

The Effective Finance Professional

INTRODUCTION

- This Finance & Budgeting training course on The Effective Finance Professional will equip you with the practical knowledge and skills to meet the challenges of the changing landscape in the 21st century Finance function. This expert-led training course will focus on how, by streamlining key Finance processes and achieving operational excellence, time saved can be invested in advanced cost management, business analytics and enhanced planning, forecasting, and reporting techniques; techniques that can facilitate the development of Data-Driven Decision-Making (DDDM).
- The 21st century had already seen massive disruption to business processes and business models facilitated by rapid and significant developments in digital technology and data management. In world-class organisations the Finance function is applying these developments to streamline traditional processes and invest the time saved in improving the business support the Finance team provides to its key decision-makers. The ultimate goal in this process is to transform the Finance professional from a business analyst into a Strategic Finance Business Partner.

This training course will highlight:

- How is the digital revolution disrupting business and the Finance function?
- Strategies to streamline and build operational excellence in Finance processes
- The impact of Business Intelligence and Business Analytics on decision-making
- Leveraging “Big Data” to build high impact dashboards and reports
- Building advanced skills in planning, forecasting, and reporting
- The Finance professional's role as a Strategic Business Partner

OBJECTIVES

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

- Understand how businesses processes and business model are disrupted
- Improve and streamline key Finance processes to gain time savings
- Apply techniques to manage and reduce operating costs
- Use predictive data analytics to improve planning and forecasting
- Apply advanced Excel techniques to build business dashboards
- Develop the skills of a Strategic Finance Business Partner

TRAINING METHODOLOGY

- This Finance & Budgeting training course on The Effective Finance Professional will be structured as a highly participative workshop with formal seminars and interactive practical examples. Relevant case studies and recent research findings will facilitate a thorough understanding of each of the key topics.

ORGANISATIONAL IMPACT

- The organisation will gain tangible benefits from time savings and systems improvements through the streamlining of Finance processes. Further real benefits will accrue from improvements in advanced data-driven planning, forecasting, and reporting processes in the Finance function.

Specific organisational benefits will include the participants raised awareness of the potentially disruptive effect of digital developments on business models and the need for greater Finance function effectiveness, specifically in:

- Greater Finance function productivity through process excellence
- Improved data-driven business insights from enhanced analytics
- Support for strategic decision-making from improved cost analysis
- Greater support from high-quality financial reporting
- High-quality insights from data-driven tactical dashboards
- Development of Strategic Finance Business Partner skills

PERSONAL IMPACT

The participants will benefit directly from the development and enhancement of their professional financial skills in several key areas:

- Identifying areas of improvement for their finance processes
- Developments in Business Intelligence (BI)
- Using Excel for descriptive and predictive analytics
- Improved skills in planning, forecasting, and reporting
- Building the skills of a Strategic Finance Business Partner
- Practical steps in managing change in the finance function

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Managers facing the challenges for today's finance function whose focus is on improving key processes, applying digital techniques in Business Intelligence and transforming the finance team to keep up with the needs of the organisation.

This training course is a suitably wide range of professionals but will significantly benefit:

- Budgeting Managers
- Forecasting Managers
- Accounts Payables Team
- Customer Receivables Team
- Work-in-Progress Project Team
- Strategic Planning Team Managers
- Treasury and Investment Managers
- Cost and Management Accountants
- Financial Accounting Team Members
- Finance Professionals in all organisational functions

Course Outline

21st Century Digital Challenges

- The Opportunities and Threats of the Digital Century
- 21st Century Challenges for the Finance Function
- Understanding Business Models and their Disruption
- Building an Effective Performance Management Framework
- Defining Measures for Effective Strategic Management
- Key Capabilities for the Effective Finance Professional

Streamlining Finance Processes to Achieve Operational Excellence

- Operational Excellence as the Route to Transformation
- The Impact of Finance Processes on Business Performance
- Improving and Streamlining Key Finance Processes:
 - Receivables
 - Inventory
 - Payables
- Accelerating the "Customer to Cash" Cycle
- Improving Key Finance Processes: Period Close

Key Finance Capabilities: Cost Analysis and Management

- Understanding Cost Behaviour, Profit and Cash Generation
- Developments in Cost Analysis and Management
- Advanced Costing Methods – Kaizen and Target Costing
- Activity-Based Management and Decision-making
- Strategic Cost Reduction
- Value-Based Pricing Techniques

Key Finance Capabilities – Data Analysis, Forecasting, and Reporting

- Understanding Business Intelligence and Business Analytics
- Excel Techniques for Predictive Analytics and Forecasting
- Budgeting and Beyond
- Data Visualisation Techniques for Financial Reporting
- Designing and Using Scorecards and Dashboards
- Designing Effective Financial Reports
- Principles of Integrated Reporting (IR)

Transforming the Finance Function to Meet the Challenge

- Transforming the Finance Function for the Digital Age
- Applying Agile Management to the Finance Function
- The Finance Professional as a Strategic Business Partner
- Leading Transformational Change in Finance
- The Importance of Urgency
- Managing Change in the Finance Functions