



Diaspora Lobby & Advocacy

Training Workshop Report

**4-8 April 2016
The Hague**



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Acknowledgements

This report was written by Emmely Benschop and Nienke Vermeulen of The Hague Academy for Local Governance who were also the facilitators of the training. The African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) would like to thank both individuals for their innovative and professional delivery of the training. Special thanks go to Babah Tarawally who contributed to the training as an expert trainer. As both a member of the diaspora and an individual who has actively used various lobbying and advocacy tools and techniques in an effort to mobilise support in response to the impact of Ebola in Sierra Leone, having Babah share his experiences with the training group was invaluable.

Additional thanks goes to all participants who took part in the training. The April 2016 participants were as vigorous and energetic as the groups before them. The manner in which the team took part in the training spoke clearly of their passion and commitment to effect change through their respective organisations and their desire to take it further through the competencies gained in the course. Last but not least, we would like to acknowledge the efforts of Maren Renner ADPC Project Associate for her support during the organisation of the training. Maren spent several weeks systematically and diligently interacting with all participants in order to ensure their participation in the training. Maren also took notes during the training in order to facilitate this report.

Lastly, it is important to acknowledge the financial contributions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and the Gemeente Den Haag. The financial resources availed for this initiative has made it possible for ADPC to facilitate the transfer of critical skills and competencies to a group of dynamic diaspora organisations who strive to facilitate the socio-economic development of their respective countries of origin.



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Editing and design: Constance Formson-Lorist, Programme Coordinator, ADPC

Background

From **04-09 April 2016** ADPC held the third Lobby and Advocacy training workshop of the Diaspora Academy. The Diaspora Academy Programme (DAP) is a three year initiative that was launched in May 2014 by the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) in cooperation with The Hague Academy for Local Governance (THA) and The Network University (TNU). The project provides capacity building for diaspora organizations in three thematic area: Peacebuilding, Advocacy & Lobbying and Smart Partnerships/Networking.

The overall objective of the 'Diaspora Academy Programme' (DAP), which is the first of its kind in Europe, is to help diaspora development practitioners and organisations gain access to targeted knowledge, useful and relevant information, viable contacts, and networks that help to further boost their contribution to the overall development of their countries of origin. Many diaspora organisations currently lack the skills, insights and experience to construct strategic alliances with potential partners and stakeholders and to get their voices heard in places of relevance. In many cases, they also lack access to decision making and negotiation tables and remain outside the established development cooperation circles. As a consequence, their message and the group of people they represent are not taken into account. Therefore, the diaspora advocacy and lobby training course was developed as part of the DAP to support diaspora organisations to design and implement lobby and advocacy strategies and to formulate their priorities effectively.

The knowledge and skills gained in this course, should help diaspora to better advance their key issues of concern, thus increase their influence within development cooperation circles both in the host and home countries. Gaining advocacy and lobbying competencies will also increase the voice of diaspora in development debates at different policy levels and build strategic partnerships and alliances with like-minded organisations and other stakeholders. Consequently this course will help participants:

- Understand and influence the public policy making process;
- Analyse the opportunities and challenges for diaspora participation in their home and host countries;
- Draft an advocacy and lobby Action Plan to further the goals of their organisation;
- Gain knowledge of and make use of different advocacy and lobby tools.

Profile of Participants

The training group consisted of ten people from different host and home countries, from Nigeria to Sudan and The Netherlands to Hungary. In addition, they had different professional backgrounds, the group included NGO staff, lawyers, accountants and a medical doctor.

Like in the previous course which took place in October 2015, this variety of backgrounds proved to be very enriching for the discussions and allowed participants to learn from each other and to build lasting networks with people they might otherwise not have met.

NOTE: See **Annex II** for the **Participant List** with detail of country of origin and residence. A complete **Participant Profile** is available and can be accessed from the ADPC website at: <http://www.diaspora-centre.org/publications> or simply email: info@diaspora-centre.org for a copy.

Methodology

The Diaspora Lobby and Advocacy course uses a collaborative learning approach, resulting in highly interactive sessions which provide ample space for discussion and exchange of experiences amongst participants.

Different methods are applied to achieve a high level of interaction. Throughout the course, participants work in different small groups of 3-4 people. This facilitates networking and helps them to understand different points of view and triggers a broad exchange of experiences and insights.



