



Municipal Public Policy-Making: International Experiences

25 – 29 October 2026
Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)



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Ref: 15930_338971 **Date:** 25 – 29 October 2026 **Location:** Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) **Fees:** 4900 Euro

Introduction:

Municipal public policy-making is critical in shaping cities' development, governance, and sustainability worldwide. This Municipal Public Policy-Making: International Experiences course explores frameworks for developing and implementing effective municipal policies, emphasizing the importance of stakeholder engagement and participatory decision-making processes.

The Municipal Public Policy-Making: International Experiences course highlights global best practices and benchmarks successful municipal policy designs from diverse regions. By examining international experiences, participants will gain valuable insights into how local governments can navigate complex challenges, engage communities, and implement policies that drive positive urban transformation. They will be equipped with the tools to adapt innovative solutions to their municipal contexts.

This Municipal Public Policy-Making: International Experiences training explores the process of public policy-making, with a focus on municipal public safety and municipal public relations. Participants will examine the definition, principles, and methodologies of public policy-making and address the challenges of public policy-making in diverse municipal contexts.

Through case studies and international experiences, the Municipal Public Policy-Making: International Experiences course highlights effective strategies in municipal policy-making and offers insights into what works and why. By understanding public policy and analyzing its complexities, attendees will gain practical tools to enhance the process within their local governments.

Targeted Groups:

- Local government officials and policymakers.
- Urban planners and city development professionals.
- Community leaders and civic organizations.
- Public policy researchers and analysts.
- International development professionals.
- Students and academics in public administration and urban studies.
- Consultants working in municipal governance and policy design.
- Non-governmental organizations NGOs focused on urban issues.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this Municipal Public Policy-Making: International Experiences course, the participants will be able to:

- Understand the key frameworks for developing and implementing municipal policies.
- Learn effective strategies for engaging stakeholders in the policymaking process.
- Explore participatory approaches to policymaking and community involvement.
- Analyze and apply global best practices in municipal policy design.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of municipal policies through case studies and benchmarks.
- Enhance skills in adapting international policy models to local urban contexts.
- Foster a deeper understanding of governance structures in municipal settings.
- Build capacity for collaboration across various levels of government and civil society.
- Develop the ability to assess the impact and sustainability of municipal policies.

Targeted Competencies:

By the end of this Municipal Public Policy-Making: International Experiences training, the participant's competencies will:

- Ability to design and implement effective municipal policies.
- Skills in stakeholder engagement and fostering participatory decision-making.
- Knowledge of global best practices in municipal policy design.
- Competence in evaluating and benchmarking policy outcomes.
- Understanding of urban governance frameworks and structures.
- Capacity to adapt international policy models to local contexts.
- Proficiency in managing multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- Analytical skills for assessing policy impact and sustainability.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Frameworks for Developing and Implementing Municipal Policies:

- Introduction to key policy-making frameworks in municipal governance.
- Understanding the policy cycle: formulation, implementation, and evaluation.
- The role of local governments in policy development and implementation.
- Analysis of policy tools for municipal planning and governance.
- Comparative models: centralized vs. decentralized approaches to municipal policy-making.
- Legal and regulatory frameworks that guide municipal policies.
- The role of political, economic, and social factors in shaping municipal policies.
- Case studies of successful policy frameworks from various global cities.
- Identifying challenges in policy implementation and strategies to overcome them.

Unit 2: Stakeholder Engagement in Municipal Policymaking:

- Importance of stakeholder analysis and mapping in policy development.
- Key stakeholders in municipal policymaking: citizens, businesses, and government agencies.
- Techniques for effective stakeholder consultation and participation.
- Methods for ensuring inclusivity and diversity in policymaking.
- Role of community-based organizations and civil society in policy advocacy.
- Ensuring transparency and accountability in stakeholder engagement.
- Surveys, focus groups, and public meetings are tools for gathering public input.
- Case studies of successful stakeholder engagement in different cities.
- Overcoming barriers to stakeholder participation, such as mistrust or apathy.

Unit 3: Participatory Policymaking and Community Involvement:

- Defining participatory policymaking and its principles.
- The importance of empowering citizens in the decision-making process.
- Strategies for co-designing policies with local communities.
- Mechanisms for citizen-led policy initiatives and grassroots movements.
- The role of digital tools and platforms in facilitating participatory policymaking.
- Examples of participatory budgeting and planning in municipal governments.
- Ensuring equity and fairness in participatory processes.
- Measuring the effectiveness of participatory policy interventions.
- Challenges and opportunities in sustaining participatory practices.

Unit 4: Benchmarking Global Best Practices in Municipal Policy Design:

- Introduction to benchmarking as a tool for policy improvement.
- Identifying global best practices in municipal policy design.
- Comparative analysis of successful municipal policies across different countries.
- Evaluating policy outcomes: performance indicators and measurement frameworks.
- Learning from the successes and failures of municipal policies globally.
- Key factors contributing to successful municipal policy design.
- Case studies of cities known for innovative and effective policies e.g., Copenhagen, Singapore.
- Strategies for adapting global best practices to local contexts.
- Identifying trends and innovations shaping future municipal policies.

Unit 5: Policy Evaluation, Monitoring, and Sustainability:

- Techniques for monitoring the implementation of municipal policies.
- Tools for assessing the effectiveness and impact of municipal policies.
- Understanding the role of data and research in policy evaluation.
- Developing feedback mechanisms to inform policy adjustments.
- Strategies for ensuring the long-term sustainability of municipal policies.
- Evaluating the social, economic, and environmental outcomes of policies.
- The role of public-private partnerships in sustaining policy initiatives.
- Risk assessment and management in municipal policy implementation.
- Learning from policy failures and making necessary corrections for improvement.