Strategic Project Portfolio Management and Governance Training Course

26 - 30 Oct 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #PRM8279_280714

Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive exploration of Strategic Project Portfolio Management (PPM) and Governance, essential disciplines for aligning project investments with organizational strategy and maximizing value delivery. In today's dynamic business environment, simply completing projects on time and within budget is insufficient; organizations must ensure they are investing in the right projects that drive strategic objectives. This training delves into the core principles of selecting, prioritizing, and managing a portfolio of projects to achieve optimal business outcomes. We will explore the foundational concepts articulated by thought leaders like Dr. Robert G. Cooper, whose work on portfolio management has shaped modern practices. The curriculum is designed to move beyond theoretical knowledge, offering practical frameworks for establishing robust governance structures, managing portfolio-level risks, and ensuring benefits realization. Participants at BIG BEN Training Center will learn to build and manage a balanced portfolio, make informed investment decisions, and implement effective monitoring and control mechanisms, referencing key principles from established standards such as "The Standard for Portfolio Management". This course is the definitive guide for professionals seeking to master the art and science of strategic portfolio management and drive sustainable organizational success.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Portfolio Managers.
- Program Managers.
- Project Management Office (PMO) Directors and Staff.
- Senior Project Managers.
- Product Managers.
- Business Analysts.
- IT Managers and Directors.
- Strategy and Planning Executives.
- Finance Managers involved in project funding.
- Operations Managers.
- Consultants in project and portfolio management.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Information Technology and Telecommunications.
- Banking and Financial Services.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Engineering and Construction.
- Manufacturing and Industrial.
- Energy and Utilities.
- Governmental agencies and public sector organizations.
- Consulting and Professional Services.
- Aerospace and Defense.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Project Management Office (PMO).
- Strategic Planning Department.
- Information Technology (IT).
- Research and Development (R&D).
- Finance and Accounting.
- Operations Management.
- Product Development.
- Marketing and Sales.
- Human Resources.
- Corporate Governance and Compliance.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop a robust project portfolio management framework aligned with corporate strategy.
- Implement effective project selection, prioritization, and balancing techniques.
- Establish a clear and effective portfolio governance structure with defined roles and responsibilities.
- Conduct comprehensive portfolio risk and opportunity assessments.
- Optimize resource allocation and capacity planning across the entire portfolio.
- Measure and report on portfolio performance using relevant KPIs and metrics.
- Master benefits realization management to ensure projects deliver their intended value.
- Facilitate strategic decision-making through insightful portfolio analysis and reporting.
- Integrate agile principles into portfolio management for enhanced flexibility and responsiveness.
- Lead change management initiatives for the successful adoption of PPM practices.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, interactive, and highly practical, ensuring participants can apply learned concepts directly to their professional roles. We move beyond traditional lectures to create a dynamic learning environment centered on experiential activities. The course heavily utilizes real-world case studies, allowing participants to analyze complex portfolio challenges and develop strategic solutions. Collaborative group workshops and team-based exercises will simulate portfolio review meetings and prioritization sessions, fostering critical thinking and decision-making skills. Interactive discussions and brainstorming sessions are integral, encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences among peers from diverse industries. Our expert instructors facilitate the learning process, providing continuous feedback and personalized guidance. Participants will engage in practical simulations of building a governance framework and developing a portfolio dashboard. This hands-on approach ensures a deep understanding of strategic PPM and governance, equipping attendees with the confidence and competence to implement these practices effectively within their organizations.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Strategic Portfolio Management

- Introduction to Project Portfolio Management (PPM).
- Distinguishing between project, program, and portfolio management.
- The strategic importance of PPM in achieving organizational goals.
- The PPM lifecycle and its key phases.
- Understanding the role of the Project Management Office (PMO) in PPM.
- Key terminology and foundational concepts in portfolio management.
- Introduction to portfolio governance principles.

Unit Two: Strategic Alignment and Portfolio Planning

- Linking portfolio management to corporate strategy and vision.
- Techniques for strategic goal decomposition.
- Developing and documenting the portfolio strategic plan.
- Methods for project identification and initial screening.
- Crafting effective business cases and project proposals.
- Project selection and prioritization criteria and models.
- Using scoring models and financial metrics (NPV, ROI, Payback).

Unit Three: Establishing the Portfolio Governance Framework

- Designing an effective portfolio governance structure.
- Defining roles and responsibilities (e.g., Portfolio Manager, Governance Board).
- Establishing clear decision-making processes and authority levels.
- Creating the portfolio charter and governance manual.
- The role of steering committees and executive sponsorship.
- Communication protocols within the governance framework.
- Ensuring compliance and ethical considerations in portfolio decisions.

Unit Four: Portfolio Execution, Monitoring, and Control

- Portfolio resource management and capacity planning.
- Techniques for optimizing resource allocation across projects.
- Identifying and managing portfolio-level risks and dependencies.
- Developing a portfolio risk response strategy.
- Defining key performance indicators (KPIs) for portfolio health.
- Designing and implementing portfolio dashboards and reports.
- Conducting effective portfolio review and status meetings.

Unit Five: Portfolio Optimization and Advanced Topics

- Techniques for portfolio balancing and optimization.
- Benefits realization management and value tracking.
- Introduction to Agile Portfolio Management concepts.
- Managing strategic change and stakeholder engagement.
- Assessing portfolio management maturity (PPM maturity models).
- Continuous improvement in portfolio processes.
- The future of PPM and emerging trends.

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 might an organization's culture impact the successful implementation of a PPM governance framework, and what steps can leaders take to foster a supportive environment?

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

This course distinguishes itself by adopting a holistic, strategy-first approach to portfolio management, moving beyond the mere mechanics of project selection to embed PPM as a core strategic capability. Unlike other programs that may focus narrowly on tools or methodologies, our curriculum emphasizes the critical link between corporate strategy and portfolio execution, ensuring every investment is justifiable and aligned with long-term business objectives. We place a significant emphasis on the design and implementation of robust governance frameworks, a crucial element often overlooked but essential for sustained success, accountability, and transparent decision-making. The course delves deeply into practical, real-world applications, using complex case studies that challenge participants to navigate the nuances of resource optimization, portfolio-level risk management, and benefits realization. Furthermore, the content integrates contemporary concepts like agile portfolio management, preparing participants for the complexities of modern, fast-paced environments. The focus is on cultivating strategic thinking and leadership skills, enabling attendees to not just manage a portfolio, but to steer their organization's strategic initiatives with confidence and foresight.