



PROJECT MANAGEMENT

# DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ACADEMY

NEXT GENERATION PARTNERSHIPS:  
SHAPING DEVELOPMENT ECOSYSTEMS FOR OUR COMMON GOOD

2026 EDITION

*Information Note*



International  
Labour  
Organization

# OVERVIEW

As we approach the end of one Decade of Action within the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, international development cooperation stands at a crossroads.

Old models of aid and assistance are being questioned and giving way to **new forms of partnerships**. These emphasize local leadership, knowledge networks, global coalitions to address shared challenges, public–private partnerships, and technology transfer

The *Development Cooperation Academy 2026* invites practitioners, policymakers, and visionaries to reflect on how cooperation must evolve to serve an increasingly interconnected and multipolar world. As the international cooperation landscape transforms, we are called to ask: who do we want to become? What is our best collective self, and how do we get there?

We seek to uphold our shared values within interdependent relationships, embrace shared responsibility in the spirit of multilateralism, and co-create a pathway toward our common good.

This year, the Academy will serve as a **Futures and Foresight Lab** for international development cooperation. Through its plenary sessions, participants will be exposed to recent experiments, novel ideas, methods, and alternative partnerships that will shape the way things are done in the next decade.

Together, we will explore how localized leadership, South-South and triangular cooperation, new forms of partnership, intergenerational partnerships for lasting social impact, and digitally driven collaboration can power the next generation of development cooperation programmes, projects, and practitioners. We will also reflect on how we can become more agile and adaptive, ensuring that we continue to uphold and deliver on our shared values.

Our vision will be reinforced through solid learning and skills development in the seven parallel workshops. The ITCILO campus in Turin offers an ideal location where to learn together, reflect together, enjoy Italian way of life, in a spirit of open minds and purposeful cooperation.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

More specifically, the 2026 Academy aims to:

- **Reimagine development cooperation paradigms:** How do we want to change? What can future cooperation models look like? What are certainties and which are our uncertainties and how will we navigate them? What in our experience has prepared us for what lies ahead?
- **What does it take to concretely change our cooperation modalities?** How can we shift from classical donor funded cooperation to a more multi-modal model? As old doors close, which new doors open? Which ones to choose?
- **Strengthen capacities** of each participant in order to lay a robust foundation for development cooperation, including design and management of initiatives, monitoring and evaluating them, analysing data, managing knowledge and measuring impact.
- **Expanding Your Global Network:** Strengthen your professional reach, forging lasting connections and collaborations with a diverse network of peers, setting the stage for future partnerships and learning opportunities.



## HOW DOES THE ACADEMY WORK?

Inspired by the success of the last three editions of the Development Cooperation Academy, ITCILO comes back with the Academy that blends conference and certification courses.

Participants choose one specific discipline for certification, which they study both online and in person during the Academy's duration. The programme features an on-campus event where each day includes a plenary session. This year, the Academy will culminate in a **Futures and Foresight Lab**.

Each day one topic will be proposed to collaboratively seek new ways of cooperation:

1. Reimagining Development Cooperation Paradigms: Making Chaos Creative
2. Narrowing the Digital Gap: Innovating systems and capabilities for the future: AI and digitalisation
3. Local Power and Networked Ecosystems of Change: South-South and Triangular Cooperation
4. New public-private-philanthropic and intergenerational ecosystems: models for social impact and financial viability
5. Foresight Laboratory: when it all comes together in a shared vision



# PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Phase	Focus	Dates
<b>Online Distance Learning</b>	Introduction to the eCampus modules of the chosen certification course and the Academy's Futures and Foresight component, complemented by live online sessions.	8 – 26 June 2026
<b>On-Campus Academy (Turin)</b>	Blending Development Cooperation conference sessions (25% of time) and certification courses in Development Cooperation management (75% of time).	29 June – 3 July 2026
<b>Post-Academy Phase</b>	Completion and presentation of final learning projects reflecting each participant's chosen certification course.	6 – 24 July 2026

## WHO PARTICIPATES?

The Academy welcomes:

- Development cooperation professionals from bilateral and multilateral organisations, as well as from international financial institutions (IFIs) and the United Nations (UN).
- Government and local authority officials engaged in partnership and development programme or project work.
- Representatives of civil society, social enterprises and the private sector.
- Academics, consultants, foresight practitioners and youth leaders interested in the future of development cooperation and innovation.