In the design of the different training sessions approximately 1/3 of the time is reserved for lectures, 1/3 for interactive methods and 1/3 for open space for input and discussing questions of participants. Interactive methods consist of small-group discussions, role-play, analysis of case studies, assessments of own context and debates. For instance, several problem tree and brainstorming exercises are included for participants to immediately apply and internalize the material learned. The course ends with an interactive “World Café” session, which allows participants to discuss final outstanding questions and plan for next steps with their fellow participants.

Other important elements that help stimulate interaction are the joint lunches and the joint dinner that are part of the training courses. Not only do these provide participants with more time for networking, they also help to create a collegial and professional environment in which participants feel free to ask questions and share their thoughts regardless of their position or rank.

Training Agenda

The contents of the training¹ took into account the learning objectives as set out in the original DAP proposal, but was adapted based on the feedback of the first and second group and the learning needs of the current group. To ensure that the training would be relevant to the participants and to gain better insight into their specific learning needs, a training needs assessment was conducted before the course. Some of the stated learning needs by the participants were:

- Enhance knowledge and skills for lobbying and advocacy
- How to be consistent and efficient in lobbying and advocacy
- Analysing opportunities and challenges for diaspora participation in home and host countries
- How to build alliances and to empower African migrants’ organisations
- Exchange with fellow activists and networking

¹ See Annex III: Training Agenda

Training Resource Persons and Material

The training was delivered by three experienced trainers: Emmely Benschop, Nienke Vermeulen and Babah Tarawally whose profiles are available in Annex I.

Materials developed for the training were distributed in hard-copy and on a flash drive to the participants. The material in question included:

- *In hard copy:* A Participants Manual, containing the course agenda, useful information about The Netherlands and background material;
- *On a USB flash drive:* PowerPoint presentations and exercises for all sessions.

Sessions and Results

The following section provides a brief overview of the constituent elements of the course programme and the discussions that took place during the course.

Day 1: Introduction to diaspora advocacy and lobby

The course started with a word of welcome by Connie Formson of the African Diaspora Policy Centre and an introduction by Nienke Vermeulen of The Hague Academy for Local Governance, who explained the course schedule and introduced the other trainers Emmely Benschop and Babah Tarawally.

The focus of the day was on getting to know each other, creating a common language and understanding of the basic concepts of Lobby and Advocacy, and an exchange about the opportunities and challenges for diaspora participation. The participants introduced themselves and stated why they were attending the training and what they were hoping to learn (learning objectives). In order to illustrate their learning objectives and expectations towards the outcome of the training, the participants drew their hand (symbolising their learning objectives) and foot (their expectations) on a piece of paper.



From the very first start of the training, all participants were involved in rich discussions. During the first introductions and sharing of work and experiences, five challenges for diaspora were identified:

Challenge 1: How safe is it to advocate governmental authorities while receiving public money?

Challenge 2: How to deal with the diversity of “own” diaspora?

Challenge 3: How to ensure that “*voices are transmitted by people who are affected, not by representatives*”?

Challenge 4: There is a general suspicion with regard to Diaspora activism (embezzlement of donated funds, collaborators of certain political parties etc.) – Would it be easier to team up with Diaspora actors when there are more best practices? How to change this negative stigmatisation?

Challenge 5: Before ‘Africans’ work together they have to “*love*” each other, is this limiting options for cooperation?

In the afternoon, the introduced concepts Lobby and Advocacy were applied to the African diaspora perspective. Participants enjoyed this session, as it provided them with an opportunity to share the challenges they came across. They also really appreciated the fact that the facilitator of the afternoon session was a member of the African Diaspora, as one participant put it: *“As Babah is African and Diaspora and an experienced journalist, the training was extremely beneficial because he puts the training into the context of Europe and Africa which is the most important link for us all.”*

Babah shared some important lessons about understanding norms and values of the host country as an important ability in order to match and blend your (organisation’s) mission and highlighted the importance of telling personal stories to touch people and engage emotions (key word “story telling”). The greeting and the first minute of your presentation are already crucial why it is important to speak clearly and professionally. And with the Perception Game, the participants were challenged to present themselves and their organisation’s mission, followed by a discussion on representation vs. reality: What do you want to reach? Be brief and use your USP (Unique Selling Point).

