Adapting Agile Project Management for Government and NGOs Training Course

19 - 23 Oct 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #GOV6496_268738

Course Introduction / Overview:

This comprehensive training course provides a strategic framework for applying agile project management methodologies in the government and non-profit sectors. While agile is widely used in the private sector for its flexibility and speed, its application in public and non-profit organizations presents unique challenges, including rigid procurement processes, fixed budgets, and political oversight. This course, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, is grounded in the foundational principles of project management, drawing on the academic work of leading authors like Bent Flyvbjerg, whose research on megaprojects and decision-making highlights the importance of adaptability. We will explore how to move beyond traditional waterfall approaches and adopt an agile mindset that allows for rapid iteration and continuous delivery of value. Participants will learn how to adapt agile frameworks like Scrum and Kanban to their specific context, manage stakeholder expectations, and deliver better outcomes for the public. By the end of this program, you will possess the tools to not only manage projects more effectively but to lead a cultural shift toward more flexible and responsive public service.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Public sector project and program managers.
- Non-profit executive directors and team leaders.
- Government officials and civil servants.
- IT and digital transformation specialists.
- Anyone responsible for managing projects in government or NGOs.
- Financial managers and budget officers.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Government and public administration agencies.
- Non-profit organizations and NGOs.
- International development and aid.
- Public health and social services.
- Urban planning and infrastructure.
- Education and academic institutions.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Project Management Office (PMO).
- Digital Transformation and IT.
- Operations and Administration.
- Policy and Planning.
- Strategic Planning.
- Communications.

Course Offerings:

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

- Apply agile principles to public sector projects.
- Adapt Scrum and Kanban frameworks for government.
- Manage stakeholder expectations in a public context.
- Iterate and deliver value in short cycles.
- Overcome procurement and budgetary challenges.
- Lead an agile team and foster a culture of trust.
- Use data and feedback to guide project decisions.
- Develop a product backlog and prioritize features.
- Measure and report on project progress.
- Mitigate risks inherent in public sector projects.

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 project simulations, group case studies, and real-world scenarios. For example, participants will work in agile teams to manage a simulated public service project, such as developing a new digital application. 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 creating user stories and running sprint retrospectives. 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 specific complexities of their roles.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Introduction to Agile for Public Service

- The agile mindset vs. the traditional mindset.
- Core principles of the Agile Manifesto.
- Why agile is relevant for government and NGOs.
- Overcoming common challenges and resistance.
- Case studies of agile government projects.
- The benefits of iterative development.
- The role of leadership in fostering agility.

Unit Two: Agile Frameworks and Practices

- Overview of Scrum, Kanban, and other frameworks.
- The roles of Product Owner, Scrum Master, and Team.
- Managing the product backlog and sprint planning.
- Conducting daily stand-ups and sprint reviews.
- The importance of continuous feedback.
- Visualizing work with Kanban boards.
- Scaling agile for larger projects.

Unit Three: Stakeholder and Risk Management

- Identifying and engaging key stakeholders.
- Communicating with non-agile leadership.
- Managing political and regulatory risks.
- Adapting to changing priorities and requirements.
- Risk management in an agile environment.
- The role of transparency and trust.
- Reporting on progress and outcomes.

Unit Four: Procurement and Governance

- Adapting procurement for agile projects.
- Contracting models for agile development.
- Managing budgets and fiscal oversight.
- The role of the PMO in an agile organization.
- Governance structures for agile teams.
- Ensuring compliance while remaining flexible.
- Case studies in agile procurement.

Unit Five: Building an Agile Culture

- Fostering a culture of psychological safety.
- Team dynamics and collaboration.
- The role of continuous learning.
- Developing an agile mindset for public servants.
- The future of agile in government.
- Metrics for success in agile projects.
- The agile leader's toolkit.

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 the core agile principle of 'responding to change over following a plan' be reconciled with the public sector's fundamental need for rigorous accountability and predictable budgetary control?

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

This training course stands out by providing a robust and practical framework for agile project management that is tailored exclusively for the public and non-profit sectors. While many programs offer generic agile principles, our content addresses the specific governance, regulatory, and budgetary challenges of government and NGOs. The course empowers participants to lead change by focusing not just on the agile tools, but on the cultural shift required to make them work in a public context. We emphasize a hands-on approach, using simulations and real-world case studies to help participants navigate common roadblocks. It is this combination of academic rigor, practical application, and an unwavering focus on the unique public service context that sets this program apart.