INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Project management is about making a significant development change in a limited time, with limited resource. As a manager, you need a large toolbox to achieve these goals. Over the past decade, development cooperation practitioners have acknowledged and agreed that the classic “predictive” approach to project management has its limits. This is particularly true for institutional capacity development projects, awareness-raising projects and those implemented in fragile contexts. The context and actors can be unpredictable, making it essential to adopt an agile, tailor-made approach to project management. For those needing to specialize in project management, the ITCILO offers an online certification programme to enable them to acquire all the knowledge, technical skills and tools necessary to ensure effective, agile and adaptive project implementation, taking into account the complexity of the social systems in which such projects take place.

WHO ATTENDS THIS COURSE?

The course is for project directors, project implementation staff and chief technical advisors (CTAs) to projects funded by international financial institutions (IFIs) or implemented through international organizations; development practitioners working in programmes and projects. Candidates are expected to be currently involved in the management and oversight of such projects. Previous knowledge or work experience in project management is an asset.

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
WHAT WILL I LEARN?

• A body of knowledge on theories of and approaches used to manage projects in context of uncertainty and in complex social systems
• Parameters for deciding how to organise project management (agile, hybrid or predictive models) tailored to the project context and its stakeholders to ensure effective project management
• Methodologies and approaches to plan, monitor, report and control project implementation
• Soft skills to engage the project team and to manage stakeholders’ expectations and contributions
• Communication strategies to foster cooperation among project actors, to facilitate remote work, to enhance project visibility and to report on results

WHAT WILL I BE ABLE TO DO?

You will self-study and complete assignments to learn the following skills
• 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 fit for purpose and for its institutional context
• Design an operational plan
• Try out and assess agile planning and monitoring techniques
• Assessing and planning the management of your project’s risks
• Plan the monitoring, reporting and control functions of your project

HOW WILL I LEARN?

COURSE METHODOLOGY

The course has a blended format, which combines self-guided study with weekly webinars, exchange in a learner group and written assignments with coaching assistance. It is delivered through distance learning and deployed on the ITCILO e-campus. Every week you will study learning on-line material and write a practical written assignment based on your own project, for which you will receive written feedback and guidance from your assigned coach. You will form part of a learner group who use the e-campus for weekly collaborative exercises. The instructor and coach will guide you at any stage and deliver weekly webinars, which are optional and recorded for later viewing.

Expect to invest approximately eight to ten hours time per week for a total of at least 60 hours.
WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

The course deals with project management in a complete way, combining classical management approaches with the newest agile and adaptive methods. It connects you to peers in a truly global classroom with an audience from a wide range of public, private and non-profit backgrounds.

Do you know someone who’d love this course?  
Tell them about it!
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.