Advanced Program Management and Strategic Execution Training Course

21 - 25 Dec 2026

Boston

7500 € (Per Person)

Ref: #PRM5050_125592

Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive framework for mastering the intricate discipline of program management and its critical role in successful strategy execution. In today's dynamic business environment, simply managing projects is insufficient; organizations require leaders who can orchestrate multiple, interrelated projects to deliver strategic benefits and drive enterprise-wide change. This training moves beyond traditional project management to explore the five performance domains of program management: strategic alignment, benefits management, stakeholder engagement, governance, and program life cycle management. Drawing upon foundational concepts from thought leaders like Michael E. Porter on competitive strategy and the principles outlined in seminal works such as "The Standard for Program Management", this course bridges the gap between high-level strategic intent and tangible results. Participants will learn to navigate complexity, manage ambiguity, and lead with a strategic mindset. BIG BEN Training Center has designed this immersive experience to equip professionals with the advanced skills needed to manage complex programs, ensure alignment with organizational objectives, and ultimately deliver sustainable value and competitive advantage.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Program Managers and Directors.
- Senior Project Managers aspiring to a program management role.
- Portfolio Managers.
- PMO (Project Management Office) Leaders and Staff.
- Business Change Managers.
- Operations Managers and Directors involved in strategic initiatives.
- Consultants specializing in strategy and transformation.
- Executives and Senior Leaders responsible for strategy execution.

Target Sectors and Industries:

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

Target Organizations Departments:

- Project Management Office (PMO).
- Strategy and Corporate Planning.
- Operations Management.
- Information Technology (IT).
- Business Development and Growth.
- Product Development and R&D.
- Human Resources (for organizational change initiatives).
- Finance and a-dministration.

Course Offerings:

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

- Align program components with the organization's strategic objectives and vision.
- Develop and implement a robust program governance framework.
- Master advanced stakeholder identification, analysis, and engagement techniques.
- Establish and manage a comprehensive benefits realization plan.
- Effectively manage program finances, resources, and procurement.
- Lead and navigate complex organizational change associated with the program.
- Develop a cohesive program roadmap and integrated schedule.
- Implement proactive risk and issue management strategies at the program level.
- Monitor and control program performance using key metrics and reporting.
- Ensure a smooth transition of program outcomes to ongoing operations.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and engaging, ensuring that participants can immediately apply the concepts learned in their professional roles. We believe that adult learning is most effective when it is experiential and collaborative. Therefore, the course moves beyond traditional lectures to incorporate a rich blend of learning techniques. A significant portion of the training is dedicated to analyzing real-world case studies, allowing participants to dissect complex program challenges and successful strategies from various industries. Facilitated group discussions and workshops encourage peer-to-peer learning and the exchange of diverse perspectives. Participants will work in teams on practical exercises and simulations that mirror the challenges of managing large-scale programs, from developing a program charter to creating a benefits realization plan. Regular feedback sessions with the instructor provide personalized guidance and help reinforce key competencies. This hands-on, immersive approach ensures a deep understanding of both the art and science of strategic program management.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Strategic Program Management

- The distinction between projects, programs, and portfolios.
- The role of the Program Manager as a strategic leader.
- Introduction to The Standard for Program Management.
- Defining program success and key performance indicators (KPIs).
- Linking programs to organizational strategy and vision.
- Developing the Program Business Case and Charter.
- Conducting an initial program feasibility analysis.

Unit Two: Program Governance and Stakeholder Engagement

- Establishing an effective program governance framework.
- Defining roles and responsibilities for the program team and steering committee.
- Developing a comprehensive Program Management Plan.
- Advanced stakeholder analysis and mapping techniques.
- Crafting and executing a program-level communications plan.
- Managing stakeholder expectations and resolving conflicts.
- Reporting program status to executive leadership.

Unit three: Benefits Realization and Financial Management

- Identifying, defining, and categorizing program benefits.
- Developing the Benefits Realization Plan and Benefits Register.
- Techniques for measuring and tracking benefits throughout the program lifecycle.
- Program financial planning, budgeting, and cost control.
- Managing financial performance and forecasting.
- Ensuring the sustainability of benefits after program closure.
- Calculating program return on investment (ROI) and other financial metrics.

Unit Four: Managing Program Risks, Issues, and Changes

- Establishing a program-level risk management framework.
- Identifying, analyzing, and prioritizing program risks.
- Developing risk response strategies for threats and opportunities.
- Managing and escalating program-level issues effectively.
- Implementing an integrated change control process for the program.
- Assessing the impact of changes on scope, schedule, budget, and benefits.
- Leading organizational change management activities.

Unit Five: Program Execution, Control, and Closure

- Managing and integrating component projects within the program.
- Optimizing resource allocation across the program.
- Monitoring and controlling program performance against the baseline.
- Quality management and assurance at the program level.
- Transitioning program deliverables and capabilities to operations.
- Conducting formal program closure procedures.
- Capturing lessons learned and contributing to organizational process assets.

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 a program manager effectively balance the emergent nature of strategic goals with the structured control required for successful program execution?

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

This course distinguishes itself by providing a holistic and integrated perspective that directly links high-level corporate strategy with the granular mechanics of program execution. Unlike courses that focus solely on the technical processes of program management, this training emphasizes the program manager's role as a strategic business leader. We delve deep into the "why" behind the program the strategic intent and the realization of tangible business benefits not just the "how" of managing schedules and budgets. The curriculum is built around a practical, case-study-driven approach, using real-world scenarios to explore the complexities of stakeholder engagement, governance, and navigating organizational politics. It fosters critical thinking and strategic decision-making skills, preparing participants to manage ambiguity and lead transformative change. The focus is less on memorizing a specific methodology and more on developing a strategic mindset, enabling participants to adapt principles to their unique organizational context and drive programs that deliver lasting competitive advantage, not just completed projects.