## WHAT TOPICS WILL YOU LEARN ABOUT?

### **BLENDED CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME IN ONE DISCIPLINE**

In addition to participating in the Futures and Foresight Labs, each participant selects **one certification track** leading to a *Certificate of Achievement* and contributing to the *Diploma for Development Cooperation Specialists*.

The seven disciplines offered in 2026 are:

#### **1. Programme and Project Design**

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Designing high-impact, fundable, and context-driven initiatives.

#### **2. Effective Project Management**

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Managing complex development projects with agility and purpose.

#### **3. Monitoring and Evaluation**

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Using evidence to assess performance and drive learning.

#### **4. Financial Management for Development Projects**

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Strengthening financial accountability and risk management.

#### **5. Impact Evaluation**

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Measuring and communicating long-term development impact.

#### **6. Data Analytics and Storytelling for Development**

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Leveraging data and digital ecosystems for cooperation.

#### **7. Suivi-Evaluation des programmes et projets**

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*Utiliser des données probantes pour évaluer les performances et stimuler l'apprentissage.*

# METHODOLOGY

The Academy applies a blended learning approach that combines:

- **Online learning:** Interactive eCampus modules and live webinars during the preparatory phase preceding the Academy.
- **On-campus immersion:** Daily plenary sessions each morning in the conference hall, followed by specialized training sessions and parallel networking events throughout the day.
- **Post-Academy phase:** Participants develop a project aligned with their selected track, applying the knowledge and skills acquired.

The methodology emphasizes a **learner-centred, competency-based, and experiential approach**, grounded in **applied work** to ensure meaningful and lasting learning outcomes.

# WORKING LANGUAGE

The working language of the Academy is English, and all tracks are available in English. The Monitoring and Evaluation / *Suivi et Évaluation* certification track is also offered in French.

# CERTIFICATION

Upon successful completion of the Academy, participants receive a **Certificate of Achievement** in their chosen discipline. This certificate shows that you have fulfilled all assignments, knowledge tests and other prerequisites to a minimum standard.

The complete effort amounts to 70 hours of learning. The certificate is a digital certificate which is protected by block-chain technology and can be displayed on social media.

The certifications form part of the **ITCILo Diploma for Development Cooperation Specialists**: [www.itcilo.org/diplomas/diploma-development-cooperation-specialist](http://www.itcilo.org/diplomas/diploma-development-cooperation-specialist)

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Dates:** 8 June – 24 July 2026

**On-campus phase:** 29 June – 3 July 2026

**Venue:** ITCILo Campus, Turin, Italy

**Tuition fee:** €1,975

**Subsistence:** €755 (full board accommodation)

**Total cost:** €2,730

**Application deadline:** 26 April 2026

**Contact:** [ppcm@itcilo.org](mailto:ppcm@itcilo.org)

## ANNEX – DISCIPLINE DESCRIPTIONS

# PROJECT DESIGN CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME



**ACTIVITY CODE A9719164**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Do you want to learn how to design and write successful projects? Are you interested in laying a solid basis for all skills pertinent to Project Cycle Management and Results Based Management? Are you ready to build skills the hard way but also learn how to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) as your support? Then, this is the right course: The Project Design Certification Programme will train you in writing project proposals for donor funding including through innovative funding sources. It equips you with a toolkit for analysis, design, planning, governance and monitoring of your project including AI tools. At the end of the course every participant has completed a full project proposal ready for submission to a funder. It will build your capacity to confidently use tools to analyse the context, propose convincing and sound strategies which are based on solid planning and use AI to help you implement your newly acquired skills. By sponsoring participants on this certification programme, and thus professionalizing and certifying their staff, organizations will strengthen their institutional capacity to translate their mission into real change on the ground for their beneficiaries. It will support them to withstand the challenges posed by an increasingly competitive space that calls for innovative approaches to make development a reality.

## WHO ATTENDS THIS COURSE?

This course is for aspiring proposal writers and fundraisers, and for those with practice but who want to consolidate their skill and equip themselves with a sound knowledge base. It is our foundational course that will provide you with the solid basis to continue to all other disciplines such as Monitoring and Evaluation, Project Management, Financial Management and so on. If you are a technical specialist, a project coordinator, a project manager or an assistant, if you work for an international organisation, government on central or local level, an NGOs, a philanthropic organisation - if you want to learn how to write good projects and acquire a solid basis in Results Based Management, then this course is for you.

