Advanced Public Financial Management and Budgeting Training Course



21 - 25 Dec 2026

Barcelona

5900 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

This comprehensive course provides an in-depth exploration of the principles and practices of modern public financial management and budgeting. In an era of increasing fiscal pressures and demands for greater transparency, mastering these skills is crucial for effective governance and sustainable development. This program is designed to equip participants with the tools to enhance fiscal discipline, strategically allocate public resources, and improve operational efficiency within government entities. Drawing on contemporary theories and international best practices, the curriculum covers the entire PFM cycle, from strategic planning and budget formulation to execution, reporting, and oversight. As influential academic Allen Schick notes in his extensive work on budget reform, the transition from traditional line-item budgeting to performance-based systems is a critical step towards accountability. This course, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, delves into such advanced concepts, referencing frameworks discussed in publications like "The Federal Budget: Politics, Policy, Process" to provide a robust theoretical and practical foundation. Participants will leave with a sophisticated understanding of how to design and implement sound fiscal policies, manage public funds effectively, and drive public sector performance through strategic financial management.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Finance Directors and Managers in the Public Sector.
- Government Budget Officers and Analysts.
- Public Policy Advisors and Planners.
- Accountants and Financial Controllers in Government Agencies.
- Internal and External Auditors for Public Entities.
- Officials from Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning.
- Managers of State-Owned Enterprises.
- Parliamentary Staff Involved in Budgetary Oversight.
- Consultants specializing in public sector reform.
- Program Managers responsible for budget implementation.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- National and Federal Government Ministries and Agencies.
- State, Provincial, and Local Government Bodies.
- State-Owned Enterprises and Public Corporations.
- Public Utility and Regulatory Commissions.
- International Development Organizations and Donors.
- Non-Governmental Organizations involved in public finance advocacy.
- Public Healthcare and Education Institutions.
- Defense and National Security Agencies.
- Social Security and Pension Fund Administrations.
- Public Transportation and Infrastructure Authorities.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Finance and Treasury Departments.
- Budgeting and Financial Planning Departments.
- Economic Policy and Strategy Units.
- Internal Audit and Compliance Departments.
- Procurement and Contracts Management.
- Public Accounts and Financial Reporting Units.
- Policy Analysis and Research Departments.
- Performance Management and Evaluation Units.
- Debt Management Offices.
- Corporate Governance and Oversight Divisions.

Course Offerings:

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

- Analyze the complete public financial management cycle and its legal frameworks.
- Develop and implement strategic medium-term expenditure frameworks (MTEF).
- Design and apply performance-based and program-based budgeting systems.
- Master techniques for effective budget execution, cash management, and expenditure control.
- Interpret and apply International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).
- Conduct comprehensive fiscal risk analysis and develop mitigation strategies.
- Evaluate public investment projects and manage public debt sustainably.
- Enhance fiscal transparency, accountability, and public participation in the budget process.
- Leverage digital technologies for modernizing public financial management systems.
- Integrate principles of sustainable and gender-responsive budgeting into fiscal policy.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, participatory, and grounded in real-world application. We move beyond traditional lectures to create a dynamic learning environment where participants can actively engage with the material and each other. The course heavily utilizes case studies drawn from various international contexts, allowing participants to analyze real fiscal challenges and successful reform initiatives. Group discussions and collaborative workshops are central to our approach, encouraging the sharing of diverse experiences and perspectives. Practical exercises, such as budget preparation simulations and fiscal risk assessments, provide hands-on experience in applying the tools and techniques taught. Expert facilitators guide sessions, providing targeted feedback and fostering a supportive atmosphere for learning. The program integrates presentations, interactive Q&A sessions, and problem-solving activities to cater to different learning styles. This blended approach ensures that participants not only grasp the theoretical concepts of public financial management but also develop the practical skills and confidence needed to implement them effectively within their own organizations.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Public Financial Management

- The Core Objectives of Public Financial Management.
- The PFM Cycle and Its Components.
- Legal and Institutional Frameworks for PFM.
- Macroeconomic Context for Budgeting and Fiscal Policy.
- Key Stakeholders in the Budget Process.
- Principles of Fiscal Discipline, Allocation, and Efficiency.
- Introduction to International PFM Standards and Best Practices.

Unit Two: Strategic Planning and Budget Formulation

- Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEF).
- From Policy Planning to Budgeting.
- Performance-Based and Program Budgeting Methodologies.
- Techniques for Accurate Revenue and Expenditure Forecasting.
- Capital Budgeting and Public Investment Management.
- The Political Economy of the Budget Process.
- Integrating Gender and Climate Considerations into Budgets.

Unit Three: Budget Execution, Control, and Reporting

- The Annual Budget Execution Cycle.
- Treasury and Cash Management Functions.
- Public Procurement and Contract Management.
- Internal Control Systems and Internal Audit.
- Introduction to International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).
- In-Year Financial Reporting and Monitoring.
- Managing Expenditure Arrears and Contingent Liabilities.

Unit Four: Advanced Topics in Public Finance

- Public Debt Management Strategies.
- Fiscal Risk Identification and Management.
- Managing Fiscal Relations between Levels of Government.
- Revenue Administration and Tax Policy.
- Financial Management of State-Owned Enterprises.
- Utilizing Fiscal Data for Policy Making.
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Fiscal Implications.

Unit Five: Accountability, Oversight, and Modernization

- The Role of Supreme Audit Institutions (External Audit).
- Legislative Oversight of the Budget.
- Enhancing Fiscal Transparency and Citizen Engagement.
- Strategies for Combating Corruption in Public Finance.
- Digital Transformation and GovTech in PFM.
- PFM Reforms and Change Management.
- Course Review and Personal Action Planning.

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 governments effectively balance the drive for digital transformation in public finance with the persistent challenges of digital divides and cybersecurity threats?

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

This course distinguishes itself by providing a holistic and forward-looking perspective on public financial management that goes beyond conventional textbook theories. While many programs focus solely on technical budgeting rules, this training integrates strategic policy considerations, political economy dynamics, and cutting-edge global trends. We place a strong emphasis on the practical application of knowledge, using real-world case studies that reflect the complex challenges faced by public sector managers today, from managing fiscal risks in volatile economies to implementing climate-responsive budgets. The curriculum is uniquely structured to build skills progressively, starting with foundational principles and advancing to sophisticated topics like digital PFM transformation and sustainable debt management. By incorporating insights from leading academics like Allen Schick, the course ensures a rigorous, evidence-based foundation. The interactive methodology fosters a rich learning environment where participants from diverse backgrounds can share insights and co-create solutions, ensuring the learning is not just absorbed but is also contextualized and immediately applicable to their professional roles.