IPSAS Implementation and Public Sector Financial Reporting Training Course



21 - 25 Dec 2026

Barcelona

5900 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

The global public sector is undergoing a significant transformation towards greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public finance management. At the heart of this evolution is the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). This comprehensive training course is designed to provide a thorough understanding of the IPSAS framework, from its conceptual underpinnings to the practical application of specific standards. As noted by public finance expert Andreas Bergmann, the shift to accrual accounting provides a more holistic view of a government's financial position and performance. This program delves into the complexities of transitioning from cash-basis to accrual-basis accounting, preparing compliant financial statements, and navigating the challenges of first-time implementation. Participants will explore key standards related to assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses, ensuring they can apply them effectively within their organizations. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this course to empower finance professionals with the skills needed to lead and manage this critical financial reporting reform, enhancing the quality and comparability of public sector financial information, a theme also explored in publications like "Applying IPSAS".

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Finance managers and directors in the public sector.
- Government accountants and financial controllers.
- Internal and external auditors of public entities.
- Budget officers and analysts.
- Public finance management consultants.
- Policy advisors involved in financial reform.
- Finance staff in state-owned enterprises.
- Members of public accounts committees and legislative bodies.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- National and federal government ministries and agencies.
- State, provincial, and local government bodies.
- Municipalities and city councils.
- State-owned enterprises and public corporations.
- Public healthcare and educational institutions.
- Social security funds and public pension funds.
- International governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Regulatory bodies and public sector oversight agencies.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Finance and Accounting Departments.
- Internal Audit and Compliance Departments.
- Budgeting and Financial Planning Departments.
- Treasury and Debt Management Offices.
- Strategic Planning and Performance Management Units.
- Procurement and Asset Management Departments.
- Reporting and Consolidation Units.

Course Offerings:

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

- Master the principles of the IPSAS conceptual framework and its objectives.
- Differentiate between cash-basis and accrual-basis IPSAS.
- Implement the process for a successful first-time adoption of IPSAS.
- Prepare a full set of IPSAS-compliant financial statements.
- Apply specific IPSAS standards for assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses.
- Analyze complex financial instruments and disclosure requirements under IPSAS.
- Manage the practical challenges associated with IPSAS implementation projects.
- Evaluate the impact of IPSAS adoption on budgeting and financial management.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and participant-centered. This course moves beyond theoretical lectures to immerse participants in the practical realities of IPSAS implementation. The learning experience is built upon a foundation of real-world case studies drawn from various public sector entities that have successfully transitioned to IPSAS. These cases will be analyzed in group discussions, allowing participants to debate challenges, share experiences, and develop problem-solving strategies. Practical workshops and hands-on exercises are a core component, focusing on tasks such as preparing journal entries for complex transactions and drafting components of financial statements. Interactive sessions, expert-led presentations, and Q&A segments ensure that complex topics are demystified and understood. Continuous feedback is provided by the instructor to guide participants in applying the learned concepts effectively, ensuring they leave the course with not just knowledge, but the confidence to apply it in their professional roles.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Introduction to Public Sector Accounting and the IPSAS Framework

- The global drive for public financial management reform.
- Understanding the role and structure of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB).
- Detailed overview of the IPSAS Conceptual Framework.
- Cash Basis IPSAS vs. Accrual Basis IPSAS.
- Key principles of accrual accounting in the public sector.
- Presentation of Financial Statements (IPSAS 1).
- Statement of Cash Flows (IPSAS 2).

Unit Two: Accounting for Public Sector Assets and Liabilities

- Property, Plant, and Equipment (IPSAS 17).
- Intangible Assets (IPSAS 31).
- Investment Property (IPSAS 16).
- Impairment of Non-Cash-Generating Assets (IPSAS 21).
- Inventories (IPSAS 12).
- Leases (IPSAS 13).
- Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets (IPSAS 19).

Unit Three: Revenue, Expenses, and Financial Instruments

- Revenue from Exchange Transactions (IPSAS 9).
- Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions (Taxes and Transfers) (IPSAS 23).
- Employee Benefits (IPSAS 39).
- Social Benefits (IPSAS 42).
- Financial Instruments: Presentation, Recognition, and Measurement (IPSAS 28, 29, 30).
- Introduction to the updated standard on Financial Instruments (IPSAS 41).
- The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates (IPSAS 4).

Unit Four: Advanced Reporting and Consolidation Standards

- Consolidated Financial Statements (IPSAS 35).
- Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures (IPSAS 36).
- Disclosure of Financial Information about the General Government Sector (IPSAS 22).
- Segment Reporting (IPSAS 18).
- Related Party Disclosures (IPSAS 20).
- Events After the Reporting Date (IPSAS 14).
- Budget Information in Financial Statements (IPSAS 24).

Unit Five: First-Time Implementation and Transition to IPSAS

- First-Time Adoption of Accrual Basis IPSAS (IPSAS 33).
- Developing a strategic roadmap for IPSAS implementation.
- Managing the transition project: key stages and milestones.
- Overcoming common implementation challenges and pitfalls.
- Change management and stakeholder communication strategies.
- The future direction of IPSAS and upcoming standards.
- Course review, summary, and 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:

Beyond compliance, how can the adoption of accrual-based IPSAS fundamentally reshape public policy decisions and citizen engagement with government finances?

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

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond a purely theoretical examination of the standards to focus on a strategic, implementation-based approach. While many programs may cover the "what" of IPSAS, this training emphasizes the "how". It provides participants with a practical roadmap for navigating the complex journey of first-time adoption, from initial gap analysis to post-implementation review. The curriculum is enriched with a diverse range of real-world case studies from different jurisdictions, illustrating both successes and common pitfalls in public sector financial reform. This allows for a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the challenges involved. Furthermore, the course offered by BIG BEN Training Center is structured to foster critical thinking about the broader implications of IPSAS, encouraging participants to consider how enhanced financial reporting can drive better decision-making, improve public service delivery, and strengthen fiscal accountability. The focus is on empowering professionals not just with technical knowledge, but with the strategic foresight to lead financial transformation within their organizations.