## WHY A PROJECT DESIGN CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME?

This certification serves as a standalone that shows you possess the knowledge and skills to write a complete project proposal. The certification is also a good basis for any further specialisation that you may want to pursue in project and programme cycle management.

Organizations rely on their staff to develop and implement projects in their respective areas of specialization while they often lack this specific skill. The project management skill is a key competence that enables organisations to mobilise funding and act for change through well designed and managed project. This certification programme contributes to closing the skills gap in the development sector.

After all, a well-written project document is the first step in ensuring project success, and is the best entry point for fundraising and partnership building.

## WHAT WILL I BE ABLE TO DO?

- Identify project opportunities for an organization
- Use a set of tools and techniques to identify, design, plan, and budget projects
- Use Artificial Intelligence responsibly and effectively to enhance your project design and writing skills
- Develop a full project document and mobilize resources
- Identify potential partnerships for your project

## WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

The certification programme is organised in a blended modality. It includes a distance learning phase followed by a one-week workshop in Turin on the United Nations Campus under the umbrella of the 2026 Development Cooperation Academy. Once participants have completed the workshop, they will then work remotely with the assistance of an expert on a final project and receive their certification. The entire programme consists of approximately 70 hours of learning.

Moreover:

- Project design skills are essential for development professionals.
- Employers who sponsor participants will receive ready-to-use project documents.

- Participants receive a professional certificate attesting to their project design skills.
- The programme is designed and delivered by project management experts and practitioners.
- Participatory activities include self-guided modules, an online forum, practical assignments, coaching and tutoring.
- Participants receive permanent access to the Project Design Toolkit.

**LINK FOR APPLICATION:**

<https://www.itcilo.org/courses/project-design-certification-programme-1>

# EFFECTIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME



**ACTIVITY CODE A9719174**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Every project is an opportunity to create impact - but only if you know how to guide it with clarity, agility and vision. The ability to manage with confidence and flexibility, applying both traditional approaches and agile or adaptive methods, has become a key professional competence. This is even more true today, when resources are scarce, when we need to adjust rapidly to changing contexts, and when we must be ready to proactively address the challenges ahead. In this course, we take you through techniques that have stood the test of time - such as time scheduling with Gantt charts or leading your teams

- as well as more recent approaches like agile and Scrum management. You will also explore the evolving world of Artificial Intelligence: what it can offer, where its limits lie, and how to use it responsibly to support your work. Throughout the programme, we ask: what makes a project complex? What makes it simple? And how can we manage both effectively? For those needing to specialize in project management in changing and complex contexts, we offer this online certification programme to provide the knowledge, technical skills and tools required to enable agile, adaptive and effective project implementation.

## WHO ATTENDS THIS COURSE?

This course is designed for project managers, project implementation staff and chief technical advisers (CTAs), as well as professionals aspiring to these roles. We cater for projects funded by traditional donors, international financial institutions (IFIs) and innovative funding mechanisms with private or philanthropic funding for instance. Projects include those implemented through international organizations, governments or governmental agencies, and international or national NGOs. Participants are expected to be currently involved in the management or oversight of such projects, or to possess previous knowledge or work experience in project management.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- A body of knowledge on the theories and approaches used to manage projects, including in contexts of uncertainty and in complex social systems
- Parameters for deciding how to organise project management (agile, hybrid or predictive models) tailored to the context and its stakeholders
- Methodologies and approaches to plan, monitor, report and control project implementation
- Soft skills to engage the project team and manage stakeholders' expectations and contributions
- Communication strategies to foster cooperation among project actors, facilitate remote work, enhance project visibility and report on results
- Basics of AI and what it can responsibly offer to support your work as a project manager in a transparent and ethical manner

## WHAT TOPICS DOES THIS COURSE COVER?

- Establishing a common ground on the basics of Project Cycle Management
- Operational project planning
- Settings of complexity
- Agile and adaptive project management approaches and techniques
- Project governance structures, from traditional functional to remote models
- Stakeholder engagement, leadership, team management and communication
- Risk management, procurement management and financial management
- Monitoring, control and reporting, including remotely and with new technologies

- Artificial Intelligence: opportunities and limits — including those we should set for ourselves — and the tools and techniques that can help us work more efficiently and effectively

## WHAT WILL I BE ABLE TO DO?

- Review your own project's theory of change
- Assess the complexity of your project setting
- Map your stakeholder network and plan for communication
- Design a project governance structure that is fit for purpose and aligned with its institutional context
- Design an operational plan
- Try out and assess agile planning and monitoring techniques
- Assess and plan the management of your project's risks
- Plan the monitoring, reporting and control functions of your project
- Use AI tools to enhance the efficiency and quality of your planning and implementation processes

## WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

The certification programme is organised in a blended modality. It includes a distance learning phase followed by a one-week workshop in Turin on the United Nations Campus under the umbrella of the 2026 Development Cooperation Academy. Once participants have completed the workshop, they will then work remotely with the assistance of an expert on a final project and receive their certification. The entire programme consists of approximately 70 hours of learning.

