

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Shiraka

Factsheet for implementing partners: Government to Government cooperation

The aim of this factsheet is to provide implementing parties with more information on how a G2G project comes about. It describes the process and possibilities of G2G development and provides information on the role of the implementing parties. The factsheet is not meant for further distribution.

Shiraka is an initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. It is demand-driven and aims to strengthen and improve bilateral relations between the Netherlands and the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa). Furthermore, the initiative offers an opportunity to improve public services through reciprocal inspiration.

Shiraka aims to bring about positive change in the MENA region, meaning:

- societies that accept cultural and religious differences;
- states that respect the rule of law and protect individuals, minorities and human rights;
- an economy which fosters prosperity and employment.

Government-to-Government cooperation (G2G)

Next to annual training courses (Shiraka Training Programme, STP), Shiraka facilitates tailor-made Government-to-Government (G2G) cooperations between the Netherlands and countries from the MENA region. An overview of the eligible countries can be found here.

G2G offers the opportunity to implement projects contributing to the aim of Shiraka. Through G2G's, national and local authorities can acquire and exchange knowledge and gain experience. Also, G2G projects aim to strengthen the relations between the Netherlands and the partner country, both on a personal as well as on an institutional level. G2G projects usually combine a theoretical part with practical implementation.

Usually, a G2G project lasts between 6 months to 2 years. Activities may include:

- Trainings;
- Seminars;
- Workshops;
- Institutional or legislative analyses;
- Study visits;
- Awareness raising activities;
- Advice and support on the development of for example legislation, regulations, strategies and implementation techniques
- other G2G cooperation, eg in research, fieldwork, pilots (not being hardware)

Leads for G2G cooperation

RVO is always on the look-out for potential G2G cooperation(s). Leads for a G2G can for example derive from:

- implementing parties or training institutes' contact with MENA region (government) officials, alumni or citizens;
- dialogue between Dutch Embassies and (government) officials, alumni or citizens in the partner countries.
- participants' Back Home Action Plans (BHAP): participants set out clear objectives and actions to be implemented in their home countries in order to achieve realistic improvements on issues related to the course topic. These or parts of the plans could be translated into concrete project leads for G2Gs;
- spin-off's: participants' achievements that benefit the organization or society and can be directly attributed to the training. Spin-offs can either be direct (via BHAP) or indirect (via discussions throughout the training). These achievements may inspire you or RVO for further G2G explorations;

How to initiate a G2G project?

If a lead is deemed interesting enough by you, RVO should be informed as early as possible to explore the possibilities. As such you do not need to wait for the submission of the final report. By following up fast, loss of momentum for new leads can be prevented.

Considering the diverse nature of G2G projects, it is difficult to pinpoint a readily-available checklist for determining which leads may be developed further. You may, however, keep in mind the elements that are typically found in G2G projects that have been developed in the past. One set of elements regards the organization in the partner country, whereas the second set regards overarching elements.

The lead with regards to the partner country should at least contain the following elements:

1. it is demand-driven; the local need is the starting point;

2. strong commitment within or formal endorsement from the organisation is available;
3. it involves structural cooperation with the central or local government or, in exceptional cases, other (semi-)public institutions;
4. it leads to tangible and sustainable results, such as development, adjustment or implementation of a strategy, policy or legislation.

If the lead is deemed feasible, RVO proceeds to check for the following overarching elements. The lead :

1. meets at least one of the Shiraka objectives;
2. is SMART but comprehensive. Information that is readily available; a description of the lead, a clear problem statement, objectives, necessary intervention, envisioned result(s) and timeline;
3. is in line with the Dutch embassy's (strategy) objectives in the partner country. The objectives vary from embassy to embassy;
4. capacity and willingness from Dutch governmental organisations to provide technical support is available.

If the lead is considered to have high potential, RVO will initiate discussions with the implementing partner, Dutch embassy and relevant local stakeholder(s) to discuss the nextsteps.

Costs and fees

To be determined in consultation with RVO. In some cases the organization of the partner country may be asked for co-financing.

Examples of G2G cooperation

1. *Incoming visit judges Jordan*

This project was aimed at capacity building of the Central Economic Chamber at the Amman Court of First Instance. Five key judges of the Chamber participated in a comprehensive program, to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Dutch court system, specialised chambers and international arbitration.

Project duration: 1 year
Budget: approx. 25.000 euro

2. *Supporting anti-corruption body in Tunisia with communicating with the public*

Transparency and communication experts from the Netherlands supported INLUCC, the national institution that is combating corruption in Tunisia, with its efforts to reach the public and to adequately inform the public about their rights and possible ways to act when encountering corruption. The project will contribute to the development of a communication action plan and the launch of a media campaign.

Project duration: 1,5 year
Budget: approx. 105.000 euro

3. *Capacity building Diplomatic Academy Algeria*

This comprehensive capacity building programme aimed to support the *Algerian Institut Diplomatique et des Relations Internationales* (IDRI). The goal of this project was to improve the quality of the training programmes organised by IDRI, its ability to operate as a diplomatic knowledge and experience center and its adjustment to the needs of 21st century diplomacy. The program consisted of workshops, study visits and trainings.

Project duration: 6 months
Budget: approx. 30.000 euro

4. *Multi-country cooperation Netherlands Court of Audit*

This five year peer-to-peer programme helps build the individual institutional capacity of the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of Algeria, Libya and Morocco. Next to the bilateral cooperation, 5 more MENA region Supreme Audit Institutions work together regionally. The activities are focussed on institutional development and increasing the impact of the audit institution and consist of exchange of know-how and practical experiences through interactive workshops, (pilot) audits, study visits and coaching. The objective of the programme is to improve the operation of public administration and the effectiveness of public services and to strengthen public financial management, both in the Netherlands and in partner countries.

Project duration: 5 years
Budget: approx. 600.000 euro per year

5. *Tailor made training water management Iraq*

The main objective of this tailor made water management training is to improve the group's knowledge and skills through sharing knowledge and expertise on integrated water management and water governance in a training based on practical and relevant cases in Iraq. A second purpose is to stimulate cooperation in the field of water between different professional groups: civil servants, governorates, university staff and private sector.

Project duration: 1 year
Budget: approx. 185.000 euro

More information
The Shiraka programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
The Department for International Cooperation of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency implements the Shiraka Programme.

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