as well as fundamental rights according to the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union* (including the right to effective legal remedies, the right to a fair trial and due process, the right to private and family life, freedom of religious expression, protection of personal data). Thereafter, the Programme will focus on strengthening the efficiency in administration of justice in criminal and administrative matters, as well as the efficiency of dispute resolution in the area of civil and commercial law. Thereby, the disputes with an international element will be discussed in a greater detail.

Respective legislation in the target countries will be addressed and compared with EU legal instruments and internationally accepted standards.

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.

Training programme 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/Social programme

On completion of the training, participants will:

- Have insight in actual developments that influence the field of justice-administration;
- Know how the Dutch administration of justice and judicial procedures are organised;
- Be able to use the acquired knowledge and best practices as a source of inspiration for dealing with challenges related to improving the access to justice 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.

Lecturers

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

Lecturers are drawn from:

- The Ministries of Security and Justice and of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and other Dutch policy departments
- Academic Institutions and NGOs
- The courts and tribunals in The Hague

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 the development of the judiciary;
- 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 presentations 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 18 January 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 five working days.

Applicants will be informed of the result of their application some three to four weeks before commencement of the training programme.

T.M.C. Asser Instituut

Located in the 'international zone' of The Hague – the City of Justice, Peace and Security, The T.M.C. Asser Instituut (1965) is a unique, strongly networked, inter-university centre. The Institute harbours extensive knowledge on actual developments in the law. This knowledge is created and maintained in the areas of public and private international law, European Law and International and European sports law. The Institute is specialised in research, training and education and valorisation. It is a leading and authoritative provider of quality (executive) education and training to students and professionals operating in the judicial sector with a focus on International Law. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut has a long and rich tradition in successfully developing and delivering topical and quality training programmes to participants from the (international) judiciary and civil servants.

Its core activities of fundamental and applied research, postgraduate education/ PhD candidate guidance, executive training, publishing and knowledge dissemination and valorisation are predominantly carried out from its premises in The Hague but the Asser Institute also delivers various services abroad (capacity building, technical support and “on demand” training).

Building on more than forty five years of experience, the institute has an excellent track record and real-world experience at national and international level in serving its diverse population of stakeholders (e.g. policy research for governments, capacity building in developing countries judiciaries and the development and delivery of innovative education models).

Website: www.asser.nl

Contact: Department of Education, T.M.C. Asser Instituut

E-mail: matrapatrol@asser.nl