### LINK FOR APPLICATION

<https://www.itcilo.org/courses/effective-project-management-certification-programme-1>

# MONITORING AND EVALUATION CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME (EN/FR)



**ACTIVITY CODE A9719176 – ENGLISH / ACTIVITY CODE A9719175 – FRENCH**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

An effective monitoring and evaluation system is essential for organizations, development practitioners and public sector managers to measure the success of programmes and projects and to report on results. Monitoring and evaluation systems enable continuous learning and performance improvement, making monitoring and evaluation functions vital for all organizations, programmes, and projects. The ITCILO offers a certification programme that provides all the necessary technical skills and tools needed to ensure effective monitoring of projects and programmes and to efficiently manage the range of evaluations that are part of the programme or project cycle. This programme will help participants gain expertise in building monitoring and evaluation systems and help their ability to deliver high quality projects and programmes.

## WHO ATTENDS THIS COURSE?

Monitoring and evaluation specialists; project coordinators; programme managers; independent evaluators; donor staff appraising and evaluating projects and programmes; non-governmental organization staff involved in monitoring and evaluation.

## WHAT TOPICS DOES THIS COURSE COVER?

Identify areas of improvement and brush up on your technical and managerial skills.

- Results Based Management
- Monitoring and evaluation system: purpose, scope and clients
- Monitoring, reporting and control

- Risk Management
- Evaluation of development programmes and projects
- Methods, tools and techniques for setting up monitoring and evaluation systems

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- Theories of and approaches to monitoring and evaluation
- The links between monitoring, reporting, control, audit, research, and evaluation
- The components of a successful monitoring and evaluation system, and how to set one up
- Methods, tools and techniques for operating a monitoring and evaluation system

## WHAT WILL I BE ABLE TO DO?

Work with your peers to hone your skills, and put them to use immediately.

- Engage stakeholders through leadership and soft skills
- Build an M&E plan
- Design empirical project evaluations
- Differentiate impact evaluation using quantitative and qualitative approaches
- Develop a communication plan to share findings, recommendations, and emerging practices

## WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

The certification programme is organised in a blended modality. It includes a distance learning phase followed by a one-week workshop in Turin on the United Nations Campus under the umbrella of the 2026 Development Cooperation Academy. Once participants have completed the workshop, they will then work remotely with the assistance of an expert on a final project and receive their certification. The entire programme consists of approximately 70 hours of learning.

- Employers who sponsor participants receive new or revised monitoring and evaluation plans for their organization as a result of the course.
- Successful participants receive a professional certificate attesting to their ability to effectively monitor and evaluate projects and programmes.
- The programme is designed and delivered by monitoring and evaluation experts and practitioners.
- Participatory activities include self-paced modules, webinars, an online forum, practical assignments, coaching and tutoring.

### LINK FOR APPLICATION – ENGLISH EDITION

<https://www.itcilo.org/courses/monitoring-and-evaluation-certification-programme-2>

### LINK FOR APPLICATION – FRENCH EDITION

<https://www.itcilo.org/courses/programme-de-certification-en-suivi-evaluation-mixte-new>

# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



**ACTIVITY CODE A9719178**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Financial management for development projects goes far beyond administrative tasks and compliance checks. It is closely tied to the results-based management (RBM) approach used by most donors, who expect a clear connection between planned results, activities, and the resources allocated to them. RBM strongly influences performance-based management by requiring teams to monitor how efficiently resources are used and whether implementation is progressing toward the intended results. As a result, project financial management must ensure that budgeting, reporting, and financial controls

directly support the project's results framework and comply with donor expectations for transparency, accountability, and value for money.

Sound project financial management provides:

- essential information to those who manage, implement, and oversee projects, including government bodies and financing institutions;
- assurance to recipient countries, lenders, and donors that resources are being used efficiently and for their intended purposes; and
- protection against fraud and corruption through robust controls that make it possible to detect unusual patterns or deviations at an early stage.

