

Matra Training for European Cooperation

(MTEC)

Administration of Justice

from an organizational and policy perspective

November 20th – December 1st, 2006



The Netherlands Ministry of Justice



EVD, Agency for International Business and Cooperation

Key Information

- Objective: Training participants ***how to develop the administration of justice, from an organizational and policy perspective***. The focus will be on the Dutch and EU situation.
- Period: November 20th – December 1st, 2006.
- Location: The Hague, The Netherlands.
- Accommodation: Bilderberg Europe Hotel Scheveningen
- Organisation: EVD/CROSS, assisted by an independent moderator.
- Target group: officials from the national ministries of Justice and other (governmental) agencies involved in the Rule of Law.
- Participants: 50 in total, drawn from the acceding and candidate member countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Turkey, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia) and the Eastern and Southern neighbours of the enlarged European Union (Russia, Ukraine, Morocco and Jordan).
- Applications: before October 6th, 2006.
- Information: crossonline@info.evd.nl.

Introduction

Within the dynamical context of Europeanization, candidate EU member states, as well as their neighbouring countries, are facing new demands and challenges, amongst others in strengthening the Rule of Law.

One of the main components of the Rule of Law is a well functioning system for the administration of justice. Often legal courses are being offered about implications of EU legislation on e.g. the functioning of the judiciary. The line of approach of this training however is different, as justice-administration will *not* be viewed from a legal viewpoint, *but from an organizational and policy perspective*.

The organizational and policy aspects of justice-administration are not strongly regulated by EU (as yet). Nevertheless, from the perspective of development, there are some strategic issues that all candidate EU member states, as well as their neighbouring countries, are dealing with. And although every country has its own particular challenges, there is a lot to be learnt from each other's experience in developing the administration of justice.

Objectives of the course

The general aim of this course is to share knowledge and to strengthen cooperation between public servants in the European field of the administration of justice. To this end, a training-programme has been developed.

- The main objective of this programme is to train the participants ***to develop the administration of justice, from an organizational and policy perspective***. The focus will be on the Dutch and European situation.

After the training, the participants will:

- Have insight in actual European developments that influence the field of justice-administration;
- Be able to discuss contemporary organizational challenges for candidate EU member states and neighbouring countries in developing the administration of justice;

- Know how the Dutch administration of justice and judicial procedures are organized;
- Know how Dutch public servants deal with strategic policy issues;
- Be able to use the acquired knowledge and best practices as a source of inspiration for dealing with challenges related to the development of justice administration in their own countries;
- Be trained in the practical application of specific subjects and in a number of oft-needed practical skills;
- Have had the opportunity to share knowledge and experiences;
- Have had the opportunity to create new professional cross-border networking relations.

Approach of the course

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

Structure and contents of the course programme

- Starting from a historic perspective, the Dutch system of justice administration and judicial procedures will be illustrated;
- Various actors within the field of justice administration will be involved; e.g. judiciary, public prosecution service, bar association, process-servers, legal aid boards;
- A practical approach (visits to the Ministry of Justice, the Council for the Judiciary, (a) relevant European institution(s), etc.) will be chosen;
- From the perspective of development, the main focus will be on facing Europeanization and other new challenges. Where applicable, due attention will be paid to Dutch best practices;
- Actual (strategic) policy issues will be discussed. For instance:
 - judicial chain management (for both criminal and civil chains);
 - how to maintain balance between the quality of jurisdiction and the efficiency of procedures;
 - the organization of small claims procedures;
 - how to make (or keep) legal aid accessible for citizens;
 - treasure policy;
 - the use of ICT for management information systems;
 - lay justice and other forms of citizen involvement;
 - jurisdiction in relation to the increasing demand for mediation and other forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- Participants will be invited to practically apply the information provided by comparing and working out a case or preparing a Back Home Action plan for their own country;
- The contents of the course will be fine-tuned on the basis of a pre-course questionnaire that will be sent to the participants.

Organisation

The **EVD, Agency for International Business and Cooperation** is part of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. Its mission is to promote and encourage international business and cooperation. As a State agency and a partner to businesses and public-sector organisations, the EVD aims to help them achieve success in their international operations. A growing network of organisations, government institutions and companies has come to rely on the EVD for information about foreign markets, governments and trade and industry. With its wide-ranging knowledge, the EVD is able to develop products and services that meet the needs of its customers and clients. It obtains its information from its network of Dutch and international organisations, which include international financing organisations, the European Commission, embassies, Chambers of Commerce, local business support offices, trade representative associations and, needless to say, trade and industry.

Dates

The course will be held in The Hague from the 20th of November through the 1st of December, 2006. You will be expected to arrive in The Netherlands on November 19th. The date of departure will be on the 2nd of December.

Fees/Accommodation

The Netherlands Government will provide fellowships including costs such as international travel, board and lodging, visa and insurance, tuition fees, lecture materials and excursions insofar as included in the programme.

Participants will stay at the Bilderberg Europe Hotel in The Hague.

Travel arrangements

Participants are expected to make their own travel arrangements to the Netherlands. Cheapest economy class tickets will be reimbursed by the Dutch government. Reimbursement of travel costs will be made by means of a bank transfer after the course; the original bill of purchase of the plane ticket should be accompanied by photo copies of all travel documents. Further details on the conditions of reimbursement of travelling expenses will be included in the letter of confirmation.

Teaching Staff

The teaching staff will consist of:

- Officials from the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands and – if relevant – other Dutch policy departments;
- Professionals working in the sphere of the course.

Admission Requirements

The course is intended for government officials working in the field of the administration of justice. Applicants are invited from Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Turkey, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Russia, Ukraine, Morocco and Jordan. A balance between the number of participants from different countries will be taken into account during the selection procedure.

The maximum number of participants is 50. Important points on which the selection of participants will largely be based are:

- The participant should be fluent in spoken and written English;
- The participant should be highly motivated and enthusiastic;
- The participant should be comfortable sharing their knowledge, possibly in the form of a solo presentation;
- The participant should clearly demonstrate an immediate need for training in the field of the development of the judiciary.

Applications

Applications should be made through the Netherlands Embassy in the applicant's country. Application forms should be downloaded from the website: www.cross-agency.nl.

Go to Downloads, click on application form for the relevant course, click on your country; you can then download the application form.

Applications (duly signed by the applicant and his or her employer) should be submitted **before October 6th, 2006** through the Royal Dutch Embassy in the applicants' country. By this date, all forms, including the signed employer statement, must be received by the Royal Netherlands Embassy. Please note that the application instructions on the website need to be followed carefully.

Only fully documented applications will be considered. Admission will be on a competitive basis. The participants will be selected by the steering committee.

Applicants who have been accepted for the course are expected to attend. In case of no-shows or cancellations within 3 weeks before the start of the course, the organisers reserve the right to claim any costs incurred from the applicant's employer.

Information and course organisation

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