Day 2: Understanding power

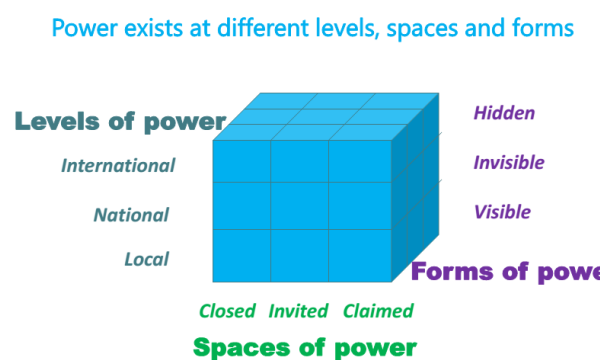
The second day discussed the concept of power and aimed to equip the participants with the tools to analyse and influence power relations in order to achieve their objectives.

The day started with an interesting discussion about democracy. The participants contributed with their own definition and experiences. They agreed that there are several kinds of democracy and many countries claim to be democratic even though they violate democratic values such as freedom of the press and opinion. Democracy is a normative concept, however, it cannot be exported to another country due to its specific context. The participants also discussed when an intervention is justified.

The session on power was perceived as *“a huge eye opener”* by one of the participants. It is important to analyse who is *really* in power and therefore the fundamental question is: Who is supposed to be in power and who really is? And what is my position and how can I have an influence?

The participants played a power ranking game in order to analyse the different levels of power each participant has: positional power, social power and personal power. The conclusion of this exercise is: Nobody is powerless! Also a game was played which attributed roles in a fictive country. It showed that the positional power by itself is not crucial, in fact personal attributes (e.g. being a confident talker), being related or married to influential people or significant events (being widowed) might change your status in the ‘hierarchy of power’.

The different meanings of power to consider (power over..., power to..., power with..., power within...) and the power cube with different levels, spaces and forms of power were introduced and discussed. The participants discussed that the grassroots level might be a very important power level



for diaspora organisations if they link with other organisations and together try to influence the national level.

Initiatives by advocates can be more effective when they are driven into the ‘real’ system in order to influence policy. Here again it is important to notice what are the narratives and framings and to be careful to use them. They should be respected especially when it comes to media coverage as they can help *and* harm your cause. Conclusion: African diaspora organisations have to look for spaces and ways to encourage people to choose for themselves.

Due to the games that were played and the rich discussions, someone mentioned that the day was “*very energetic [...] with loads of debates and brainstorming as power is broad and with very many dynamics*”.

Day 3: Designing an advocacy strategy

During the third day the participants worked on their advocacy strategies in a step-by-step manner. This training method aimed to help the participants to get a better understanding of how they can influence the policy and decision-making process through advocacy. It provided them with step-by-step suggestions for developing an advocacy strategy and gave them the opportunity to practice with each step individually and in a small group setting. This structured way of thinking about their advocacy strategy helped the participants to structure and clarify their ideas.

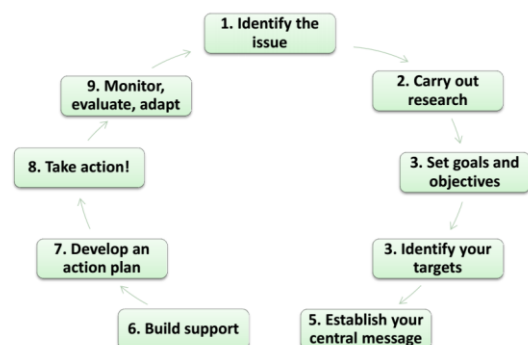
As a warm up exercise the participants looked for words to end the sentence “Advocacy is successful when it is...”. They agreed on the following four words: (1) participatory/inclusive, (2) strategic (in process), (3) simply implementable and (4) measurable.

The first step in the design of an advocacy strategy was to identify the issue; what are you advocating for and on whose behalf are you making representations or taking action? There was a rich diversity of topics, such as access to free health care for migrants in the UK, better livelihood for migrants in The Netherlands, awareness raising about Africans in Switzerland, and improved access for migrant entrepreneurs in Ireland.