A strong financial management system also supports effective forecasting and reporting by linking financial decisions with planned results. This requires a clear view of expected outputs and outcomes, combined with precision and preparedness in day-to-day accounting and monitoring.

This course will also explore how emerging AI tools can support different aspects of financial management - from automating data collection to identifying irregularities, strengthening analysis, and improving the overall quality and timeliness of reporting - helping project teams work more efficiently and with greater confidence.

## WHO ATTENDS THIS COURSE?

Professionals involved in the financial aspects of development projects, including: financial officers, project finance assistants, accountants, disbursement specialists, project managers, and administrative staff supporting project operations.

## WHY A FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COURSE?

Effective financial management is vital for achieving the intended results of development projects. Reporting is central to donor compliance, and clear budgets, accurate financial data, and strong internal controls strengthen decision-making, ensure adherence to donor requirements, and safeguard project resources.

By attending this course, you will gain the practical skills to operate a complete project financial management system - from planning and budgeting to reporting, internal controls, and disbursements. With these competencies, you will be well-equipped to support your organization in delivering projects effectively and contributing directly to the achievement of defined results.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

By the end of the course, participants will be able to apply the principles and practices of project financial management in line with donor requirements and organizational standards. They will be equipped to contribute directly to effective planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and closure of development cooperation projects.

### **1. Apply Core Concepts and Standards of Project Financial Management**

- Integrate financial management into each phase of the project cycle.
- Understand how organizational structures and institutional arrangements influence financial procedures and responsibilities.
- Apply relevant international standards (IPSAS, IFRS, ISA, ISSAI) when managing and reporting on project finances.
- Engage constructively with stakeholders to support transparency, accountability, and coordinated financial decision-making.

## **2. Develop and Manage Project Budgets Aligned With Donor Requirements**

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- Prepare budgets linked to planned outputs, outcomes, and activities, ensuring alignment with donor rules and internal accounting systems.
- Interpret financing agreements to understand their implications for procurement, staffing, financial management, and reporting obligations.

## **3. Operate, Monitor, and Report on Project Financial Processes**

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- Navigate the financial systems of implementing agencies and donors and understand how they interact across the project cycle.
- Use digital tools and computerized systems to support accounting, analysis, and financial reporting.
- Apply AI-enabled tools to automate data processing, improve reporting accuracy, detect anomalies, and strengthen financial monitoring.
- Collect, process, and analyze financial data and prepare clear, accurate internal and donor financial reports.
- Manage budget revisions to ensure alignment with project plans, results frameworks, and donor requirements
- Execute payments and disbursement procedures in line with financial regulations and financing agreements.
- Support financial closure, including asset transfers, contract finalization, account closure, and preparation of complete audit documentation.
- Support the preparation and management of external audits.

## **4. Manage Fiduciary Responsibilities With Integrity and Professionalism**

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- Apply internal controls and audits and act on recommendations to reinforce financial integrity.
- Identify, monitor, and mitigate fiduciary risks throughout the project cycle.
- Apply ethical standards in financial management and know when and how to raise concerns related to irregularities, fraud, or corruption.
- Use structured problem-solving approaches and soft skills to address financial challenges, unexpected events, and operational obstacles.

# **WHAT WILL I BE ABLE TO DO?**

Participants will be able to competently design and operate project financial management systems and make corresponding payments/disbursements in accordance with sound professional standards and the harmonized requirements of donors and their respective governments.

Participants who successfully complete the training can expect to improve or enhance their knowledge and skills and be able to:

- Explain the principles, definitions and concepts of project financial management:
- Capture financial parameters in core project documents to the design the financial management system
- Customize the project financial system
- Operate the project financial system: budgeting, monitoring, controlling and reporting
- Close the project financially and coordinate auditors
- Identify ethical challenges and applying soft skills in managing project finances

## WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

The certification programme is organised in a blended modality. It includes a distance learning phase followed by a one-week workshop in Turin on the United Nations Campus under the umbrella of the 2026 Development Cooperation Academy. Once participants have completed the workshop, they will then work remotely with the assistance of an expert on a final project and receive their certification. The entire programme consists of approximately 70 hours of learning.

