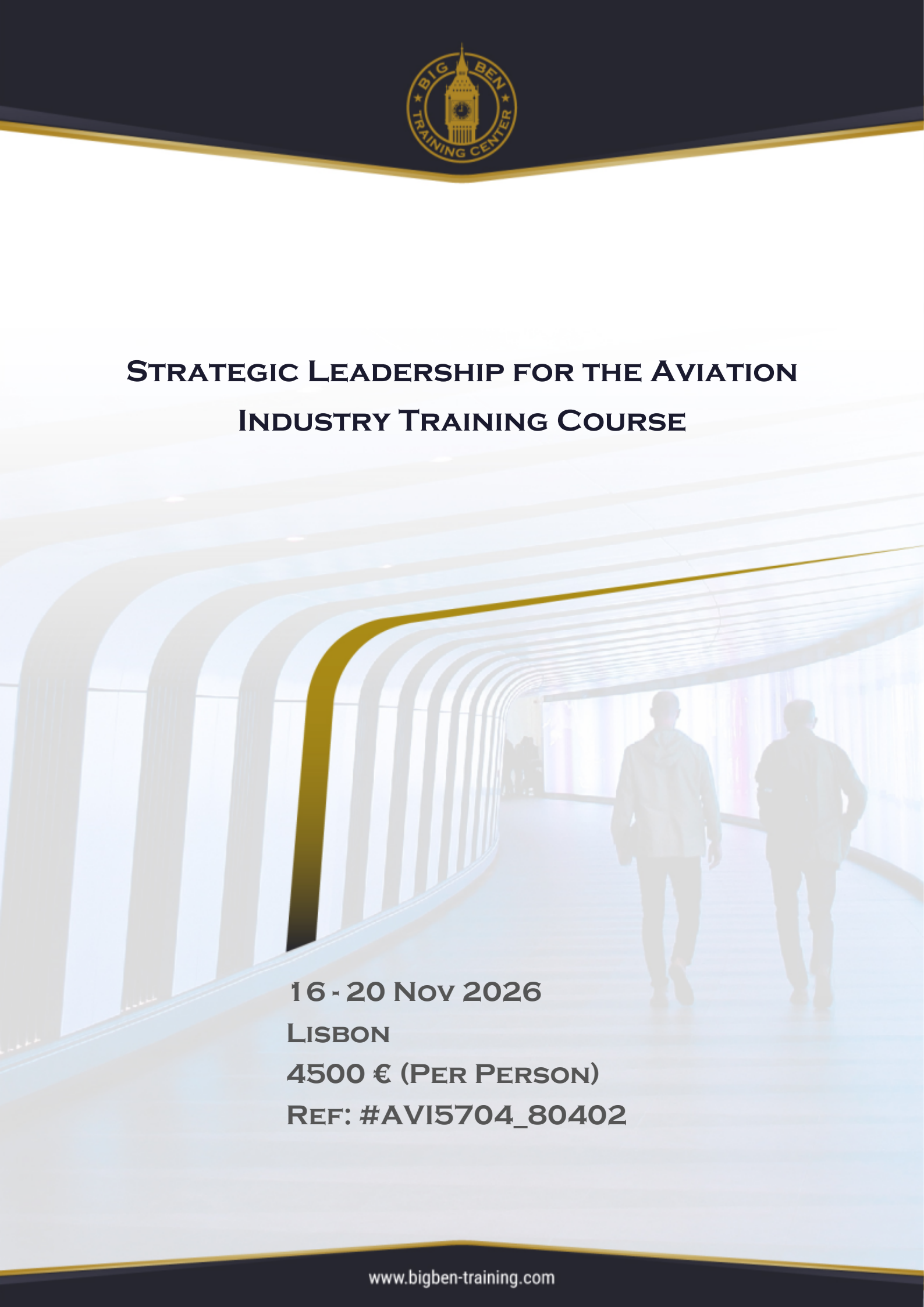
Strategic Leadership for the Aviation Industry Training Course



