

Public Sector Project & Program Governance

Professional Training Course

Skillslab Training Provider

Skills for Tomorrow's World 



Course Description

Introduction

Public Sector Project & Program Governance is an executive-level training program designed to strengthen governance, accountability, strategic alignment, and decision-making across government projects and public sector programs. The course equips ministries, government entities, public authorities, and large organizations with the frameworks and practical tools required to govern complex initiatives, manage public resources responsibly, and deliver measurable outcomes aligned with national priorities.

Effective project and program governance is essential for translating government strategies into successful public services, infrastructure initiatives, digital transformation programs, policy reforms, and institutional development projects. Without clear governance structures, organizations may face fragmented decision-making, unclear accountability, cost overruns, delayed delivery, duplicated efforts, and limited realization of public value.

The executive value of this program lies in its ability to help leaders establish robust governance arrangements that connect strategic objectives with execution, oversight, risk management, benefits realization, and performance reporting. Participants will learn how to define governance roles, establish decision authorities, strengthen portfolio oversight, manage interdependencies, and ensure that projects and programs remain aligned with organizational mandates and stakeholder expectations.

Through practical exercises, public sector case studies, governance diagnostics, and real-world implementation tools, the course enables participants to build transparent, accountable, and results-oriented governance systems that enhance project success, institutional performance, and public value.

Course Objectives

This Public Sector Project & Program Governance training course aims to enable participants to:

- Understand the principles and structures of effective project and program governance.

- Distinguish between project management, program management, portfolio management, and governance oversight.
- Align government projects and programs with national strategies, institutional priorities, and policy objectives.
- Establish clear governance roles, responsibilities, decision rights, and accountability mechanisms.
- Design effective steering committees, governance boards, and executive oversight structures.
- Improve project selection, prioritization, authorization, and resource allocation.
- Strengthen risk, issue, change, and escalation governance.
- Develop transparent project reporting and executive performance dashboards.
- Improve benefits realization and public value measurement.
- Govern complex programs involving multiple entities, stakeholders, contractors, and delivery partners.
- Strengthen assurance, audit readiness, compliance, and independent review processes.
- Create practical governance frameworks that can be implemented across public sector organizations.

Course Content: 5-Day Training Outline

Day 1: Foundations of Public Sector Project and Program Governance

- Understanding governance in the context of government projects and programs.
- The strategic importance of governance in public sector delivery.
- Differences between projects, programs, portfolios, and operational activities.
- Distinguishing governance from management and administration.
- Core principles of accountability, transparency, integrity, control, and public value.
- Common causes of public sector project and program failure.
- Governance challenges in complex government environments.
- Aligning projects and programs with national vision, policy, and institutional strategy.
- Understanding governance maturity levels.
- Practical exercise: assessing current project governance strengths and weaknesses.

Day 2: Governance Structures, Roles, and Decision Authorities

- Designing effective project and program governance structures.
- Defining the responsibilities of sponsors, senior responsible leaders, program directors, project managers, and delivery teams.
- Establishing steering committees and executive governance boards.
- Clarifying decision rights and approval authorities.
- Developing responsibility and accountability frameworks.
- Defining escalation routes for risks, issues, delays, and budget variances.
- Managing governance across ministries, agencies, public authorities, and external partners.
- Establishing effective reporting relationships.
- Avoiding duplication, role conflict, and unclear ownership.
- Practical workshop: designing a governance structure for a major government program.

Day 3: Strategic Alignment, Portfolio Oversight, and Resource Governance

- Translating public sector strategy into project and program portfolios.
- Selecting and prioritizing initiatives based on strategic value.
- Developing business cases for government projects and programs.
- Evaluating feasibility, affordability, benefits, risks, and implementation readiness.
- Establishing project authorization and approval gates.
- Governing financial resources, budgets, procurement, and human capabilities.
- Managing competing priorities and limited public resources.
- Monitoring dependencies across projects and programs.
- Reviewing portfolio balance and strategic contribution.
- Terminating, pausing, or redirecting initiatives that no longer deliver sufficient value.
- Practical exercise: applying a project prioritization and governance scorecard.

Day 4: Risk, Assurance, Performance, and Benefits Governance

- Integrating enterprise risk management with project and program governance.
- Governing strategic, operational, financial, regulatory, and reputational risks.