Moreover:

- Employers who sponsor participants benefit from strengthened financial management systems and procedures, improving efficiency, transparency, and accountability in their organizations.
- Successful participants receive a professional certificate, demonstrating their ability to manage project finances in compliance with international standards and donor requirements.
- The programme is designed and delivered by development practitioners and financial management experts with extensive experience in development cooperation, ensuring practical and applicable learning.
- Participatory activities include self-paced learning, webinars, case studies, and practical assignments, enabling participants to apply financial management principles in real-world development project contexts

### LINK FOR APPLICATION

<https://www.itcilo.org/courses/financial-management-development-professionals-1>

# IMPACT EVALUATION OF POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS



ACTIVITY CODE A9719177

## INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Are you ready to become an impact evaluation expert? This certification programme combines practical experience and collaborative learning to help you design, implement, and interpret effective impact evaluations. With a focus on rigour and practical skills, this course is perfect for anyone looking to upgrade their skills as development practitioners. In a global context of financial scarcity, misinformation and growing need for evidence-based decision-making, learning to evaluate impact has never been more important. This comprehensive course brings together evaluation experts and researchers, and development practitioners, in a collaborative and instructive learning space. Participants will gain valuable experience in impact evaluations and cost-benefit analysis, enabling smarter decision-making for organizations and policy makers. This programme is highly recommended for anyone interested in advancing their skills in impact evaluations and becoming a certified expert in the field.

## WHO ATTENDS THIS COURSE?

Monitoring and evaluation specialists; independent evaluators; researchers; project coordinators and programme managers; donor staff appraising and evaluating projects and programmes; policy-makers; non-governmental organization officials involved in monitoring and evaluating.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- A body of knowledge on theories and approaches used to conduct impact evaluations of public policies, development programmes, and projects
- Methodologies and approaches to design impact evaluation using both: qualitative and quantitative data based design
- Criteria to decide which is the most appropriate impact evaluation design
- How to develop a process to plan, operationalize, budget, and manage an impact evaluation.

## WHAT TOPICS DOES THIS COURSE COVER?

- General concepts and considerations for impact evaluation: the recurring dilemma of attribution versus contribution
- Quantitative and qualitative methods for impact evaluation
- Experimental and quasi-experimental designs for impact evaluation
- Methods of data collection, processing and analysis for impact evaluation
- Managing and using the impact evaluation for decision-making and developing new knowledge

## WHAT WILL I BE ABLE TO DO?

Work with your peers and expand your international network to access new resources, hone your skills and apply them immediately:

- Identify and engage relevant stakeholders throughout the impact evaluation process using technical and soft skills
- Select the most appropriate impact evaluation design to respond to the unique context of the intervention and to the prevailing constraints of data, time, money, and context.
- Design a customized impact evaluation scheme for the unique context of a development intervention of your choice.
- Build an operational plan to conduct the impact evaluation
- Collect, process, and analyses data to evaluate impact using quantitative and qualitative approaches
- Use impact evaluation results for informing decision-making and economic analyses.

## WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

The certification programme is organised in a blended modality. It includes a distance learning phase followed by a one-week workshop in Turin on the United Nations Campus under the umbrella of the 2026 Development Cooperation Academy. Once participants have completed the workshop, they will then work remotely with the assistance of an expert on a final project and receive their certification. The entire programme consists of approximately 70 hours of learning.

Moreover:

- Monitoring and evaluation skills are essential to professionals working in development.
- Data analysis and evaluation skills are essential to professionals working in the public and development sectors.
- Employers that sponsor participants obtain the possibility to create an impact evaluation scheme for one of their development interventions.
- Successful participants receive a professional certification attesting their capacity to effectively design and conduct impact evaluation.
- The programme was developed and is implemented by evaluation experts and practitioners, researchers and development cooperation managers.
- Participatory activities include self-guided modules, webinars, online forum, practical assignments, individualized feedback and tutoring.
- Participants keep access to the e-Campus course on impact evaluation, training material, and references.

