Your Essential Guide to PRINCE2® Project Management

Build Successful Projects with this Structured yet Flexible Project Management Methodology

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Understanding PRINCE2

There are so many elements and stages to consider within any project.

As a project manager, you’ll need a methodology that supports your need to manage these elements, and guides you through each stage.

PRINCE2 makes a project ordered and structured. It sets out clearly defined roles, responsibilities, processes, and stages. It does this while remaining versatile and scalable - easy to apply to any industry or project.

This guide will take you through the origins, characteristics, and benefits of the PRINCE2 approach to project management.

It will also guide you on how you can become PRINCE2 certified this year.
Benefits & Characteristics of PRINCE2

**Business Justification**
PRINCE2 places a great emphasis on business justification. Each PRINCE2 project must have and maintain a strong business case for carrying it out. At every stage, you assess the value of the work you’re doing.

**Tailoring**
The ability to adapt and customise PRINCE2 to your project and work environment is one of the main reasons this project management approach is so widely utilised worldwide. It is applicable to projects of all sizes, in any sector.

**Project Deliverables**
This is a complimentary characteristic to “Business Justification”, as both look at the value of a project. This characteristic is focused on defining the project deliverables, and then determining how and when they will happen.

**Greater Control**
Control is a very important element of PRINCE2. Each factor in the PRINCE2 journey works towards gaining a higher level of control over the project, lowering risk and reducing mistakes.
Benefits & Characteristics of PRINCE2

**Consistency**
The clearly defined roles and responsibilities, common language and processes all contribute to consistent performance across a PRINCE2 project.

**Regular Review**
PRINCE2 projects are broken down into stages, facilitating regular reviews of progress, and enabling adjustment where needed.

**High Level of Stakeholder Engagement**
The regular reviews contribute to a high level of stakeholder engagement, as does the frequent communication dictated by the PRINCE2 framework.

**Continuous Learning for Continuous Improvement**
PRINCE2 teams have a culture of self-evaluation, regularly reviewing projects throughout and at closing stage. They learn from mistakes and successes, carrying that knowledge into the next project to continually improve performance.
Origins of PRINCE2

PRINCE2 originated in 1989 at the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA), now the Office of Government Commerce (OGC).

It was based on PROMPTII, an older project management system developed in 1975. The “II” in PROMPTII is the reason we have a “2” at the end of PRINCE2.

PROMPTII was adopted for use in all UK government projects in 1979, and when PRINCE2 was established in 1989, it took over as the primary project management methodology for UK government projects.

In 1996, PRINCE2 was published as a project management methodology. Since then, it has been widely adopted worldwide, in both the public and private sectors.
How Does PRINCE2 Work?

To understand PRINCE2, it’s essential to be familiar with its 3 cornerstones: 7 Principles, 7 Themes, and 7 Processes. These principles, themes, and processes drive the “why”, “what”, and “how” of every project managed by the PRINCE2 approach.

7 Principles

The principles are the “why” of the project. These are the starting points for any project. Unless a project ticks all of the 7 principles or requirements on the following page, it’s not a PRINCE2 project.

7 Themes

The 7 themes focus on the “what” of a PRINCE2 project - “what must we do to run a successful PRINCE2 project?”. They are guiding lights as you work through the project, keeping you purpose-aligned at all times.

7 Processes

The 7 Processes are perhaps the most crucial element of the framework, as they are the “how” of any PRINCE2 project. The Processes outline what should be done, and when.
The 7 Principles of PRINCE2

1. **Continued business justification:**
   Is there a valid business purpose for running this project? Unless the answer is ‘yes’, it’s not a justified PRINCE2 project.

2. **Defined roles and responsibilities:**
   Does the project team have a clearly defined structure, with each member aware of their areas of responsibility?

3. **Learn from experience:**
   Is the project team learning from previous project successes and failures? Are they applying this learning to ongoing work?

4. **Focus on products:**
   Is the project keenly focused on the product, including both the quality and delivery requirements?

5. **Manage by stages:**
   Will this project be broken down into manageable stages to enable continuous monitoring and review?

6. **Manage by exception:**
   Are the project team members given enough scope to work effectively within the project?

7. **Tailor to the project environment:**
   Has consideration been given to the unique requirements of the project and its business environment?
The 7 Themes of PRINCE2

1 Business Case:
   You will need to create and maintain a detailed business case for the project.

2 Organisation:
   You must clearly define the roles and responsibilities within your PRINCE2 project team.

3 Quality:
   Determine the quality requirements of your product or project, and set out your path to achieving them.

4 Plans:
   Plan your project and decide what PRINCE2 techniques you will use to achieve success in your plans.

5 Risk:
   Risk management is a crucial step in any project plan. You must work to identify any potential risks within your project, and implement a contingency plan for avoiding or managing these risks.