The second step is to carry out research and included sketching a ‘problem tree’ in order to identify the problems, roots and causes (and to differentiate between them). It showed that facts and statistic numbers may help to convince strategic partners. The conclusion of the discussion was to invest in ‘power within’ and ‘power to’ for diaspora actors. Step three was to put the goal and objectives of the diaspora organisations and their activities into words; what is the overall aim and what are the milestones you seek to achieve?

In step four you have to identify your target. This was done by carrying out a stakeholder analysis. It showed that the real power to change behaviour is within the individuals. In step five the participants established their central message and received feedback from the other participants. The last step of the day (six) stressed the importance of building support, by using your networking and work in alliances.

Advocacy strategy: 9 steps



.....

The participants worked very focussed on their strategy plans and stated that *“it was really valuable to practically go through the nine steps”* and found that the *“dividing into groups and at the same time going through the process was perfect”*.

Day 4: Taking action

The goal of the fourth day of the training was to finalise the advocacy action plans and to get an opportunity to practice with the use of different tools for advocacy, with a focus on starting a (social) media campaign.



After following the first six steps of the design of an advocacy plan on day three, this day started with step seven: Develop an action plan. The participants discussed about the lack of professionalisation they are experiencing. In order to get your voice heard it is crucial to become an expert by discussing facts, telling your story and active listening. One of the participants added to the discussion: *“You have to take yourself seriously. Then the others will take you seriously”*. It can also be important to become a role model for other people in the African community and to create regular meetings among them. Part of the strategy to be taken more seriously, is to keep your social media platforms updated and publish short write-ups on a regular basis. Another idea is to check what events are already out there and how you can link up with them. Inviting prominent guest speakers to your events might also be effective. The participants also agreed on the necessity to conduct a needs-based-assessment in order to identify what the target groups really need. Another strategy we discussed is *“the power of silence”*. After a period of activism it might attract attention to be quiet and then *“make noise”* and come back refreshed with something new.

Step eight and nine were about taking action and not to forget monitoring and evaluating.



In the afternoon session, Babah wanted to draw attention on how difficult it is to giving information to media. He demonstrated this with the ear say game (the initial story got radically changed after passing the participants' ears). Babah concluded: Make sure that media comes to you and that you prepare for the interviews. Try to become friends with journalists and listen actively to their questions during the interview.

Also make sure you stories are interesting: (1) conflict controversy, confrontation (prepare something that is attention grabbing; (2) human interest, connecting to other humans (interest in output); (3) the story should be new and innovative (remember: a journalist can snip out anytime! Don't spray every information out there!); (4) start small with local papers.

Also consider that every paper has its own pillar and ideology. Therefore compile a media list. It is also suggested to try having professional pictures and texts on your websites, Facebook etc.

About social media Babah stated *“it is not a family”*. It is a network, you have the power to delete 'friends'. Therefore it is important to distinguish between your private and professional profiles. You

also have the right to delete critics. Be genuine, transparent, humorous, and reliable and share content with trustees. Change your password regularly.

At the end of the day, Babah showed an inspiring video clip with a speech of a young Palestine advocating for peace. During the discussion one participant said that we do not use our full potential and that it is important to be inspired by stories like this one.

Day 5: Next steps

The final day of the training started with a presentation by Maren Renner, ADPC's Programme Associate, on Outcome Mapping. It is a planning, monitoring and evaluation tool that focuses on outcomes as changes in behaviours and incorporates the perspectives of partners, target groups etc. The way a focus on measuring 'impact' plays out is not suitable in the context of many projects and programmes. Therefore we need to recognise the limits of a project's influence, and shape our planning, learning, and accountability functions around "outcomes", which are further 'upstream' from impacts.



To conclude and to be able to wrap-up all the lessons learned during the training, participants were asked to discuss remaining questions. They chose three different questions and worked on each of them during three rounds of discussions, in a World Café setting.



Group 1: How can we fundraise (better)? One suggestion was to exchange expertise. While one might be good in designing websites, the other might know more about how to administrate social media etc. Another conclusion is to concentrate on implementing projects that are feasible, implementable, realistic, innovative and sustainable. Approaching the private sector might also help diversifying sources of fundraising as well as building consortiums for grant proposals.

