



IPSAS Adoption and First-Time Implementation Training Course

Ref: #AF9111



Course Introduction / Overview:

This comprehensive training course is designed to provide a complete guide to the adoption and first-time implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). As governments and public sector entities worldwide move towards greater transparency and accountability, the transition from cash-basis or modified-accrual accounting to the full accrual basis under IPSAS represents a significant financial reform. This course demystifies the complex process, offering a structured, practical approach to managing this critical transition. Drawing on insights from leading academics like Andreas Bergmann and foundational texts such as "Public Sector Accounting" by Rowan Jones and Maurice Pendlebury, the curriculum covers the entire implementation lifecycle. Participants will explore the conceptual framework of IPSAS, understand the detailed requirements of key standards, and learn how to plan and execute a successful adoption project. BIG BEN Training Center has developed this program to address the real-world challenges faced by public finance professionals, focusing on practical application, risk mitigation, and sustainable compliance to enhance public finance management and reporting quality.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:



- Finance Managers and Directors in the public sector.
- Accountants and finance professionals in government ministries and agencies.
- Internal and external auditors responsible for public sector entities.
- Public finance management consultants and advisors.
- Budgeting and treasury department staff.
- Policymakers and senior officials involved in public financial reform.
- Project managers leading IPSAS implementation projects.
- Financial controllers and reporting specialists.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- National and federal government ministries and departments.
- State, provincial, and local government bodies.
- State-owned enterprises and public corporations.
- International organizations such as the United Nations and its agencies.
- Public healthcare and educational institutions.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) receiving public funding.
- Regulatory and standard-setting bodies in the public sector.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Finance and Accounting Departments.
- Internal Audit and Compliance Departments.
- Treasury and Debt Management Offices.
- Budgeting and Financial Planning Departments.
- Strategic Planning and Performance Management Units.
- Information Technology departments supporting financial systems.
- Procurement and Asset Management Departments.

Course Offerings:



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

- Analyze the conceptual framework and objectives of IPSAS.
- Differentiate between cash-basis and accrual-basis IPSAS.
- Develop a detailed and practical roadmap for first-time IPSAS adoption.
- Apply the specific requirements of IPSAS 33, First-time Adoption of Accrual Basis IPSAS.
- Manage the key challenges associated with the transition to IPSAS.
- Interpret and apply core IPSAS standards related to assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses.
- Prepare IPSAS-compliant financial statements, including the statement of financial position and performance.
- Lead change management initiatives to ensure smooth organizational transition.
- Evaluate the impact of IPSAS adoption on budgeting and financial control systems.
- Establish procedures for sustained IPSAS compliance and future standard updates.

Course Methodology:



The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to foster a dynamic and engaging learning environment that prioritizes practical application and skill mastery. This course moves beyond theoretical lectures to immerse participants in the practical realities of IPSAS implementation. The program is built on a foundation of interactive sessions, expert-led presentations, and collaborative group discussions that encourage knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning. A significant portion of the training is dedicated to real-world case studies drawn from various public sector entities that have successfully navigated the transition to IPSAS. Participants will work through hands-on exercises and simulation activities that challenge them to develop an IPSAS implementation roadmap, prepare opening balances, and draft compliant financial statements. This experiential approach ensures that learners not only understand the standards but can also confidently apply them within their own organizations. Continuous feedback from the instructor and structured problem-solving sessions will equip participants with the critical thinking skills needed to overcome implementation hurdles and ensure long-term success.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of IPSAS and Public Sector Financial Reporting



- Introduction to public sector accounting reform.
- The role and structure of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB).
- The IPSAS conceptual framework for general purpose financial reporting.
- Comparison between IPSAS, IFRS, and national accounting standards.
- Benefits and challenges of adopting accrual-basis IPSAS.
- Overview of the complete set of IPSAS standards.
- Understanding the transition from cash basis to accrual basis accounting.

Unit Two: Planning the First-Time Adoption Project

- Introduction to IPSAS 33, First-time Adoption of Accrual Basis IPSAS.
- Developing a comprehensive IPSAS implementation roadmap and timeline.
- Establishing a project governance structure and defining roles.
- Conducting a gap analysis between current practices and IPSAS requirements.
- Managing data collection and system configuration requirements.
- Change management strategies for stakeholder engagement and training.
- Preparing the opening IPSAS statement of financial position.

Unit Three: Accounting for Public Sector Assets and Liabilities

- IPSAS 17, Property, Plant, and Equipment.
- IPSAS 31, Intangible Assets.
- IPSAS 12, Inventories.
- IPSAS 13, Leases.
- IPSAS 21, Impairment of Non-Cash-Generating Assets.
- IPSAS 26, Impairment of Cash-Generating Assets.
- IPSAS 19, Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

Unit Four: Reporting Revenue, Expenses, and Financial Performance



- IPSAS 9, Revenue from Exchange Transactions.
- IPSAS 23, Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions (Taxes and Transfers).
- IPSAS 1, Presentation of Financial Statements.
- IPSAS 2, Cash Flow Statements.
- IPSAS 24, Presentation of Budget Information in Financial Statements.
- IPSAS 3, Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors.
- Segment reporting and disclosure requirements.

Unit Five: Advanced Topics and Sustaining Compliance

- IPSAS 35, Consolidated Financial Statements.
- IPSAS 39, Employee Benefits.
- IPSAS 28, 29, 30, Financial Instruments.
- Addressing specific challenges in public sector accounting.
- Post-implementation review and continuous improvement.
- The future direction of IPSAS and upcoming standards.
- Integrating IPSAS with public finance management systems.

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 significant political and cultural shifts required, is the technical implementation of IPSAS the biggest challenge, or is it the organizational change management that truly determines success?

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

This course distinguishes itself by focusing intensely on the practical, step-by-step process of first-time IPSAS implementation rather than offering a purely theoretical overview of the standards. While many programs cover the "what" of IPSAS, our curriculum is meticulously structured to guide participants through the "how". We provide a comprehensive implementation roadmap, from initial gap analysis and project planning to preparing the opening financial statements and managing post-implementation challenges. The content is enriched with real-world case studies that illustrate both successes and pitfalls, offering invaluable lessons in risk mitigation and strategic execution. Furthermore, the course places a strong emphasis on the critical role of change management, recognizing that successful adoption is as much about people and processes as it is about accounting rules. Participants will leave not just with technical knowledge of the standards, but with a practical toolkit and the strategic insight needed to lead a complex financial reform project within their own public sector organization, ensuring a sustainable and compliant transition.