Information for Planning, Decision Making, and Control

Dubai - UAE: +971 4 450 5697
Istanbul - Türkiye: +90 539 599 1206
Amman - Jordan: +962 79 712 3347

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Introduction:

The Information for Planning, Decision Making, and Control course offers a comprehensive foundation for understanding how financial and non-financial information supports effective managerial decisions. It explores how organizations utilize data to forecast performance, allocate resources, and ensure operational control in dynamic environments. The course emphasizes structured analysis to enhance strategic choices, optimize processes, and strengthen internal controls. Participants learn how reliable information systems help leaders reduce uncertainty and evaluate alternatives. The curriculum provides a practical theoretical framework that supports planning cycles and performance measurement. By the end, learners acquire the analytical mindset required to navigate complex organizational challenges.

Targeted Groups:

This Information for Planning, Decision Making, and Control targets professionals seeking specialized knowledge and skills:

- Managers are seeking improved decision-making tools.
- Finance officers want better planning insights.
- Business analysts focus on organizational performance.
- Supervisors are responsible for operational control.
- Strategic planners are working on long-term initiatives.
- Administrators are involved in performance monitoring.
- Team leaders require structured reporting insights.
- Professionals transitioning into managerial roles.

Course Objectives:

Participants will achieve the following objectives by completing the Information for Planning, Decision Making, and Control course:

- Understand core information systems used in planning and performance control.
- Identify essential data needed for forecasting and decision analysis.
- Evaluate internal processes to support resource allocation.
- Apply structured techniques to compare business alternatives.
- Enhance decision quality using reliable performance metrics.
- Strengthen organizational planning through practical analytical tools.
- Develop systematic approaches to assess operational efficiency.
- Interpret financial and non-financial information for improved oversight.
- Use data insights to support long-term business strategies.
- Build confidence in presenting analytical findings to stakeholders.

Targeted Competencies:

Participants will gain the following competencies during the program:

- Analytical skills for interpreting complex business data.

- Decision-making competency using structured assessment methods.
- Ability to support planning processes with accurate information.
- Skills in evaluating control systems and performance measures.
- Capability to align information with strategic priorities.
- Confidence in assessing the financial implications of decisions.
- Competence in identifying operational improvement opportunities.
- Skills in presenting data-driven insights clearly.
- Ability to use information for managing organizational risks.

Studying Scenarios:

In this training, participants will develop their skills through the analysis of the following scenarios:

- Evaluating resource allocation in a dynamic business environment.
- Assessing cost behavior to support budgeting decisions.
- Analyzing performance gaps using financial indicators.
- Reviewing internal controls to enhance operational efficiency.
- Comparing strategic alternatives using relevant decision data.
- Examining forecasting errors and their impact on planning cycles.
- Interpreting variance reports for management oversight.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Foundations of Information for Planning:

- Understand the role of information in organizational planning.
- Identify different types of planning information.
- Analyze characteristics of high-quality decision information.
- Explore how information supports long-term planning processes.
- Examine the link between information accuracy and forecast reliability.
- Review familiar data sources used in strategic planning.
- Understand how information systems improve planning efficiency.
- Evaluate planning constraints caused by limited information.

Unit 2: Information for Decision Making:

- Learn how managers use information to compare alternatives.
- Differentiate between relevant and irrelevant decision information.
- Assess the impact of cost behavior on decisions.
- Apply structured decision models to organizational problems.
- Understand risk assessment and uncertainty in decision processes.
- Analyze short-term operational decisions using reliable data.
- Study long-term decisions with high strategic implications.
- Improve decision outcomes using data-driven evaluation.

Unit 3: Information for Control and Performance Measurement:

- Understand the purpose of control systems in organizations.
- Review essential performance indicators for oversight.
- Analyze variance reports to identify performance gaps.
- Explore control mechanisms in operational processes.
- Study the relationship between planning and control.

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- Use information to monitor departmental performance.
- Evaluate internal processes for efficiency and consistency.
- Understand how control systems support accountability.

Unit 4: Budgeting, Forecasting, and Resource Allocation:

- Learn how budgets function as planning and control tools.
- Understand forecasting methods and data requirements.
- Analyze resource allocation decisions using structured information.
- Identify factors that influence budget accuracy.
- Compare alternative forecasting approaches for better planning.
- Explore the role of information in budget control.
- Study common resource allocation challenges and solutions.
- Use analytics to improve budget performance.

Unit 5: Integrating Information for Strategic and Operational Success:

- Understand how organizations integrate information systems.
- Explore the role of information in long-term business strategies.
- Assess the impact of information flow on operational efficiency.
- Learn how integrated reporting supports decision structures.
- Examine tools for improving information coordination.
- Study best practices for maintaining data reliability.
- Evaluate organizational readiness for information-driven planning.
- Use integrated insights to enhance business performance.

Final Insights & Key Takeaways:

Effective planning and decision-making rely on high-quality information that supports strategic and operational needs. This course equips participants with the analytical tools required to interpret data, evaluate alternatives, and strengthen control systems across the organization.