Integrating Sustainable Development Goals in Public Policy Training Course



23 - 27 Nov 2026

Lisbon

4500 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents a universal framework for peace and prosperity, yet its successful implementation hinges on the effective integration of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national and local public policy. This course provides a comprehensive roadmap for public sector professionals to navigate this complex process. As noted by the renowned economist Jeffrey D. Sachs in his work, "The Age of Sustainable Development," achieving these goals requires a fundamental shift in policymaking, moving towards integrated and evidence-based approaches. This program, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, is meticulously designed to bridge the gap between global aspirations and practical policy action. Participants will explore the entire policy cycle, from formulation and implementation to monitoring and evaluation, learning how to embed sustainability at every stage. We will delve into critical concepts such as policy coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and SDG localization, equipping you with the skills to design and execute policies that are not only effective but also inclusive and sustainable for future generations. This is more than a theoretical overview; it is a practical guide to transforming public policy and driving meaningful progress towards the global goals.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Policy Makers and Government Officials.
- Public Sector Managers and Administrators.
- Urban and Regional Planners.
- International Development Practitioners.
- Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Managers.
- Researchers and Academics in Public Policy and Sustainable Development.
- Program Managers in Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
- Consultants working with public sector clients on sustainability.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- National and Local Government Agencies.
- International Development and Aid Organizations.
- Public Utilities and Infrastructure Services.
- Environmental Protection and Management Agencies.
- Social Services and Community Development Organizations.
- Urban Planning and Housing Authorities.
- Public Health and Education Sectors.
- Non-Profit and Civil Society Organizations.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Policy and Strategic Planning.
- Sustainability and Environmental Management.
- Economic Development.
- Social Affairs and Community Engagement.
- International Relations and Cooperation.
- Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Urban and Regional Development.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Course Offerings:

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

- Analyze the interconnected nature of the 17 SDGs and their targets.
- Master the process of integrating SDG principles into each stage of the policy cycle.
- Apply tools for ensuring policy coherence for sustainable development.
- Develop robust frameworks for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on SDG progress.
- Design and facilitate effective multi-stakeholder engagement processes.
- Formulate strategies for localizing SDGs to sub-national contexts.
- Identify innovative financing mechanisms for SDG implementation.
- Create actionable plans for advancing sustainable development within their organizations.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, interactive, and highly practical, ensuring that participants can directly apply their learning to their professional roles. We move beyond traditional lectures to foster a dynamic learning environment built on experiential activities and collaborative problem-solving. The course heavily utilizes real-world case studies from various countries, allowing participants to analyze successful SDG integration strategies and learn from common implementation challenges. Interactive group exercises, policy simulation games, and workshops will challenge participants to design policy interventions, develop stakeholder maps, and create monitoring frameworks. Peer-to-peer learning is a cornerstone of our approach, with structured discussions and feedback sessions encouraging the exchange of diverse perspectives and experiences. Our expert facilitators guide participants through a structured yet flexible curriculum, providing personalized feedback and ensuring that theoretical concepts are firmly grounded in practical application. This hands-on approach guarantees that attendees leave not just with knowledge, but with the confidence and skills to lead sustainable change.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development

- Introduction to the history and principles of sustainable development.
- Detailed overview of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets.
- Understanding the interconnected and indivisible nature of the SDGs.
- The core principle of 'Leaving No One Behind' (LNOB) in policy design.
- The role of governance and institutions in achieving the 2030 Agenda.
- Analyzing the global, national, and local context for SDG implementation.
- Identifying key actors and their responsibilities in the SDG framework.

Unit Two: Integrating SDGs into the Public Policy Cycle

- Mapping the public policy cycle from agenda setting to evaluation.
- Techniques for SDG mainstreaming in policy formulation and analysis.
- Strategies for aligning national development plans with the SDGs.
- Embedding sustainability criteria in policy implementation and delivery.
- The role of evidence-based policymaking in achieving the SDGs.
- Conducting Sustainability Impact Assessments (SIAs) for new policies.
- Case studies of successful SDG integration in national policies.

Unit Three: Tools and Frameworks for Coherent SDG Implementation

- The concept of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD).
- Tools for identifying and managing trade-offs and synergies between SDGs.
- Building and managing multi-stakeholder partnerships for effective action.
- The role of data and statistics in tracking SDG progress.
- Developing national and sub-national SDG indicator frameworks.
- Introduction to monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for the SDGs.
- Leveraging technology and innovation for SDG implementation.

Unit Four: Thematic Deep Dive on Key SDG Clusters

- Integrating the environmental dimension (e.g., SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG 15 Life on Land).
- Integrating the social dimension (e.g., SDG 1 Poverty, SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities).
- Integrating the economic dimension (e.g., SDG 8 Decent Work, SDG 9 Industry and Innovation).
- Policy strategies for sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11).
- Addressing the nexus between water, energy, and food security (SDGs 2, 6, 7).
- Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies (SDG 16).
- Case study analysis of integrated policy solutions for complex challenges.

Unit Five: SDG Localization, Financing, and Reporting

- The importance of localizing the SDGs for effective implementation.
- Strategies for engaging local governments and communities.
- Overview of financing for development and SDG budgeting.
- Exploring innovative financing mechanisms for the SDGs.
- The process and purpose of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).
- Best practices in SDG reporting and communication.
- Developing a personal action plan for applying course learnings.

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:

How can public policy effectively balance the inherent trade-offs between different SDGs, such as economic growth (SDG 8) and environmental protection (SDG 13), without undermining the principle of indivisibility?

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

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond a purely theoretical examination of the SDGs to a deeply practical and implementation-focused curriculum. While many programs provide an overview of the 17 goals, our training focuses on the "how" of integration, equipping participants with actionable tools and frameworks applicable within the complex realities of public administration. A core unique quality is our emphasis on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD), providing participants with advanced analytical skills to identify and manage the inevitable synergies and trade-offs between different policy objectives. The curriculum is built around a diverse portfolio of international case studies, ensuring that lessons are globally relevant and adaptable to different national and local contexts. Furthermore, the course structure emphasizes systems thinking, training participants to see the interconnectedness of economic, social, and environmental challenges and to design holistic, rather than siloed, policy solutions. Participants will not only learn about the SDGs; they will engage in simulations and workshops that challenge them to apply their knowledge to real-world policy dilemmas, ensuring they leave with both the competence and the confidence to lead sustainable change in their respective institutions.