Project Recovery and Turnaround Strategies Training Course



23 - 27 Nov 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #PMP1667_280175

Course Introduction / Overview:

In today's fast-paced business environment, even the most meticulously planned projects can encounter significant challenges, leading to budget overruns, schedule delays, and scope creep. The ability to identify, diagnose, and successfully recover a troubled project is a critical and highly sought-after skill for any project professional. This intensive training course provides a comprehensive framework for navigating the complexities of project turnaround. Drawing upon established principles from project management authorities like Harold Kerzner and concepts discussed in works such as "Project Rescue: A Real-World Guide to Reclaiming Your Troubled Project", this program moves beyond theoretical knowledge. It equips participants with a practical, step-by-step methodology for project intervention and recovery. At BIG BEN Training Center, we have designed this course to empower you to take decisive action, stabilize chaotic situations, and steer failing initiatives back towards successful completion. Participants will learn to conduct thorough project health checks, perform root cause analysis, develop robust recovery plans, and master the art of stakeholder communication during a crisis, ensuring they can transform project distress into strategic success.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Project Managers and Program Managers.
- PMO Directors, Managers, and Staff.
- Team Leaders and Project Supervisors.
- Business Analysts and System Analysts.
- Project Sponsors and Senior Executives.
- Functional and Departmental Managers.
- Consultants involved in project oversight and recovery.
- Anyone responsible for the outcomes of complex projects.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Information Technology and Telecommunications.
- Construction and Engineering.
- Banking, Finance, and Insurance.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Manufacturing and Industrial Operations.
- Governmental Agencies and Public Sector Organizations.
- Oil, Gas, and Energy.
- Consulting and Professional Services.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Project Management Office (PMO).
- Information Technology (IT) Departments.
- Engineering and Development Teams.
- Operations and Production Departments.
- Strategic Planning and Business Development.
- Finance and Accounting.
- Quality Assurance and Control.
- Research and Development (R&D).

Course Offerings:

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

- Diagnose the early warning signs and root causes of project distress.
- Conduct comprehensive project health checks and audits.
- Develop and implement a structured project recovery plan.
- Re-baseline project scope, schedule, and budget effectively.
- Master crisis communication and stakeholder management techniques.
- Lead and motivate a project team through a difficult turnaround phase.
- Implement robust governance and control mechanisms for recovery projects.
- Facilitate a lessons-learned process to prevent future project failures.
- Apply risk mitigation strategies specific to troubled projects.
- Make informed decisions about project continuation versus termination.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, experiential, and focused on real-world application. We believe that mastering project recovery requires more than just theoretical understanding; it demands hands-on practice in a supportive learning environment. This course utilizes a blended approach, combining expert-led instruction with practical exercises. Participants will engage in in-depth analysis of real-world case studies, dissecting both successful turnarounds and notable project failures to extract critical lessons. A significant portion of the training will be dedicated to collaborative workshops and group activities where participants will work in teams to develop recovery plans for simulated troubled projects. Role-playing scenarios will be used to hone negotiation, conflict resolution, and stakeholder communication skills in a controlled setting. Throughout the course, there will be ample opportunity for open discussion, peer-to-peer feedback, and direct consultation with the instructor. This immersive approach ensures that participants leave not just with knowledge, but with the confidence and practical skills to immediately apply project recovery strategies in their own organizations.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Diagnosing Project Distress

- Identifying the Early Warning Signs of a Troubled Project.
- Differentiating Between Troubled, Critical, and Failed Projects.
- Techniques for Conducting a Rapid Project Health Check.
- Root Cause Analysis Tools (Fishbone Diagrams, 5 Whys).
- Assessing the Impact on Scope, Time, Cost, and Quality.
- Understanding the Politics and Psychology of a Failing Project.
- Initial Assessment and Go/No-Go Recovery Decision Framework.

Unit Two: Formulating the Recovery Strategy

- The Project Recovery Lifecycle and Key Phases.
- Assembling and Empowering the Project Recovery Team.
- Defining Clear Recovery Objectives and Success Criteria.
- Developing a 90-Day Tactical Recovery Plan.
- Techniques for Re-Scoping and Prioritizing Deliverables.
- Re-Estimating and Re-Baselining the Project Schedule and Budget.
- Conducting a Risk Assessment for the Recovery Effort Itself.

Unit Three: Stakeholder Management and Crisis Communication

- Identifying and Analyzing Stakeholders in a Crisis Context.
- Developing a Proactive Crisis Communication Plan.
- Managing Executive and Sponsor Expectations.
- Negotiation and Conflict Resolution with Vendors and Customers.
- Techniques for Regaining Stakeholder Trust and Confidence.
- Structuring and Delivering Effective Recovery Status Reports.
- Facilitating Difficult Conversations and Delivering Bad News.

Unit Four: Leading the Turnaround Effort

- Leadership Styles for Project Crisis Management.
- Rebuilding Team Morale, Focus, and Accountability.
- Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities within the Recovery Team.
- Implementing Agile and Lean Principles for Rapid Results.
- Effective Decision-Making Under Pressure and with Incomplete Information.
- Celebrating Small Wins to Build Momentum and Motivation.
- Managing Performance and Addressing Non-Cooperation.

Unit Five: Governance, Control, and Continuous Improvement

- Establishing a Strong Governance Framework for the Recovery.
- Implementing a Rigorous Change Control Process.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Tracking Turnaround Success.
- Conducting a Comprehensive Post-Recovery Review.
- Documenting and Disseminating Lessons Learned.
- Strategies for Preventing Future Project Failures.
- Transitioning the Project from Recovery Back to Normal Operations.

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:

At what point does a project recovery effort become more costly than controlled project termination, and what ethical considerations must a leader weigh in making that decision?

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

This course distinguishes itself by adopting a holistic and psychologically-informed approach to project recovery, moving beyond standard process-driven methodologies. While many courses focus solely on the technical aspects of re-planning and re-baselining, this program dedicates significant attention to the critical human elements that ultimately determine the success of any turnaround effort. We delve deeply into the complexities of crisis leadership, team psychology, and stakeholder politics, which are often the true root causes of project failure and the biggest hurdles to recovery. The curriculum is built around a series of immersive, real-world case studies, forcing participants to grapple with the same ambiguity and pressure faced by managers of troubled projects. Rather than just presenting tools, we guide participants through a structured decision-making framework, teaching them how to think critically and adapt their strategies to unique situations. The emphasis is on building resilient leaders who can not only create a technically sound recovery plan but can also inspire a demoralized team, rebuild stakeholder trust, and navigate the intricate web of organizational dynamics to achieve a successful outcome.