Advanced Leadership and Succession Planning Training Course

28 Dec 2026 - 01 Jan 2027

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #LE3015_286632

Course Introduction / Overview:

In today's volatile and competitive business landscape, the single most critical factor for long-term success is a robust and agile leadership pipeline. Proactive succession planning is no longer a luxury for large corporations but a strategic imperative for organizations of all sizes seeking sustainability and growth. This course moves beyond traditional replacement planning, offering a comprehensive framework for identifying, developing, and retaining the next generation of leaders. As detailed by renowned author Ram Charan in his influential book, "The Leadership Pipeline," organizations must cultivate leaders at every level. This program, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, is meticulously designed to equip participants with the strategic tools and practical skills to build a resilient leadership culture. We will explore how to align talent management with overarching business goals, ensuring that your organization has the right leaders in the right roles at the right time. Participants will learn to create a dynamic succession management system that not only mitigates the risks associated with leadership transitions but also drives employee engagement, enhances organizational capability, and secures a lasting competitive advantage in the market. This is an immersive journey into the art and science of future-proofing your organization's leadership core.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Human Resources Directors and Managers.
- Talent Management and Organizational Development Specialists.
- Senior Executives and C-Suite Leaders (CEOs, COOs, CHROs).
- Department Heads and Line Managers.
- Business Owners and Entrepreneurs.
- HR Business Partners involved in strategic workforce planning.
- Professionals identified as high-potential future leaders.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Banking and Financial Services.
- Technology and Telecommunications.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Manufacturing and Engineering.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Energy, Oil, and Gas.
- Governmental Agencies and Public Sector Organizations.
- Non-Profit and Educational Institutions.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Human Resources.
- Talent Management.
- Organizational Development.
- Executive and Senior Leadership Teams.
- Strategic Planning.
- Learning and Development.
- All Operational and Functional Departments.

Course Offerings:

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

- Design and implement a comprehensive succession planning framework aligned with strategic business objectives.
- Identify and assess high-potential employees using proven tools like the 9-box grid and competency models.
- Develop robust leadership pipelines to fill critical roles at all organizational levels.
- Create individualized development plans that incorporate coaching, mentoring, and experiential learning.
- Manage leadership transitions smoothly to ensure business continuity and minimize disruption.
- Foster a culture of continuous learning and leadership development throughout the organization.
- Measure the return on investment (ROI) of succession planning and leadership development initiatives.
- Communicate the succession plan effectively to stakeholders to build buy-in and transparency.
- Mitigate risks associated with talent gaps and unexpected leadership departures.

Course Methodology:

This training course is built on a foundation of experiential and participatory learning to ensure that theoretical concepts are translated into practical, applicable skills. The methodology employed by BIG BEN Training Center emphasizes a hands-on approach, moving beyond traditional lectures to foster deep engagement and real-world problem-solving. Sessions will be highly interactive, featuring a blend of expert-led presentations, dynamic group discussions, and collaborative workshops. Participants will analyze real-world case studies from various industries to understand the challenges and successes of succession planning in practice. Through role-playing scenarios and simulation exercises, attendees will have the opportunity to apply assessment techniques and conduct development conversations in a supportive, constructive environment. A significant portion of the course is dedicated to teamwork, where participants will collaborate on projects to design a succession planning strategy for a model organization. Continuous feedback from the facilitator and peers is a core component, ensuring a rich learning experience that builds both competence and confidence. The focus is on providing actionable tools and strategies that can be immediately implemented within the participant's own organization.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Strategic Foundations of Succession Planning

- The strategic importance of succession planning for organizational resilience.
- Differentiating between replacement planning and succession management.
- Linking succession planning to the organization's mission, vision, and strategic goals.
- Identifying critical roles and key positions for business continuity.
- Conducting a talent gap analysis to identify current and future needs.
- The role of senior leadership and HR in driving the succession process.
- Establishing a clear governance framework and policy for succession planning.

Unit Two: Identifying and Assessing Leadership Potential

- Developing a robust leadership competency model for your organization.
- Understanding the difference between performance and potential.
- Utilizing the 9-box grid for talent mapping and segmentation.
- Exploring various assessment tools: psychometric tests, 360-degree feedback, and assessment centers.
- Techniques for conducting effective talent review meetings.
- Strategies for minimizing bias in the talent identification process.
- Creating and managing a high-potential talent pool.

Unit Three: Developing the Next Generation of Leaders

- Designing effective Individual Development Plans (IDPs) for high-potentials.
- The role of coaching and mentoring in leadership development.
- Implementing action learning projects and stretch assignments.
- Leveraging job rotation and cross-functional experiences for skill-building.
- Building a formal mentorship program to support emerging leaders.
- The principles of executive coaching for senior-level development.
- Integrating formal training programs with on-the-job learning.

Unit Four: Managing Leadership Transitions and Knowledge Transfer

- Planning for seamless leadership transitions and onboarding.
- Strategies for mitigating the risks associated with executive departures.
- Developing effective knowledge management and transfer strategies.
- The role of the outgoing leader in ensuring a smooth handover.
- Supporting newly appointed leaders during their first 90 days.
- Managing team dynamics and morale during a leadership change.
- Conducting effective exit interviews to retain institutional knowledge.

Unit Five: Embedding and Measuring a Leadership Culture

- Creating a culture that champions internal mobility and development.
- Communicating the succession plan to employees and stakeholders.
- Metrics and KPIs for measuring the effectiveness of succession planning.
- Calculating the Return on Investment (ROI) of your leadership programs.
- Leveraging HR technology to support succession management.
- Future trends in leadership development and succession planning.
- Final project presentation: Developing a strategic succession plan blueprint.

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 effectively balance the structured, long-term process of succession planning with the need for agility and adaptability in a constantly changing business environment?

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

This course distinguishes itself by adopting a holistic and strategic perspective on leadership development, moving far beyond the administrative task of simply filling vacant positions. While many programs focus narrowly on assessment tools or replacement charts, this training integrates succession planning into the very fabric of organizational strategy and culture. Its unique quality lies in its emphasis on building a sustainable leadership ecosystem, not just a static plan. We delve into the nuanced dynamics of managing talent pipelines, fostering a developmental culture, and ensuring that leadership readiness is aligned with future business challenges. The curriculum is built around practical application, using real-world case studies and interactive simulations that compel participants to grapple with complex scenarios. Rather than just presenting theories, we guide participants in creating actionable blueprints they can implement immediately. The course uniquely bridges the gap between identifying high-potential talent and actively cultivating the specific competencies required for future success, ensuring that leadership development is a continuous, dynamic process that drives both individual growth and organizational resilience.