Group 2: Conflict between funding institution and advocacy. In some cases face-to-face advocacy might be more effective than a public campaign.

Group 3: Creating a sustainable link and support from ADPC. This group discussed the possibilities on joining forces by founding subgroups and together conduct activities, apply for funds etc. This might be useful for organisations that work in the same sector and want to implement the same project in different countries. It is also important to link with strategic organisations such as ADPC and ADEPT to help with contacts and advices.

The World Café was valued by the participants as it was *“well structured, to the point and useful output that is also concrete”*.

Closing



Since the feedback of the participants on the training programme is very valuable for the organisers and the trainers, The Hague Academy asked the participants to fill out an online evaluation form.

During the 'closing ceremony', ADPC's Director Dr. Awil Mohamoud joined and handed the certificates to the 10 participants. Emmely and Nienke closed the course by thanking all the participants for their active participation and valuable contributions and by

thanking ADPC for the good cooperation in the preparations of the course. One of the participants expressed his gratitude by granting titles of a fictive country to all participants and the personal working for ADPC and The Hague Academy.

Impact on Participants' Learning and Knowledge

For the final evaluation of the training course, a comprehensive questionnaire was used, including a section on the overall programme and assessment per session. The participants were asked to fill in the evaluation questionnaire on the last day. Overall, the participants were very satisfied with the course. They appreciated the interactive sessions, the room for exchange and debates and the input from the trainers.

The practical orientation and diversity of training methods, particularly the use of exercises and small group discussions, were seen as major contributors to the success of the course, as they have helped participants to process the theories and relate it to their own context. Moreover, the course has provided a platform for the participants to discuss shared challenges and ambitions, and the discussions made them realise that a lot can be learned from each other. The relations created in this course will thereby hopefully result in stronger cooperation and coordination between the participants for increasing the impact of the lobby and advocacy actions of African diaspora.

A few participants expressed their interest in a follow-up workshop; these ideas were mentioned:

- A training of trainers programme for former participants of the Lobby and Advocacy training course, so they are able to share their knowledge on advocacy within their organisations and their networks.
- A training for diaspora out of the Netherlands, in another host country, so a larger diaspora group and maybe even other stakeholders can be reached.
- Training programmes in Africa, with the cooperation of the African diaspora participated in the ADPC trainings.

A detailed summary of the evaluations can be found in Annex IV.

Conclusion

The course was very much appreciated by the participants, and all of the sessions received very good scores and feedback. In general, the course inspired them and supported their thinking about how to move the advocacy and lobby activities to the next level. Of course, the real impact of this course

can only be measured when the participants return to their home countries and continue their work. The networking activities facilitated by ADPC as part of the Diaspora Academy, will help to reinforce the lessons learnt and facilitate a continued exchange of experiences, which was the aspect of the course that the participants perhaps valued most.

Annexes

Annex I: Training Team

The following experts were included in the training team:



Emmely Benschop is team leader at The Hague Academy for Local Governance. She is an experienced facilitator of training courses on public sector reform processes for governmental and non-governmental organisations in various countries around the world. Emmely has (co)-authored a range of training manuals and has developed innovative training courses on issues such as Decentralisation in (Post-)Conflict Situations, Youth Leadership and Public Participation and has taken a leading role in the design of this course. Emmely has a background in Organisational Psychology and International Relations. Prior to joining The Hague Academy, Emmely was employed at The Netherlands Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, dealing with issues ranging from post-tsunami reconstruction to supporting (local) election processes. Furthermore, she has worked as a policy officer at the Ministry of Interior Affairs, where she has contributed to two major public sector reform projects. In the Diaspora Lobby and Advocacy programme, Emmely was responsible for facilitating the sessions on *Understanding Power and Public Decision making*, and *Advocacy strategy: Taking action*.