16 - 20 Nov 2026

Lisbon

4500 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

The global aviation industry operates at a nexus of complex technology, stringent regulation, and volatile market dynamics. Effective leadership in this sector demands more than just operational expertise; it requires a deep understanding of strategic management, financial acumen, and the ability to navigate constant change. This intensive training course is designed to equip current and future aviation leaders with the comprehensive skills needed to drive success. Drawing on established principles from thought leaders like Rigas Doganis, author of "Flying Off Course: The Economics of International Airlines", the program delves into the core components of airline and airport strategy. Participants will explore everything from network planning and fleet management to safety culture and sustainable practices. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this curriculum to provide a holistic perspective, enabling leaders to formulate and execute strategies that ensure safety, profitability, and long-term resilience in a competitive global landscape. This course moves beyond theory, focusing on the practical application of strategic tools to solve real-world challenges faced by air transport organizations today.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Airline Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and C-Suite Executives.
- Airport Directors and Senior Managers.
- Heads of Operations, Finance, and Strategic Planning.
- Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Directors and Regulators.
- Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) Managers.
- Aviation Safety and Security Managers.
- Aerospace and Aviation Consultants.
- Senior Managers in Air Cargo and Logistics.
- Military Aviation Commanders transitioning to civilian roles.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Commercial Airlines (Legacy, Low-Cost, and Cargo).
- International and Regional Airports.
- Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs).
- Aviation Manufacturing and MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) Companies.
- Aviation Consulting and Financial Services Firms.
- Governmental bodies, including Ministries of Transport and Civil Aviation Authorities.
- Business and Corporate Aviation Operators.
- Ground Handling and Airport Service Companies.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Executive Management and Leadership.
- Strategic Planning and Business Development.
- Flight and Ground Operations.
- Finance and Revenue Management.
- Safety, Security, and Compliance.
- Network Planning and Fleet Management.
- Human Resources and Talent Development.
- Marketing and Commercial Departments.
- Corporate Affairs and Government Relations.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Develop and implement robust strategic plans for airlines, airports, and other aviation entities.
- Analyze the global aviation market, including economic trends, competitive landscapes, and regulatory frameworks.
- Master key financial management principles, including revenue management, cost control, and investment appraisal.
- Lead and foster a proactive Safety Management System (SMS) and a positive safety culture.
- Navigate complex challenges such as digital transformation, sustainability mandates, and crisis situations.
- Evaluate and optimize airline business models, network structures, and fleet strategies.
- Enhance leadership and decision-making skills tailored to the high-stakes aviation environment.
- Effectively manage stakeholder relationships with governments, regulators, suppliers, and customers.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, immersive, and practical, ensuring that participants can immediately apply their learning. This course moves beyond traditional lectures to create a dynamic learning environment. We utilize a blend of expert-led presentations, in-depth case studies of leading airlines and airports, and collaborative group workshops. Participants will engage in strategic simulation exercises that challenge them to make critical decisions in realistic scenarios, such as responding to a market disruption or developing a new route network. Interactive sessions will encourage debate and discussion on current industry issues, from the adoption of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) to the integration of artificial intelligence in operations. A significant emphasis is placed on peer-to-peer learning, allowing seasoned professionals to share insights and best practices. Continuous feedback from facilitators ensures that learning is reinforced and tailored to the specific challenges faced by the participants in their own organizations. This hands-on, problem-solving approach guarantees a comprehensive and impactful learning experience.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: The Strategic Landscape of Global Aviation

- Introduction to the international air transport system.
- The roles of ICAO, IATA, and other key regulatory bodies.
- Analysis of the post-pandemic aviation market and emerging trends.
- Understanding airline business models: legacy, low-cost, and hybrid carriers.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in airline and airport management.
- The impact of geopolitics and economic cycles on aviation.
- Fundamentals of strategic analysis using SWOT and PESTLE frameworks.

Unit Two: Airline and Airport Strategic Management

- Airline network planning and route development strategies.
- Fleet planning, acquisition, and management.
- The fundamentals of airport master planning and capacity management.
- Strategies for non-aeronautical revenue generation at airports.
- Managing airline-airport relationships and slot allocation.
- Competitive strategies and strategic alliances in the airline industry.
- Air cargo strategy and its role in the aviation ecosystem.

Unit Three: Financial Acumen and Economic Regulation in Aviation

- Understanding airline and airport financial statements.
- Principles of airline revenue management and pricing strategies.
- Cost control and operational efficiency in aviation.
- Aircraft financing and leasing options.
- The economics of air transport liberalization and open skies agreements.
- Navigating environmental taxes and emissions trading schemes.
- Budgeting and financial forecasting for aviation projects.

Unit Four: Leadership, Safety, and Crisis Management

- Developing effective leadership styles for the aviation industry.
- Implementing and leading a robust Safety Management System (SMS).
- The principles of Human Factors (HF) and Crew Resource Management (CRM).
- Building a resilient organization through effective crisis management and emergency response planning.
- Managing public relations and communications during a crisis.
- Cybersecurity threats and strategies in aviation.
- Leading organizational change and digital transformation.

Unit Five: The Future of Air Transport and Sustainable Strategy

- The path to sustainable aviation and net-zero emissions.
- Evaluating Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and new propulsion technologies.
- The role of digitalization, AI, and big data in optimizing operations.
- Urban Air Mobility (UAM) and the future of short-haul travel.
- Innovations in passenger experience and airport technology.
- Forecasting future market demands and passenger behaviors.
- Developing a future-proof strategic vision for an aviation organization.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

Considering the industry's push towards net-zero emissions, how can leaders balance the immense cost of sustainable aviation fuels and new aircraft technology with the need for profitability and affordable travel?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This training course distinguishes itself through its holistic and forward-looking approach to aviation leadership. Unlike programs that focus narrowly on a single aspect like operations or finance, this course integrates strategic management, financial acumen, safety leadership, and future technologies into a single, cohesive framework. It is specifically designed for the complexities of the post-pandemic era, directly addressing critical contemporary challenges such as sustainability, digital transformation, and supply chain resilience. The curriculum is built upon real-world case studies, allowing participants to analyze the successes and failures of major industry players and apply those lessons to their own contexts. Furthermore, the course emphasizes the development of adaptive leadership skills, preparing participants not just to manage the present but to strategically anticipate and shape the future of air transport. The focus is on cultivating a strategic mindset that can navigate regulatory pressures, technological disruption, and economic volatility, ensuring long-term organizational success in a dynamic global industry.