Advanced AML and Counter-Terrorist Financing Training Course



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Vienna

5800 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

In today's interconnected global economy, the threats of money laundering and terrorist financing are more sophisticated and pervasive than ever. This advanced training course is meticulously designed to move beyond foundational principles, equipping professionals with the strategic insights and practical skills necessary to navigate the complex and dynamic regulatory landscape. The curriculum delves into the intricate typologies of modern financial crime, exploring how illicit actors exploit new technologies and complex corporate structures. As noted by the esteemed academic Dr. Nikos Passas, understanding the convergence of various financial crimes is critical for effective prevention. This program, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, provides a comprehensive framework for developing and implementing robust, risk-based AML/CTF compliance programs. Participants will engage with advanced concepts discussed in seminal works like "Money Laundering: A New International Law Enforcement Model" by Guy Stessens, learning to not only comply with regulations but to proactively identify, assess, and mitigate emerging threats. This course is an essential investment for professionals committed to safeguarding their institutions and upholding the integrity of the international financial system through superior knowledge and application.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- AML/CFT Compliance Officers and Managers.
- Financial Crime Investigators and Analysts.
- Risk Management Professionals.
- Internal and External Auditors.
- Legal and Regulatory Affairs Specialists.
- Senior Management in Financial Institutions.
- Law Enforcement and Government Agency Officials.
- Corporate Governance Professionals.
- Financial Operations Managers.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Banking and Financial Services.
- Insurance and Asset Management.
- Fintech and Payment Services Providers.
- Cryptocurrency Exchanges and Virtual Asset Service Providers.
- Real Estate and High-Value Goods Dealers.
- Legal and Accounting Firms.
- Governmental bodies, regulatory authorities, and financial intelligence units.
- Consulting firms specializing in financial crime compliance.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Compliance and Financial Crime Prevention.
- Risk Management.
- Internal Audit and Assurance.
- Legal and Corporate Secretariat.
- Operations and Transaction Processing.
- Investigations and Forensics.
- Information Technology and Security.
- Corporate Banking and Wealth Management.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop and implement a sophisticated, risk-based AML/CTF framework tailored to their organization.
- Conduct comprehensive Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) on high-risk clients, including Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs).
- Analyze and interpret complex international sanctions regimes from bodies like the UN, EU, and OFAC.
- Identify and investigate emerging money laundering and terrorist financing typologies, including those involving virtual assets.
- Master advanced transaction monitoring techniques to detect suspicious patterns and anomalies.
- Prepare and file high-quality Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) that meet regulatory expectations.
- Effectively manage regulatory examinations and internal audits of the AML/CTF program.
- Leverage new technologies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of compliance controls.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology for this course at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and engaging, ensuring participants can immediately apply their learning in a professional context. We move beyond traditional lecture-based formats to foster a dynamic learning environment built on real-world application. The program is heavily reliant on the analysis of complex, contemporary case studies drawn from actual regulatory enforcement actions and financial crime incidents. This allows participants to deconstruct sophisticated schemes and understand compliance failures in a tangible way. Interactive group discussions and workshops are a core component, encouraging the sharing of diverse experiences and collaborative problem-solving. Participants will engage in practical exercises, such as developing risk matrices, conducting simulated enhanced due diligence investigations, and drafting mock Suspicious Activity Reports. Role-playing scenarios will challenge attendees to navigate difficult conversations with stakeholders and respond to regulatory inquiries. Continuous feedback from the instructor, an experienced industry expert, ensures that participants refine their analytical and decision-making skills throughout the five-day program.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: The Evolving Global AML/CTF Regulatory Framework

- The latest FATF Recommendations and their practical implementation.
- Analysis of the EU's Anti-Money Laundering Directives (AMLDs).
- Understanding the USA PATRIOT Act and its global reach.
- Emerging regulatory trends in virtual assets and digital currencies.
- The role of Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) and international cooperation.
- Case studies on recent major regulatory enforcement actions.
- Developing a culture of compliance within an organization.

Unit Two: Advanced Institutional Risk Assessment

- Conducting a comprehensive enterprise-wide AML/CTF risk assessment.
- Methodologies for identifying and quantifying inherent risks.
- Assessing the effectiveness of internal controls and mitigating factors.
- Developing and applying a customer risk-rating model.
- Analyzing geographic, product, and channel-specific risks.
- Techniques for ongoing risk monitoring and periodic reassessment.
- Presenting risk assessment findings to senior management and regulators.

Unit Three: Mastering Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) and High-Risk Clients

- Defining and identifying Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs).
- Conducting in-depth EDD on complex corporate structures and ultimate beneficial ownership.
- Managing risks associated with correspondent banking relationships.
- Due diligence for high-risk industries like casinos and dealers in precious metals.
- Source of wealth and source of funds verification techniques.
- Implementing effective ongoing monitoring for high-risk relationships.
- Documenting and justifying EDD decisions for audit and regulatory review.

Unit Four: Sanctions Compliance and Counter-Terrorist Financing

- Navigating complex international sanctions regimes (OFAC, UN, EU, UK).
- Best practices for sanctions screening and list management.
- Identifying and managing sanctions evasion techniques.
- Understanding the specific red flags and typologies of terrorist financing.
- Investigating potential links to terrorist organizations.
- The legal and operational differences between AML and CTF.
- Case studies on terrorist financing through formal and informal financial systems.

Unit Five: Advanced Investigation, Reporting, and Technology

- Advanced techniques for transaction monitoring and behavior analysis.
- The art of writing effective and comprehensive Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs).
- Managing internal investigations into potential compliance breaches.
- Preparing for and successfully navigating a regulatory audit.
- The role of artificial intelligence and machine learning in AML compliance.
- Understanding blockchain analytics for cryptocurrency investigations.
- Strategies for effective communication with law enforcement and regulators.

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 financial institutions effectively leverage artificial intelligence to enhance their AML/CTF controls without creating opaque, "black box" systems that regulators and auditors cannot validate?

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

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond theoretical knowledge to cultivate strategic thinking and advanced analytical capabilities essential for modern compliance leaders. Unlike standard programs that focus on reciting regulations, our curriculum is built around a dynamic, case-study-based methodology that dissects real-world financial crime schemes and regulatory failures. This approach forces participants to grapple with the same ambiguities and complex data points they face in their professional roles. We place a significant emphasis on emerging threats, dedicating substantial content to the challenges posed by virtual assets, cyber-enabled financial crime, and sophisticated sanctions evasion tactics. Furthermore, the course is designed to foster critical investigative skills, teaching participants not just what to look for, but how to think like a financial investigator. The interactive sessions and practical workshops ensure that learning is applied, not just absorbed, empowering attendees to build and defend robust, forward-looking compliance frameworks that can withstand intense regulatory scrutiny and adapt to the ever-evolving landscape of financial crime.