After fleeing Sierra Leone civil war for the Netherlands 19 years ago and spending the first seven of those years filing an asylum application, **Babah Tarawally** began working for independent media outlets in Africa, contributing stories and columns to several newspapers and magazines. Alongside this work, he worked for Free Voice (now called Free Press Unlimited), a Dutch organization that support press freedom in Africa, Asia and Latin America. He worked for Free Voice from 2004-2010 as the project officer for Africa. In 2011 he worked as the Program Coordinator for Winternachten-Writers Unlimited Festival, Dutch biggest international literature festival. His novel 'De god met de blauwe ogen' (The blue eye god) was published in 2010 by KIT publishers. Babah Tarawally is presently working as a freelance journalist and on his second novel 'The missing hand.' In the Diaspora Lobby and Advocacy course, Babah was responsible for facilitating a session on *Challenges and Opportunities for Diaspora Advocacy* and the workshop on *Social Media* (as part of the *Advocacy strategy: Taking action* session).



Nienke Vermeulen is programme manager at The Hague Academy for Local Governance since January 2011. She holds an MSc degree in Cultural and Social Anthropology from the University of Amsterdam. Nienke is an all-round trainer with expertise in the field of local governance, human rights and social justice in (post-) conflict settings. She has led the design, facilitation and implementation of a variety of courses and workshops for multi-cultural groups. In the past, Nienke worked as a researcher for Amnesty International and was, as a programme coordinator for Justice and Peace Netherlands, responsible for capacity building and advocacy programmes in several different countries, such as Rwanda, Pakistan, Nepal and Ethiopia. Furthermore Nienke Vermeulen leads the board of a national political party in one of the districts of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. In the Diaspora Advocacy and Lobby Programme, Nienke was responsible for the sessions on Introduction to *Diaspora Advocacy and Lobby*, *Designing an Advocacy Strategy* and *Next Steps*.

Annex II: List of Participants

M/F	First Name	Last Name	Country	Currently Residing	Organisation	Email
1. M	Boniface	Oburu	Kenya	UK	African Youth Development Association (YDA), Kenya Diaspora Bureau	bonifaceoburu@gmail.com +44 7914138463
2. M	Elijah	Amooti	Uganda	UK	African Trust	elijah@eatan.eu +447475446182
3. M	Matthew	Ogaruku	Nigeria	Italy	Dumas Padova	ogamatata@googlemail.com +393277547
4. M	France	Mutombo Tshimuanga	DRC	Hungary	Foundation for Africa	france.mutombo@afrikaert.hu +36302621032
5. M	Tarig	Sanousi	Sudan	UK	BAWSO, Wales for Africa Program, Sub Sahara Advisory Panel	tarig@bawso.org.uk +4407939758090
6. M	Celeste	Ugochukwu	Nigeria	Switzerland	African Diaspora Council of Switzerland, African Foundation for Migration and Development	cugochukwu@yahoo.com +4179474767483
7. F	Catherine	Mahoro	Kenya	Ireland	Eastern Africa-Ireland Investment Forum, Down to Basics Network for Immigrants	cmahoro234@gmail.com +353857171020
8. F	Elizabeth	Njeru	Kenya	The Netherlands	Social Entrepreneur Youth on the Move Foundation	liznjeru@gmail.com +31642276994
9. M	Simon	Eyram Tsike Soussah	Ghana	The Netherlands	ACIPP West Africa	s.tsike-sossah@acippwestafrica.org +31614347449
10. M	Mahdi	Khalifa	Sudan	UK/The Netherlands	works with many organisations in Sudan	mahak63@hotmail.com +447795833708

Annex III: Training Agenda

MONDAY, 4 April

INTRODUCTION TO DIASPORA ADVOCACY AND LOBBY – Nienke

Vermeulen and Babah Tarawally

Goal of today: Getting to know each other better and understanding the basic concepts from a diaspora perspective.

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome and coffee

09:30 – 11:00 Introduction to The Hague Academy, getting to know each other

11:00 – 12:30 Lobby and Advocacy, the concepts and key components

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 17:00 Challenges and opportunities for diaspora advocacy

17:00 Wrap up

TUESDAY, 5 April

UNDERSTANDING AND USING POWER – Emmely Benschop

Goal of today: Identifying entry-points for lobby and advocacy through understanding power and the public decision making process.

09:00 – 09:30 Recap

09:30 – 12:30 Different forms of power

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 17:00 The power cube
- Introducing the power cube
- Exercise: Analysing your lobby and advocacy efforts with the help of the power cube

17:00 Wrap-up

WEDNESDAY, 6 April

DESIGNING AN ADVOCACY STRATEGY – Nienke Vermeulen

Goal of today: getting a better understanding of how you can influence the policy and decision-making process through advocacy. Working on your advocacy action plan.