#### **LINK FOR APPLICATION**

<https://www.itcilo.org/courses/impact-evaluation-certification-programme-0>

# **DATA ANALYTICS AND STORYTELLING FOR DEVELOPMENT**



**ACTIVITY CODE A9719179**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE**

Data is at the heart of today's development agenda. The rapid expansion of digital technologies, big data, and artificial intelligence is reshaping how organizations design, implement, and evaluate programmes and policies. Yet, data alone is not enough - the

true challenge lies in transforming complex information into knowledge, insights, and stories that inspire action. This course prepares development professionals to navigate this evolving landscape. It provides a future-oriented learning journey that combines data foundations, analytics methods, and visualization techniques with the art of data storytelling. Participants will gain hands-on experience in collecting and analysing qualitative and quantitative data, designing impactful dashboards, and using evidence to inform strategies, communicate with stakeholders, and create measurable impact. Tailored for programme and project managers, monitoring and evaluation officers, technical specialists, researchers, and professionals across the development sector, the course emphasizes practical application and future readiness. From understanding the development data ecosystem to exploring the role of big data and AI, learners will build the capacity to translate data into decisions, and decisions into sustainable change. By the end of the course, participants will not only master essential data skills but also develop the ability to tell the story behind the numbers - a critical competence for shaping policies, strengthening organizations, and advancing development in a fast-changing world.

## WHO ATTENDS THIS COURSE?

This course is designed for professionals engaged in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of development programmes and projects, including: - Programme and Project Managers - seeking to strengthen evidence-based planning and decision-making. - Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Specialists - looking to apply advanced analytics and visualization in reporting and adaptive management. - Knowledge and Data Officers - responsible for turning raw data into actionable insights and strategies. - Policy Analysts and Technical Specialists - involved in shaping development interventions using evidence. - Researchers and Academics - working on data-driven studies in social and economic development. - Private Sector and Social Enterprise Professionals - supporting development cooperation, CSR, or impact-driven projects.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- Understand the foundations of data in development contexts.
- Navigate the development data ecosystem and governance challenges.
- Apply quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis.
- Use data visualization and storytelling techniques for decision-making and advocacy.
- Explore the potential of big data and AI for development impact.
- Develop actionable outputs such as data management plans and project-level analytics strategies.

# WHAT TOPICS DOES THIS COURSE COVER?

This course introduces core concepts, methods, and tools that help development professionals use data more effectively in their daily work. Topics include:

## **Data, Information, and Evidence in Development**

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Understanding how data supports evidence-based decision-making in development programmes and projects.

## **The Development Data Ecosystem**

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An overview of common data sources, data types, quality considerations, ethics, and governance in development contexts.

## **Data Collection and Management**

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Practical approaches to collecting and organizing qualitative and quantitative data, including surveys, interviews, and administrative data.

## **Introduction to Data Analytics for Development**

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Applying basic analytical approaches to explore data, identify patterns, and support programme monitoring and evaluation.

## **Qualitative and Quantitative Data Analysis**

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Understanding how qualitative and quantitative methods can be used separately and together to generate meaningful insights.

## **Data Visualization and Storytelling**

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Learning how to present data clearly using visualizations and simple narratives tailored to different audiences.

## **Big Data and New Data Sources: An Introduction**

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Exploring emerging data sources and their potential use in development, including opportunities and limitations.

## **Looking Ahead: AI and the Future of Data in Development**

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An introductory look at how artificial intelligence and advanced analytics are influencing development practice, with attention to responsible use.

## WHAT WILL I BE ABLE TO DO?

Participants who successfully complete the course will be able to:

- Better understand how data is used across the development project and programme lifecycle.
- Assess basic data needs and data gaps in their own projects or organizations.
- Design a simple data management and analysis plan for a programme or project.
- Apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques to real-world development data.
- Create clear and effective data visualizations to support reporting and communication.
- Use basic data storytelling techniques to explain findings to colleagues and stakeholders.
- Identify potential opportunities to use new data sources and AI-enabled tools, with a realistic understanding of their benefits and limitations.

## WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

This certification programme is delivered in a blended learning format, combining distance learning with an in-person learning experience. It includes an online phase followed by a one-week workshop in Turin at the United Nations Campus, as part of the 2026 Development Cooperation Academy. After the workshop, participants complete a final project with remote expert support before receiving their certification.

The programme represents approximately 70 hours of learning over seven weeks and is designed to be practical and manageable alongside professional commitments.

By joining this course, you will:

- Build practical and realistic data skills that you can apply immediately in your work.
- Improve your confidence in understanding, analysing, and communicating data.
- Learn how to use data more effectively for programme planning, monitoring, reporting, and learning.
- Become familiar with current tools and emerging trends in data analytics, including big data and AI, without requiring advanced technical expertise.
- Learn alongside a diverse, international group of professionals, creating opportunities for peer learning and professional networking.

### LINK FOR APPLICATION

<https://www.itcilo.org/courses/data-analytics-and-storytelling-development-0>

## **WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES**

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course: No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 100% of course price.

## **INFO**

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT**

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