Innovative Strategies for Urban Planning and Smart City Development Training Course



16 - 20 Nov 2026

Geneva

5900 € (Per Person)

Ref: #GOV2001_72101

Course Introduction / Overview:

This comprehensive training course provides a strategic framework for understanding and implementing urban planning and smart city development. In an age of rapid urbanization, cities face unprecedented challenges related to infrastructure, sustainability, and quality of life. The smart city concept offers a powerful solution, using data and technology to improve urban services and foster innovation. This course, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, is grounded in the foundational principles of urban studies and design, drawing on the academic work of leading authors like Richard Florida, whose book "The Rise of the Creative Class" explores how cities can foster economic growth through human capital and urban vitality. We will explore how to move beyond a simple adoption of technology and instead integrate smart solutions with community needs and long-term planning goals. Participants will learn how to use data to inform policy, design more sustainable infrastructure, and engage citizens in the co-creation of their urban future. By the end of this program, you will possess the tools to not only plan for a smarter city, but to build one that is more equitable, resilient, and livable for all.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Urban planners and municipal officials.
- Architects and civil engineers.
- City managers and public administrators.
- Transportation and infrastructure specialists.
- Technology and innovation officers in government.
- Anyone involved in shaping the urban environment.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Government and public administration agencies.
- Urban planning and municipal services.
- Construction and real estate development.
- Technology and telecommunications.
- Public utilities and energy.
- Transportation and logistics.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Urban Planning and Development.
- Public Works and Infrastructure.
- IT and Digital Services.
- Environmental and Sustainability.
- Transportation.
- Community Development.

Course Offerings:

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

- Apply smart city principles to urban planning.
- Use data and analytics to inform policy decisions.
- Design sustainable and resilient urban infrastructure.
- Develop a strategic roadmap for smart city implementation.
- Engage citizens in the smart city development process.
- Identify and evaluate smart technology solutions.
- Manage complex multi-stakeholder projects.
- Navigate the legal and ethical issues of smart technology.
- Measure the impact of smart city initiatives.
- Plan for the future of urban living.

Course Methodology:

This training course at BIG BEN Training Center uses a highly interactive and practical approach to ensure participants can immediately apply their new skills. We move away from simple lectures and instead use a blend of engaging activities, including hands-on mapping workshops, group case studies, and real-world scenarios. For example, participants will use urban data to propose a solution for a city challenge, such as traffic congestion or waste management. Collaborative workshops will allow for peer-to-peer learning, where attendees can share challenges and best practices from their own organizations. The course also includes hands-on practice sessions for developing project plans and presenting smart city proposals to a simulated city council. We emphasize a continuous feedback loop, not just for employees but for the participants themselves. Throughout the program, our experienced instructors provide personalized guidance and constructive feedback, creating a supportive learning environment that prepares professionals for the complexities of their roles.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Urban Planning and Smart Cities

- The history and evolution of urban planning.
- Defining the smart city concept and its core components.
- The role of technology in modern urban challenges.
- Key smart city models and frameworks.
- Case studies of successful and unsuccessful smart city projects.
- The relationship between urban planning and technology.
- The role of public policy in smart city development.

Unit Two: Data-Driven Urbanism

- Using data to understand city dynamics.
- Collecting and analyzing urban data.
- Data governance and data privacy issues.
- Tools for urban data visualization and mapping.
- Leveraging IoT and sensor technology.
- Developing a data strategy for your city.
- Moving from data collection to actionable insights.

Unit Three: Smart Infrastructure and Systems

- Designing intelligent transportation systems.
- Smart energy grids and sustainable utilities.
- Waste management and circular economy principles.
- The role of green infrastructure.
- Water management in a smart city context.
- Building resilient infrastructure.
- Financing smart infrastructure projects.

Unit Four: Citizen Engagement and Governance

- The importance of citizen-centric smart cities.
- Tools for engaging citizens in urban planning.
- Co-creation and crowdsourcing ideas.
- Building a transparent governance framework.
- Addressing digital divide and social equity.
- The ethical considerations of smart city technology.
- Creating a framework for public-private partnerships.

Unit Five: The Future of Urban Living

- Emerging trends in urban technology.
- The role of artificial intelligence in city management.
- Designing for climate resilience.
- The future of work and its impact on cities.
- Sustainable urban mobility.
- Planning for a post-pandemic urban future.
- The city is a platform for innovation.

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:

To what extent can the push for data-driven, technologically advanced smart cities be reconciled with the need to preserve the unique cultural, historical, and human-centric character of urban spaces?

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

This training course stands out by providing a robust and practical framework for integrating the principles of urban planning with the complexities of smart city development. While many programs focus on one or the other, our content is tailored to professionals who must bridge this gap, balancing technological innovation with social and environmental responsibility. The course offers a hands-on approach, allowing participants to use real-world data and case studies to propose practical solutions for urban challenges. We emphasize the critical role of citizen engagement and ethical governance, ensuring participants are equipped to build smart cities that serve all members of the community, not just those with access to technology. It is this combination of academic rigor, practical application, and an unwavering focus on the holistic nature of urban development that sets this program apart.