Strategic Leadership and Succession Planning Pipeline Training Course

30 Nov - 04 Dec 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #HR4530_289247

Course Introduction / Overview:

In today's dynamic and competitive business landscape, organizational resilience and long-term success are intrinsically linked to the strength of its leadership pipeline. This course provides a comprehensive framework for integrating leadership development with strategic succession planning, ensuring business continuity and fostering a culture of internal growth. Moving beyond traditional replacement planning, this program focuses on proactively identifying and nurturing high-potential talent at all levels to prepare them for future leadership roles. As discussed by renowned business advisor Ram Charan in his influential book, "The Leadership Pipeline", developing leaders is a continuous and strategic process. This training course, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, is meticulously designed to equip participants with the practical tools and strategic insights needed to build a robust succession management system. Participants will explore proven methodologies for talent assessment, create tailored development plans, and learn to align their succession strategy with overarching business objectives, ultimately securing their organization's future leadership and competitive edge.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Human Resources Directors and Managers.
- Talent Management Specialists.
- Organizational Development Professionals.
- C-Suite Executives and Senior Leaders.
- Department Heads and Line Managers.
- High-potential employees identified for future leadership roles.
- Workforce Planning Analysts.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Financial Services and Banking.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Technology and Telecommunications.
- Manufacturing and Engineering.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Energy and Utilities.
- Governmental agencies and public sector organizations.
- Non-profit organizations.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Human Resources.
- Organizational Development.
- Executive Management.
- Strategic Planning.
- All operational departments responsible for team leadership.
- Talent Acquisition and Management.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop a comprehensive succession planning framework aligned with strategic goals.
- Utilize advanced assessment tools to accurately identify high-potential employees.
- Design and implement effective leadership development programs and career paths.
- Create a robust leadership pipeline to ensure business continuity.
- Master techniques for coaching and mentoring emerging leaders.
- Manage leadership transitions smoothly and effectively.
- Measure the return on investment of succession planning initiatives.
- Foster an organizational culture that supports continuous learning and internal mobility.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, experiential, and participant-centered, ensuring that theoretical knowledge is translated into practical skills. This course utilizes a blended learning approach that combines expert-led presentations with hands-on activities. Participants will engage in in-depth case study analyses of real-world succession planning successes and failures, allowing them to dissect complex scenarios and apply critical thinking. Collaborative group discussions and workshops will facilitate peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of diverse industry perspectives. Role-playing exercises will simulate challenging conversations, such as providing developmental feedback and managing transition announcements. Participants will also work on practical projects, such as drafting a competency model or a 9-box grid for a hypothetical organization. Continuous feedback from the instructor and peers is a core component, ensuring a supportive and dynamic learning environment that empowers attendees to implement these strategies confidently within their own organizations.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: The Strategic Imperative of Succession Planning

- The evolution from replacement planning to succession management.
- Linking succession planning to business strategy and long-term vision.
- The high cost of failed leadership transitions and external hiring.
- Identifying key positions and critical roles for the future.
- The role of the board, senior leadership, and HR in the succession process.
- Establishing a business case for a formal succession planning program.
- Understanding the legal and ethical considerations in talent management.

Unit Two: Identifying and Assessing High-Potential Talent

- Defining leadership competencies for your organization's future needs.
- Implementing a robust competency modeling framework.
- Utilizing assessment tools: 360-degree feedback, psychometric tests, and assessment centers.
- Mastering the 9-box grid for performance and potential analysis.
- Conducting effective talent review meetings and calibration sessions.
- Differentiating between high performance and high potential.
- Strategies for mitigating bias in the talent identification process.

Unit Three: Developing the Leadership Pipeline

- Creating individualized development plans for high-potential employees.
- The role of coaching and mentoring in leadership development.
- Designing effective job rotation, stretch assignments, and action learning projects.
- Building critical leadership skills: strategic thinking, emotional intelligence, and change management.
- Formal training programs versus experiential learning.
- Leveraging technology for leadership development and tracking progress.
- Preparing emerging leaders for cross-functional and global responsibilities.

Unit Four: Implementing and Managing the Succession Plan

- Creating and maintaining talent pools for critical roles.
- Developing clear career paths and promoting internal mobility.
- Communicating the succession plan to stakeholders and employees.
- Managing the expectations of both selected and non-selected employees.
- Strategies for smooth leadership transitions and onboarding for internal promotions.
- Integrating succession planning with performance management and compensation.
- Developing emergency succession plans for unexpected vacancies.

Unit Five: Measuring Success and Sustaining the Culture

- Establishing key performance indicators (KPIs) for the succession program.
- Measuring the ROI of leadership development and succession planning.
- Techniques for tracking pipeline strength and readiness.
- Overcoming common challenges and resistance to succession planning.
- Fostering a continuous learning and development culture throughout the organization.
- The role of technology in automating and managing the succession process.
- Future trends in leadership development and talent management.

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 an organization balance the need for a structured succession plan with the flexibility required to adapt to unforeseen leadership changes or disruptive market shifts?

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

This course distinguishes itself by adopting a holistic and integrated approach, treating succession planning not as an isolated HR function but as a core strategic driver of business success. Unlike programs that focus narrowly on replacement charts, this training emphasizes the creation of a dynamic and sustainable leadership pipeline, building organizational capability from the ground up. We move beyond theory to provide a practical, actionable toolkit, focusing on the implementation of systems like the 9-box grid, competency modeling, and tailored development plans. A key differentiator is the significant focus on fostering a culture of development, where identifying and nurturing talent becomes the shared responsibility of all leaders, not just the HR department. The curriculum is built on real-world case studies and interactive simulations, ensuring participants learn how to navigate the complex human and political dynamics inherent in succession management. The course provides a strategic blueprint for ensuring that your organization has the right leaders in the right place at the right time, ready to face future challenges and seize opportunities.