



adaptive frameworks

Benefits of PRINCE2®

History

PRINCE stands for Projects In Controlled Environments. It is a project management method covering the organisation, management and control of projects. The Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA), now part of the UK Office of Government Commerce (OGC), first developed PRINCE in 1989. The intention was to produce a UK Government standard for IT project management.

Since its introduction, PRINCE has become widely used in both the public and private sectors. It is now the UK's de facto standard for project management and has spread to Europe and the rest of the world. There are more PRINCE2 trained professionals than in any other project management methodology. Although originally developed for the needs of IT projects, the latest version of the method, PRINCE2®, was designed to enhance the method towards a completely generic, best practice approach.

What is PRINCE2®?

PRINCE2® is a process-based approach to project management providing an easily tailored and scalable method for the management of all types of projects. Each process is defined with its key inputs and outputs together with the specific objectives to be achieved and activities to be carried out.

The method describes how a project is divided into manageable stages enabling efficient control of resources and regular progress monitoring. The various roles and responsibilities for managing a project are fully described and are adaptable to suit the project's size and complexity and the skills of the organisation. Project planning using PRINCE2® is product-based which means the project plans are focused on delivering results and are not simply about planning when the various activities on the project will be done.

Driving any PRINCE2® project is the business case, which describes the organisation's justification, commitment and rationale for the deliverables or outcome. The business case is reviewed regularly during the project so as to ensure the business objectives, which often change during the lifecycle of the project, are still being met.

Benefits

PRINCE2® provides organisations with a standard approach to the management of projects. The method embodies proven and established best practice. It is generic, non-proprietary and widely recognised.

As well as helping the managers and directors of a project, PRINCE2® also offers benefits to the organisation as a whole. These are achieved through the controllable use of resources and the ability to manage business and project risk more effectively.

PRINCE2® enables projects to have:

- a controlled and organised start, middle and end;
- appropriate reviews of progress against plan and against the Business Case;
- flexible decision points;
- automatic management control of any deviations from the plan;
- the involvement of management and stakeholders at the right time and place during the project;
- the necessary controls and breakpoints to work successfully within any required contractual framework;
- a common language across all the interested parties thereby ensuring effective communication channels between the project team, project management and the rest of the organisation.



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Isn't PRINCE2® designed solely for big, public sector projects?

No, PRINCE2® has been developed to meet the needs of all projects. It is flexible and scaleable, making it applicable to any size of project. It is also business focused, an attribute borne out by its hundreds of private sector users.

How is PRINCE2® implemented?

The single most common reason for failure of a PRINCE2® project is the absence or wavering of management commitment to the PRINCE2® approach. Thus, the most important prerequisite to implementing PRINCE2® is awareness and buy-in at the most senior level of the organisation. Once this has been achieved, project staff (from sponsors right through to team members) can be trained to a level of competence appropriate to their individual roles. This training also provides staff with the skills necessary to oversee the PRINCE2® implementation, though often these are augmented by use of external consultancy. This can inject in-depth knowledge not just of PRINCE2®, but of the ways in which both the method and the organisation's existing business processes can be married together to create an environment in which PRINCE2® can deliver maximum benefit.

What training is available?

Courses are available at three levels: Overview, Foundation and Practitioner. The Overview is aimed at managers new to formal project management methods, plus senior managers and executives considering the introduction of PRINCE2® into their organisations. The Foundation is typically for those who will be involved in projects, but not necessarily in a leading role, such as project support staff. The Practitioner level is for anyone requiring an in-depth understanding of PRINCE2®, particularly current or prospective project managers. Both the Foundation and Practitioner training lead to optional examinations that will provide successful delegates with an internationally recognised qualification.

Enquiries and Bookings

To enquire about our courses or make a booking please contact our Course Administrator:

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