Managing Mega-Projects and Complex Infrastructure Training Course

23 - 27 Nov 2026

Boston

7500 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

Mega-projects and complex infrastructure initiatives represent some of the most ambitious and challenging undertakings in the modern world, shaping economies and societies for generations. However, their sheer scale, long timelines, and intricate stakeholder networks make them notoriously difficult to manage, often leading to significant cost overruns and delays. This advanced training course is meticulously designed to equip participants with the strategic competencies and sophisticated tools required to navigate this high-stakes environment successfully. Drawing on the seminal work of experts like Bent Flyvbjerg, particularly his insights in "Megaprojects and Risk: An Anatomy of Ambition," this program moves beyond conventional project management. It delves into the critical domains of robust project governance frameworks, complex stakeholder management, and innovative project financing models. At BIG BEN Training Center, we provide a comprehensive curriculum that addresses the entire project lifecycle, from initial feasibility and front-end engineering design (FEED) to execution, control, and sustainable handover. Participants will gain a profound understanding of the political, economic, and social forces that influence these massive ventures, enabling them to lead with foresight, mitigate catastrophic risks, and deliver lasting value. This course is an essential investment for professionals committed to mastering the art and science of delivering mega-projects on time, within budget, and to specification.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Project Directors and Program Managers.
- Senior Project and Construction Managers.
- Government Officials and Public Sector Planners.
- Infrastructure Investment Analysts and Financiers.
- Engineering and Technical Leads.
- Heads of Project Management Offices (PMO).
- Contract and Commercial Managers.
- Senior Executives involved in capital project oversight.
- Urban and Regional Planners.
- Risk Management Professionals.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Construction and Heavy Engineering.
- Energy, Oil, and Gas.
- Transportation and Logistics (Rail, Aviation, Ports).
- Public Works and Utilities.
- Mining and Natural Resources.
- Telecommunications and Information Technology Infrastructure.
- Urban Development and Smart Cities.
- Governmental and Public Administration Bodies.
- Aerospace and Defense.
- Large-Scale Manufacturing.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Project Management Office (PMO).
- Engineering and Technical Services.
- Strategic Planning and Development.
- Finance and Investment.
- Operations Management.
- Procurement and Supply Chain Management.
- Legal and Contracts Administration.
- Government Relations and Public Affairs.
- Risk Management and Compliance.
- Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop robust project governance frameworks to ensure accountability and effective decision-making.
- Master advanced stakeholder analysis and engagement strategies for complex political and social environments.
- Implement sophisticated risk assessment and mitigation techniques tailored for large-scale projects.
- Analyze and structure complex project financing models, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).
- Apply front-end loading (FEL) principles to improve project definition and reduce lifecycle costs.
- Lead and manage large, cross-functional, and multicultural project teams effectively.
- Oversee complex contract management, procurement, and supply chain logistics.
- Integrate sustainability and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria into project planning.
- Utilize advanced project control systems for monitoring scope, schedule, and budget.
- Manage project closeout, commissioning, and handover processes for long-term operational success.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, interactive, and highly practical, moving beyond theoretical lectures to foster deep, applicable skills. This course on mega-projects utilizes a blended learning approach that combines expert-led instruction with collaborative problem-solving. A cornerstone of the program is the extensive use of real-world case studies, examining both landmark successes and notable failures in global infrastructure projects. Participants will dissect these cases in facilitated group discussions, applying course concepts to diagnose issues and formulate alternative strategies. Interactive workshops and simulation exercises will challenge attendees to make critical decisions related to project financing, risk response, and stakeholder negotiations in a controlled environment. Team-based activities are integrated throughout the five days to mirror the collaborative nature of mega-project management. Ample opportunity is provided for peer-to-peer learning and networking, allowing participants to share experiences and insights from their respective industries. Direct feedback from the instructor and a focus on developing actionable plans ensure that participants leave with tangible strategies they can implement immediately within their organizations.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: The Unique Landscape of Mega-Projects

- Defining mega-projects and their distinct characteristics.
- The global context and economic impact of infrastructure initiatives.
- Common causes of failure: The planning fallacy and optimism bias.
- Introduction to the work of Bent Flyvbjerg on mega-project paradoxes.
- Key differences between traditional and complex project management.
- The project lifecycle in a mega-project context.
- Understanding the political, economic, and social ecosystem.

Unit Two: Strategic Front-End Planning and Initiation

- The critical importance of Front-End Loading (FEL) and Front-End Engineering Design (FEED).
- Conducting comprehensive feasibility studies and business case development.
- Advanced stakeholder identification, mapping, and analysis.
- Developing a robust project charter and defining clear objectives.
- Scope definition and work breakdown structures for complex systems.
- Initial risk identification and establishing the project risk register.
- Securing social license to operate and managing community relations.

Unit Three: Project Governance, Finance, and Risk Management

- Designing effective project governance structures and decision-making frameworks.
- Roles and responsibilities of sponsors, steering committees, and PMOs.
- Exploring project financing models: Public, private, and hybrid approaches.
- In-depth analysis of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and their structures.
- Advanced quantitative and qualitative risk analysis techniques.
- Developing a comprehensive risk management and mitigation plan.
- Strategies for managing black swan events and systemic risks.

Unit Four: Execution, Procurement, and Controls

- Advanced project scheduling and critical path management for large-scale initiatives.
- Earned Value Management (EVM) and performance measurement baselines.
- Complex procurement strategies and global supply chain management.
- Contract management, claims avoidance, and dispute resolution.
- Quality assurance and quality control in large-scale construction and engineering.
- Leading and motivating large, diverse, and geographically dispersed teams.
- Communication strategies for maintaining alignment across thousands of stakeholders.

Unit Five: Technology, Sustainability, and Project Closeout

- The role of digital transformation: BIM, drones, and data analytics in project management.
- Integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria into project delivery.
- Managing project handover, commissioning, and transition to operations.
- Conducting post-project reviews and capturing lessons learned.
- Developing a knowledge management system for future projects.
- Long-term asset management and lifecycle cost considerations.
- The future of mega-projects: Smart cities and sustainable infrastructure.

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:

Considering the high failure rate of mega-projects globally, how can project leaders balance the 'iron triangle' of scope, time, and cost with the often-competing demands of political stakeholders and long-term societal value?

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

This course distinguishes itself by moving beyond the standard technical curriculum of project management to address the complex, often unpredictable, human and strategic dimensions that define mega-projects. While other programs may focus heavily on tools and processes, this training provides a deep dive into the nuanced arts of governance, political navigation, and stakeholder diplomacy, which are the true determinants of success in this arena. We integrate academic rigor, drawing from the critical research of thought leaders like Bent Flyvbjerg, to provide participants with a framework for understanding why mega-projects systematically fail and how to counteract these deep-seated biases. The curriculum is uniquely structured around a holistic project lifecycle perspective, emphasizing the critical importance of front-end planning and strategic financing structures like Public-Private Partnerships. Rather than just teaching theory, the course is built on a foundation of intensive case study analysis of real-world global projects, forcing participants to grapple with the same complex trade-offs and high-stakes decisions faced by senior leaders. This practical, simulation-based approach ensures that participants develop not just knowledge, but the critical judgment and strategic foresight required to lead these monumental undertakings successfully.