09:00 – 09:30 Recap

09:30 – 12:30 Workshop: advocacy strategy design – part I

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 17:00 Workshop: advocacy strategy design – part II

17:00 Wrap-up

THURSDAY, 7 April

TAKING ACTION! – Emmely Benschop and Babah Tarawally

Goal of today: Finalising your advocacy action plan and getting an opportunity to practice with the use of different tools for advocacy, with a focus on starting a (social) media campaign.

09:00 – 09:30 Recap

09:30 – 12:00 Workshop: advocacy strategy design – part III

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 16:00 Taking action: Working with (social) media

17:00 Wrap-up

FRIDAY, 8 April

NEXT STEPS – Emmely Benschop

Goal of today: Discussing the main lessons learnt, next steps and remaining questions

09:00 – 09:30 Impact assessments

09:30 – 11:00 World Café

11:00 – 12:30 Evaluations and closing ceremony

Annex IV: Summary of Evaluations

Participants were asked to indicate their appreciation of the programme by scoring each item on a scale from 1 till 5, in which 1 indicates poor / not at all and 5 indicates excellent / very much so, and write down comments or suggestions. Below is an overview of participants' feedback:

<i>Evaluation Question</i>	<i>Average Rating</i>	<i>Summary of comments by participants</i>
<i>How do you value the session: 'Introduction to The Hague Academy, getting to know each other' & 'Lobby and Advocacy, the concepts and key components' by Nienke Vermeulen?</i>	4,7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We were able to definite the difference between lobby and advocacy and learn how to make it systematically • We had more time to express ourselves. The lectures were really interactive. • The session which was comprehensive and all rounded was well facilitated and Nienke was able to provide room for all the participants to share, enage and bring in to the class their own experiences which were vital and beneficial so as participants could learn from each other. • Yes, it was a broad presentation with expectations. • Clear, good speed, room for questions and discussions, kept building on the previous knowledge, relevant. • Explanation with interaction.
<i>How do you value the sessions: 'Challenges and opportunities for diaspora advocacy' by Babah Tarawally?</i>	4,6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They were good. • There was some usefull informations but less new information for me. But I could catch some skills in termes of strategy. • As Babah is African and Diaspora and an experienced journalist, the trianing was extremely beneficial because he puts the training into the context of Europe and Africa which is the most important link for us all. • It was an open questions. • Clear, good speed, room for questions and discussions, kept building on the previous knowledge, relevant and for me recognisable challenges. • The role of Media became more clearer on advocacy. • Professionalism was combined with pleasant and knowledge about the background of participant's countries of origin. • Babah is a very knowledgeable man and knows his work.
<i>How do you value the sessions: 'Different forms of power' & 'The power cube' by Emmely Benschop?</i>	4,6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somehow I was not really able to understand deeply this session. So I think I should learn again the same session. • Very energetic class with loads of debates and brainstorming as power is broad and with very many dynamics. • Good knowledge and identifications of power and its applications. • Huge eye opener for me, clear, good speed, room for questions and discussions, kept building on the previous knowledge, relevant. • Emmely, was quite useful kwolegable and used engaging and interactive sessions. • Using scientific steps in analyzing what is power and how it could be understood. • Very good communicator.
<i>How do you value the exercise: 'Workshop: Advocacy strategy design - part I & II' by Nienke Vermeulen?</i>	4,7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as previous comments. Excellent input by the facilitator. • Nice. • Huge eye opener for me, clear, good speed, room for questions and discussions, kept building on the previous knowledge, relevant. • It was really valueable to practically go through the nine steps. • Dividing into groups and at the same time going through the process was perfect.