- Establishing risk ownership and escalation thresholds.
- Managing issues, assumptions, dependencies, and constraints.
- Strengthening change control and scope governance.
- Developing executive dashboards and project performance reports.
- Selecting meaningful governance and delivery indicators.
- Establishing assurance reviews and independent project assessments.
- Coordinating internal audit, compliance, quality, and oversight functions.
- Governing benefits realization and measuring public value.
- Practical workshop: developing a governance dashboard and assurance plan.

Day 5: Governance Implementation, Stakeholder Accountability, and Continuous Improvement

- Governing stakeholder engagement and intergovernmental coordination.
- Managing contractors, consultants, suppliers, and delivery partners.
- Establishing communication protocols for senior leaders and decision-makers.
- Improving transparency and accountability in project reporting.
- Managing underperforming projects and recovery interventions.
- Conducting governance health checks and maturity assessments.
- Developing corrective action and improvement plans.
- Embedding lessons learned into future projects and programs.
- Strengthening governance culture across the organization.
- Creating a scalable public sector project governance framework.
- Final workshop: developing a Public Sector Project and Program Governance Action Plan.

Target Audience

This professional training program is designed for:

- Government leaders and senior executives.
- Ministers' office representatives and executive advisers.
- Directors and heads of government departments.

- Project sponsors and senior responsible leaders.
- Program and project directors.
- Portfolio management professionals.
- Project management office leaders and team members.
- Strategy, transformation, and performance management professionals.
- Public policy and government planning specialists.
- Risk, governance, compliance, and internal audit professionals.
- Finance, procurement, and contract management leaders.
- Infrastructure and capital project professionals.
- Digital transformation and public service modernization teams.
- Professionals responsible for government initiatives and cross-entity programs.
- Corporate executives managing complex strategic portfolios.

Course Requirements

Participants are encouraged to have:

- A general understanding of government strategy, projects, or program delivery.
- Experience in managing, sponsoring, supporting, or overseeing organizational initiatives.
- Basic knowledge of project planning, performance monitoring, or risk management.
- Awareness of their organization's governance and decision-making processes.
- Access to relevant project documents, governance frameworks, or strategic plans where possible.
- An interest in strengthening accountability, delivery performance, and public value.

Previous project or program governance experience is beneficial but not mandatory.

Training Methodology

The course uses an interactive, practical, and executive-focused training methodology that connects governance principles with real public sector challenges. The learning approach includes:

- Expert-led presentations and facilitated discussions.
- Government and public sector case studies.

- Governance maturity assessments.
- Project and program governance diagnostics.
- Group exercises and decision-making simulations.
- Governance structure design workshops.
- Risk and escalation scenario analysis.
- Portfolio prioritization exercises.
- Executive dashboard development.
- Benefits realization and public value exercises.
- Practical templates, governance charters, checklists, and reporting tools.
- Individual and group action planning.

This methodology ensures that participants can move beyond theoretical understanding and apply project and program governance practices directly within their organizations.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Explain the principles of effective public sector project and program governance.
- Design governance structures suited to complex government initiatives.
- Define clear roles, responsibilities, and decision authorities.
- Align projects and programs with strategic and policy priorities.
- Establish effective steering committees and executive oversight arrangements.
- Improve project selection, prioritization, and authorization.
- Strengthen governance of budgets, resources, procurement, and delivery partners.
- Manage risks, issues, changes, and escalations through structured governance processes.
- Develop meaningful executive reports and governance dashboards.
- Establish project assurance and independent review mechanisms.
- Measure benefits realization and public value.
- Govern cross-functional and multi-entity programs more effectively.
- Identify governance gaps and develop improvement actions.

- Build a sustainable governance culture that supports accountability and successful delivery.
- Improve the organization's ability to deliver strategic projects and programs on time, within budget, and with measurable impact.

Instructor Profile

The course is delivered by an internationally certified expert with extensive practical and consulting experience.

The instructor brings advanced expertise in public sector project governance, program management, portfolio oversight, strategic planning, institutional performance, risk management, benefits realization, public sector transformation, and executive decision-making.

Through practical frameworks, governance tools, real-world examples, and implementation-focused guidance, the instructor helps participants establish effective oversight structures, strengthen accountability, improve delivery performance, and ensure that government projects and programs generate sustainable public value.

Contact Us

For registration inquiries, upcoming dates, or group pricing, please contact us:

Website

www.skillslab-training.com

Email

info@skillslab-training.com

WhatsApp

+966 559 653 447

Generated by Skillslab Training

info@skillslab-training.com | WhatsApp: +966 559 653 447

www.skillslab-training.com