ISO 21500 Project Management and Strategic Application Training Course

23 - 27 Nov 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #ISO7962_278603

Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive exploration of ISO 21500, the international standard for guidance on project management. It is designed to equip professionals with the knowledge and skills to apply this powerful framework to enhance project success and strategic alignment within their organizations. Unlike prescriptive methodologies, ISO 21500 offers a high-level, flexible framework of concepts and processes that can be adapted to any project, regardless of size, complexity, or industry. This training moves beyond theoretical knowledge, focusing on the practical and strategic application of the standard to solve real-world challenges. We will delve into the principles articulated by project management thought leaders like Dr. Harold Kerzner, exploring how to integrate robust governance structures and ensure projects deliver tangible business value. Participants will learn to navigate the complete project lifecycle, from initiation to closure, using the best practices outlined in the standard. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this program to bridge the gap between project execution and organizational strategy, ensuring that every project becomes a stepping stone towards achieving long-term corporate goals, a concept thoroughly discussed in works like "Project Management: A Managerial Approach".

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Project Managers and Project Leaders.
- Program and Portfolio Managers.
- Members of a Project Management Office (PMO).
- Project Sponsors and Senior Management.
- Consultants and project management professionals.
- Team members aspiring to a project management role.
- Quality and Process Improvement Managers.
- Operations Managers involved in projects.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Information Technology and Telecommunications.
- Construction and Engineering.
- Banking, Finance, and Insurance.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Manufacturing and Industrial sectors.
- Governmental agencies and public sector organizations.
- Consulting and Professional Services.
- Energy and Utilities.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Project Management Office (PMO).
- Strategic Planning and Business Development.
- Operations and Production.
- Information Technology (IT).
- Engineering and Technical Services.
- Research and Development (R&D).
- Human Resources.
- Finance and Administration.

Course Offerings:

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

- Comprehend the fundamental concepts, principles, and terminology of ISO 21500.
- Apply the ISO 21500 framework to initiate, plan, implement, control, and close projects effectively.
- Align project objectives and outcomes with the organization's overall strategic goals.
- Establish robust project governance structures based on ISO 21500 guidance.
- Enhance stakeholder management and communication throughout the project lifecycle.
- Integrate risk, quality, and resource management processes into project plans.
- Tailor the ISO 21500 standard to fit the specific context and needs of their organization.
- Measure project performance and success using relevant metrics and key performance indicators.
- Foster a culture of continuous improvement in project management practices.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, engaging, and application-oriented. We believe that adult learning is most effective when it combines theoretical knowledge with practical application. This course utilizes a blended learning approach that includes expert-led presentations, in-depth group discussions, and collaborative workshops. Participants will work through real-world case studies to analyze complex project scenarios and apply the ISO 21500 framework to develop effective solutions. Team-based exercises and problem-solving sessions will encourage peer-to-peer learning and the exchange of diverse perspectives. Our experienced instructors act as facilitators, guiding participants through the material and providing personalized feedback to ensure a deep understanding of the concepts. The program emphasizes a hands-on approach, allowing participants to draft project charters, create governance plans, and develop risk registers based on the ISO 21500 standard. This immersive learning environment ensures that participants leave not just with knowledge, but with the confidence and skills to implement what they have learned immediately in their professional roles.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Project Management and ISO 21500

- Introduction to project management principles and lifecycles.
- Overview of the ISO 21500 standard, its purpose, and scope.
- Understanding the structure and key terminology of ISO 21500.
- Comparing ISO 21500 with other frameworks like PMBOK and PRINCE2.
- The role of the project manager and project sponsor.
- Defining project constraints, assumptions, and success criteria.
- The business case and its importance in project justification.

Unit Two: Project Management Subject Groups

- Deep dive into the Integration subject group.
- Exploring the Stakeholder and Scope subject groups.
- Managing the Resource and Time subject groups.
- Understanding the Cost and Risk subject groups.
- Applying the Quality and Procurement subject groups.
- Focusing on the Communication subject group for effective information flow.

Unit Three: Strategic Alignment and Project Governance

- Linking projects to organizational strategy and objectives.
- Introduction to portfolio and program management concepts.
- Establishing effective project governance frameworks.
- The role and function of a Project Management Office (PMO).
- Defining roles, responsibilities, and authority in projects.
- Benefits realization management and value delivery.
- Phase gates and decision-making processes in the project lifecycle.

Unit Four: Practical Application through Project Processes

- Applying the Initiating process group to start a project.
- Utilizing the Planning process group for comprehensive project preparation.
- Executing project plans with the Implementing process group.
- Monitoring and managing projects with the Controlling process group.
- Formally concluding projects using the Closing process group.
- Workshop on developing a project charter based on ISO 21500.
- Case study analysis of project failures and successes.

Unit Five: Implementation, Tailoring, and Continuous Improvement

- Strategies for implementing the ISO 21500 framework in an organization.
- Tailoring the guidance to suit different project types and organizational cultures.
- Assessing project management maturity.
- Techniques for stakeholder engagement and management.
- Measuring project performance and reporting progress.
- Lessons learned and knowledge management in projects.
- Developing a personal action plan for applying course concepts.

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 high-level guidance of ISO 21500 be effectively tailored to agile project environments without losing its strategic value?

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

This course distinguishes itself by focusing on the strategic application of ISO 21500, rather than mere procedural compliance or preparation for a certification exam. While many courses teach the "what" of project management standards, our curriculum is meticulously designed to teach the "why" and "how" in the context of achieving overarching business goals. We move beyond the standard's text to explore its philosophical underpinnings, encouraging participants to think critically about how to establish robust governance and ensure projects deliver sustainable value. The program's emphasis on strategic alignment is a core differentiator, providing managers with the tools to justify projects based on business benefits and to ensure their execution remains in lockstep with corporate strategy. Furthermore, the course content is enriched with advanced discussions on portfolio management integration and benefits realization, topics often overlooked in introductory training. By using a case-study-driven and Socratic teaching method, we foster an environment of deep inquiry and practical problem-solving, ensuring participants develop the sophisticated judgment required to adapt and apply the ISO 21500 guidance effectively within their unique organizational landscapes.