<i>How do you value the session: 'Workshop: Advocacy strategy design - part III' by Emmely Benschop?</i>	4,8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Same as previous comments. Excellent input by the facilitator.• Is in standard level.• Huge eye opener for me, clear, good speed, room for questions and discussions, kept building on the previous knowledge, relevant.• Emmely was calm knowledgable and was able to control energetic and diverse class.• Lessons learned from others were crucial.												
<i>How do you value the session: 'Taking Action: Working with (social) media' by Babah Tarawally?</i>	4,6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The session was with good informations. But for me most of those information was not new for me.• Same as previous comments. Excellent input by the facilitator. Babah mentioned we need to keep constant communication and remain relevant which I forget sometimes.• Work from experience.• Huge eye opener for me, clear, good speed, room for questions and discussions, kept building on the previous knowledge, relevant. It also showed me that I am doing quite some things right. Good to know. Now I can keep on building.• Very insightful and practical.												
<i>How do you value the session: 'World Café' by Nienke Vermeulen?</i>	4,7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good and usefull practices.• Same as previous comments. Excellent input by the facilitator.• Is a good invitation.• Well structured, to the point and useful output that is also concrete.• Interactive session which was quite helpful.• The same what was said before applies												
<i>How do you value the support offered by ADPC in the preparation and implementation of the training (information on the programme and logistic assistance, visa applications, etc.)?</i>	4,8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent and perfect. Many thanks to Maren and all the team.• Smooth, well planned and organized. Maren was in constant communication ensuring all was ok. Comfortable Hotel.• The general logistic aproach was good.• Amazing! I felt treated as a queen. I feel I was taken seriously, as a professional of value.• Names written wrongly on the papers, will be nice to plan the dinner in an African restaurant. It's part of empowerment for African businesses.• The organization and preparedness were excellent.												
<i>How satisfied are you with the food and beverages during the course?</i>	4,6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent bio food, clean and health of course tasty.• Healthy and cant fault anything in this section• Is ok.• Thank you for the extra effort to provide us a warm meal every day. I know from my work at various NGO's that this is not to be taken for granted in the Netherlands where the norm is sandwiches.• Food was prepared and served with a high level and professionalism.												
<i>How would you like to be informed about future training courses or other news coming from The Hague Academy and ADPC?</i>		<table><tr><td>E-mail:</td><td>10x</td></tr><tr><td>Facebook:</td><td>4x</td></tr><tr><td>Alumni network on LinkedIn:</td><td>5x</td></tr><tr><td>Twitter:</td><td>3x</td></tr><tr><td>Newsletter:</td><td>5x</td></tr><tr><td>WhatsApp:</td><td>2x</td></tr></table>	E-mail:	10x	Facebook:	4x	Alumni network on LinkedIn:	5x	Twitter:	3x	Newsletter:	5x	WhatsApp:	2x
E-mail:	10x													
Facebook:	4x													
Alumni network on LinkedIn:	5x													
Twitter:	3x													
Newsletter:	5x													
WhatsApp:	2x													

<p><i>In case you have any other remarks please mention them below:</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think since ADPC is a partner to the project they need to take part for example their Director the last day to hand over certificates. • As I spoke with some of you in the organizers team. I think the follow up of the training must the point that we should think about. That why shortly I would suggest the following ideas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide the ToT= Training of trainers (I would like to be one of the first participant). My organization has 14 years past and we are know in a stadium of tranfert our knowledge to others to make effective our advocacy work in Hungary. For me to be a trainer will help to have more impact. 2. To provide a training out of Netherland, in the eastern country where the African diaspora are faced to big challenges in terms of advocacy. To had a training there by involving even some stakeholders could really have a impact. We need the participiation of the EU new member states and their African diaspora for the development of Africa. 3. Provid training in the local level (I mean African level) with the cooperation of the African diaspora participated in your trainings. 4. ADPC assistance should be provided after the trainings to the participant. (France Mutombo) • Well done and thank zou so much for the fantastic opportunity and experience. • Yes, permit to thanks all who were parts of the the organisation of the past, present and future courses, permot me to suggest for a follow up (Matthew Achinike Ogaraku). • I would love to be taken up in the database for possible work on projects, T.O.T, brainstorming on ideas, African catering (www.mamakenia.nl) and so on. (Elizabeth Njeru (Mama Kenia)) • It is important to think of training trainers to help multiply the effects and the outcomes of the training futher in our host countries and countries of origin. Secondly, the training only take care of part of the necessity for capacity building, more funding for ADPC or similar Diaspora Institutions will assist to provide other capacity building trainings like project management, fund raising, peace building for the participants to equip them better to advance in their course. • I realy enjoyed the workshop and found it very informative, the discussions were very usefull.
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