



NETHERLANDS
HELSINKI
COMMITTEE



Universiteit
Leiden

The Hague Academy for
local governance

Detention and Alternative Sanctions

5 WEEK ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR 36 CIVIL SERVANTS FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

**ALBANIA, ARMENIA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, GEORGIA, KOSOVO, MOLDOVA, MONTENEGRO,
NORTH MACEDONIA, SERBIA, TURKEY, UKRAINE**

4 October - 5 November 2021

VIA LIVE SESSIONS & PRE-RECORDED CONTENT ON A MOODLE BASED EDUCATIONAL PLATFORM



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

In short

The *Matra Rule of Law Training Programme* is designed to strengthen institutional capacity in the field of rule of law within government organisations in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, and Ukraine. To this end, seven training programmes are offered per year, each introducing the participants to best practices in a wide range of rule of law themes. Through interactive sessions combining theory, practical skills and study visits, policy advisors, members of the judiciary and other civil servants working in the government and justice sectors acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to drive reforms in their home countries. In addition, by taking part in the training programme, participants become part of a large transnational network of alumni, lecturers and relevant government departments in the Netherlands and in the target countries. This network offers a platform for learning, exchange and collaboration. As members of this network, all trainees are invited to participate in an Alumni Event, organised online, between six to ten months after the training programme.

The Matra Rule of Law Training Programme is designed and delivered by the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, Leiden Law School, and The Hague Academy for Local Governance. It is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, for a period of five years (2017- 2021).

Target audience

The training on Detention and Alternative Sanctions is intended for persons holding senior positions in prison and probation management on a policy and/or an executional level, and for persons within the criminal justice system holding responsibilities in the execution of criminal sanctions (e.g. judges, prosecutors). Participants will be expected to offer a valuable and active contribution to the learning process and be in a position to implement the newly gained knowledge and insights in their respective organisation.

The maximum number of participants is 36. The total will represent a balance in gender and a balance in the number of participants from the individual countries.

Eligible countries:

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine

Application:

The link to the application form can be found on www.nhc.nl/matrarolt. **The application deadline is Sunday 29 August, 2021 – 12:00 midnight.**

Training period:

4 October – 5 November 2021

Language:

English

Programme costs:

The Netherlands Government will cover all costs related to this online training programme.

Training location:

Online – Netherlands Helsinki Academy
(<https://academy.nhc.nl/>)

Introduction

In its relations with pre-accession and Eastern Partnership countries, the European Union requires stable government institutions that are able to guarantee the rule of law, human rights and protection of minorities. This includes efficient execution of criminal sanctions, in a manner that is respectful of fundamental rights and that finds the right balance between sanction, reintegration, and the protection of victims and society.

In nearly all pre-accession and Eastern Partnership countries, the number of adult prisoners is increasing, while in many cases imprisonment is a disproportionate response to the nature of the crime committed. In these cases, alternative sanctions, such as community service, electronic monitoring, and restriction orders, can offer a more appropriate response. A response that can contribute to the social reintegration of offenders and the prevention of recidivism, as well as to the reduction of overcrowded prisons.

When a custodial sanction is warranted, time spent in detention should be geared as much as possible towards reintegration, and the prison climate should contribute to this process. Humane prison conditions result in a better response to rehabilitation programmes and reduce violence in prisons. This is especially important for juvenile detainees, who form a high-risk group. Even short periods of detention have a profoundly negative impact on young people's mental and physical well-being, their education, and their employment.

Objectives

This training aims to strengthen the capacity of civil servants with respect to the execution of criminal sanctions in a manner that is respectful of fundamental rights and that finds the right balance between sanction, reintegration, and the protection of victims and society. The training will focus on creating humane prison conditions, whereby a solid foundation for successful reintegration is laid within places of detention; and enhancing the effective use of alternative sanctions, such as community service, electronic monitoring, and restriction orders.

Approach and structure

By being demand-driven in nature and by stimulating active participation, the training programme strives to achieve lasting results. When participants leave, they are sufficiently equipped to implement the newly gained knowledge and insights in their respective organisations. The training programme offers a careful balance between three mutually reinforcing components: theory, practical skills and online study visits.

The programme enables participants to learn from leading Dutch academics and to become acquainted with them. Furthermore, it enables discussion with Dutch practitioners and institutions in this field. Exchanging and comparing experiences is a key aspect of the programme.

Upon successful completion of the programme – which includes attendance to all components of the programme – participants will receive a certificate.

Admission requirements

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

- The participant should clearly demonstrate his/her professional interest in a training on detention and alternative sanctions and the use he/she would make of the insights gained from the training.
- The participant should have practical experience with issues on detention and alternative sanctions.
- The participant should have a good command of spoken and written English.
- The participant should be highly motivated and enthusiastic.
- The participant 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 participant should be in the position to devote time (roughly 8 hours per week) and attention to the training programme during the training. After the training the participants will implement and report on a concrete action plan, they personally developed during the training.
- Participants should submit a signed employer's statement granting permission to participate in the training programme.

How to apply

Please read the admission requirements carefully. Candidates who satisfy all of the requirements may proceed to complete the application form, which is available at www.nhc.nl/matrarolt.

Qualified applicants must submit a letter from their employer showing that they have authorisation to attend this training programme.

Application forms need to be submitted in full to be eligible for selection. Admission will be on a merit and competitive basis.

Successfully uploaded applications will receive an automatic e-mail confirmation.

Information and training programme organisation

Netherlands Helsinki Committee

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