Governmental Risk Management and Internal Control Training Course



23 - 27 Nov 2026

Vienna

5800 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

This comprehensive training course is designed to equip public sector professionals with the essential skills and knowledge to establish and maintain robust risk management and internal control systems. In an era of increasing public scrutiny and complex operational challenges, government agencies face unique pressures to ensure accountability, transparency, and the efficient use of public funds. This program, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, moves beyond theoretical concepts to provide a practical roadmap for implementing effective governance, risk, and compliance (GRC) frameworks tailored specifically for the public sector environment. Drawing upon globally recognized standards such as the COSO "Internal Control – Integrated Framework" and ISO 31000, participants will learn to identify, assess, and mitigate a wide range of risks, from financial and operational to strategic and reputational. As noted by risk management authority Norman Marks, effective risk management is not merely about avoiding failure but about enabling success and achieving objectives. This course embeds that philosophy, focusing on how a proactive approach to risk and control can enhance decision-making, improve service delivery, and build public trust. Participants will gain the confidence to design, implement, and monitor control activities that are not only compliant but also add tangible value to their organizations.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Internal Auditors and Audit Managers.
- Risk Management Professionals and Officers.
- Compliance Officers and Managers.
- Finance Directors, Managers, and Accountants.
- Public Sector Executives and Senior Leaders.
- Program and Project Managers in Government.
- Policy Makers and Advisors.
- Procurement and Contract Managers.
- Operations Managers and Department Heads.
- Members of Audit and Risk Committees.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Federal, national, and central government bodies.
- State, provincial, and regional government agencies.
- Local government, municipalities, and city councils.
- Public utilities and transportation authorities.
- State-owned enterprises and public corporations.
- Public healthcare and educational institutions.
- Regulatory bodies and oversight agencies.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) receiving public funds.
- International public sector organizations.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Internal Audit and Assurance.
- Finance and Treasury.
- Risk Management.
- Compliance and Legal.
- Strategic Planning and Performance Management.
- Operations and Service Delivery.
- Procurement and Supply Chain.
- Human Resources.
- Information Technology and Cybersecurity.
- Program and Project Management Offices (PMO).

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop a comprehensive risk management framework aligned with public sector objectives.
- Apply the COSO framework to design and evaluate internal control systems.
- Conduct thorough risk assessments to identify and prioritize key organizational risks.
- Design effective control activities for critical government processes like procurement and financial management.
- Integrate risk management into strategic planning and decision-making processes.
- Establish robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms for risk and control effectiveness.
- Enhance fraud detection and prevention strategies within their departments.
- Foster a culture of risk awareness and accountability across the organization.
- Evaluate the role of technology in automating and improving internal controls.
- Prepare and present clear and impactful risk reports to senior management and oversight bodies.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and engaging, ensuring that participants can immediately apply their learning in their professional roles. We believe that adult learning is most effective when it connects theory to real-world application. Therefore, the course heavily emphasizes case studies drawn from actual government scenarios, allowing participants to analyze complex risk and control challenges in a controlled environment. Interactive group discussions, workshops, and team-based exercises will be used extensively to foster collaborative problem-solving and the sharing of diverse perspectives. Participants will work on practical tasks such as developing a risk register, designing a control activity, and mapping processes. The facilitator will guide these sessions, providing expert feedback and encouraging critical thinking. Role-playing activities, such as simulating an audit committee meeting or a risk assessment workshop, will further enhance practical skills. The program is structured to move from foundational knowledge to advanced application, with each module building upon the last, ensuring a comprehensive and coherent learning journey.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Public Sector Risk and Control

- Introduction to Risk Management in the Government Context.
- The Unique Risk Landscape of Public Sector Organizations.
- Key Concepts: Risk Appetite, Tolerance, and Capacity.
- Understanding the COSO Internal Control – Integrated Framework.
- Overview of ISO 31000: Risk Management Principles and Guidelines.
- The Three Lines of Defense Model in Public Governance.
- Roles and Responsibilities in Risk Management and Internal Control.

Unit Two: Strategic Risk Assessment and Analysis

- Establishing the Context: Aligning Risk with Strategic Objectives.
- Techniques for Comprehensive Risk Identification.
- Qualitative and Quantitative Risk Analysis Methods.
- Developing a Public Sector Risk Assessment Matrix.
- Evaluating and Prioritizing Risks.
- Creating and Maintaining a Government Risk Register.
- Communicating Risk Assessment Results to Stakeholders.

Unit Three: Designing and Implementing Internal Controls

- Linking Risks to Control Objectives.
- Types of Internal Controls: Preventive, Detective, and Corrective.
- Designing Control Activities for Key Processes (e.g., Finance, Procurement, HR).
- Information and Communication: The Role of Data in Control Systems.
- Implementing Control Self-Assessment (CSA) Programs.
- Entity-Level vs. Process-Level Controls.
- Addressing the Risk of Management Override of Controls.

Unit Four: Monitoring, Auditing, and Reporting

- Ongoing Monitoring Activities vs. Separate Evaluations.
- The Role of the Internal Audit Function in a Government Setting.
- Techniques for Testing the Effectiveness of Internal Controls.
- Performance Auditing and Value-for-Money Reviews.
- Developing Key Risk Indicators (KRIs) and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- Effective Reporting on Risk and Internal Control to Leadership and Oversight Bodies.
- Leveraging Technology for Continuous Controls Monitoring.

Unit Five: Advanced Topics in Governmental GRC

- Integrating Risk Management with Performance and Strategy.
- Fraud, Waste, and Abuse: Prevention and Detection Strategies.
- Managing Emerging Risks: Cybersecurity, Data Privacy, and Climate Risk.
- Building a Positive Risk Culture within a Public Agency.
- The Role of Governance and Ethical Leadership.
- Crisis Management and Business Continuity Planning for Government Services.
- The Future of Risk Management and Internal Control in the Public Sector.

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 government agencies effectively balance the need for robust, documented internal controls with the public's demand for agile, efficient, and responsive service delivery, especially during times of crisis?

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

This course distinguishes itself by being meticulously tailored to the specific context and complexities of government agencies, a focus often diluted in generic corporate risk management programs. While other courses may teach the "what" of frameworks like COSO and ISO 31000, we concentrate on the "how" of applying them within a public sector environment characterized by political oversight, public accountability, and complex regulatory mandates. Our curriculum moves beyond mere compliance to position risk management and internal control as strategic enablers of public service objectives. The methodology is deeply practical, utilizing case studies and scenarios that reflect real-world challenges faced by public administrators, such as budget constraints, procurement integrity, and stakeholder management. Rather than just presenting tools, we cultivate critical thinking and judgment, empowering participants to design controls that are not only effective but also efficient and value-adding. The course fosters a holistic understanding of how a strong control environment builds public trust, enhances decision-making, and ensures the responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds, making it an investment in organizational resilience and public service excellence.