6 Change:
   Projects are ever-increasingly subject to change. Devising a strategy for responding to change is now just as important as your risk management strategy.

7 Progress:
   This is closely linked to Business Case and Plans. You will need to continually refer to and review your plans, ensuring that the project is progressing well and remains a valid business project.
The 7 Processes of PRINCE2

The 7 Processes drive a project from start to finish. Once you look at the Principles and Themes, you’ll use the Processes to travel through the project and navigate each stage with ease.

The 7 Processes are:

1. Starting up a Project (SU)
2. Initiating (IP)
3. Directing (DP)
4. Controlling a Stage (CS)
5. Managing a Stage Boundary (SB)
6. Managing Product Delivery (MP)
7. Closing a Project (CP)
Good to Know...

**AXELOS Official Textbook**

Our course is based on the official textbook, “Managing Successful Projects with PRINCE2 publication, Sixth Edition, AXELOS Limited, Copyright 2017”- an essential tool for PRINCE2 implementation and understanding.

**Certification**

We also incorporate both Foundation and Practitioner certification in our 5-day course. Exam and Certification costs are included in your course fees.

**Solo Certifications**

If you are only seeking either Foundation or Practitioner certification, we have flexible options, focused on single certification achievement.

**No Experience Required**

It is certainly helpful to have some experience within a project management environment or role before beginning the PRINCE2 training and certification process.

However, experience is not an eligibility requirement, and many who are completely new to project management have had success achieving PRINCE2 certifications.

**Learn More...**

Click below to visit our PRINCE2 Foundation & Practitioner course webpage for full details.
Quick Facts About our PRINCE2 Courses

- **Duration:** 5 days
- **Format:** Online (live virtual)
- **Experience Needed:** No experience needed.
- **Credential:** PRINCE2 Foundation and Practitioner

**What You’ll Gain**

- **Two Certifications:** Achieve both PRINCE2 Foundation and PRINCE2 Practitioner Certifications.
- **PRINCE2 Experts:** Our PRINCE2 certified trainers have plenty of experience delivering this course successfully.
- **Inclusive:** Our PRINCE2 course price includes training, exams, and certification.

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**Achieve PRINCE2 Knowledge & Certification**

Our PRINCE2 Foundation & Practitioner Course is intensive exam preparation that will prepare you to sit both the Foundation and Practitioner exams.

Our goal is that you will understand the processes, roles, principles, and themes of the PRINCE2 framework, and feel confident that you can pass your exams first time.

You can also opt to attend [PRINCE2 Foundation](#) and [PRINCE2 Practitioner](#) as standalone courses.

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**Download our PDF PRINCE2 Course Brochure Instantly**

For a full course outline, and steps to get started, download our PDF PRINCE2 Course brochure by using the button below.

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**Visit Webpage**

**Reserve a Place**
We also offer PRINCE2 as an in-company (also called “in-house”) programme, where we deliver the training exclusively to your team via live virtual training or at your premises.

Here are some of the benefits you’ll gain by choosing an in-company style of training delivery:

**Flexibility**

In-company training gives you the ability to schedule training at a time that works best for your schedule. It removes the inconvenience of having to take someone out of their role for training at a busy time.

**Savings**

When you have a number of potential candidates for training, in-company can work out as extremely cost-effective.

**Convenience**

We will come to your premises, or deliver training to your team online. This minimises disruption and eliminates travel costs for your team.

**Customisation**

Although the PRINCE2 course syllabus must always be adhered to, we can always take your business and any challenges you are facing into account when delivering the course. We will make the training delivery relevant to your team.
3 Ways to Get Started

Talk to Us
You can reach us by phone on Freephone 1800 910 810, or 01 861 0700 (mon - thurs, 9.00am - 5.30pm, fri, 9.00am - 5.00pm).
We will be happy to answer any questions you have, advise on the best option for your PRINCE2 training, or book a place for you on an upcoming course date.

Reserve A Place
To Reserve a Place, click the button below.
You can view and select upcoming dates to provisionally reserve a place on an upcoming PRINCE2 Foundation & Practitioner Exam Preparation Course.

Ask Us A Question Online
If you’d prefer to contact us online, request a phonecall, or to get in touch outside of office hours, using the “Ask A Quick Question” button below is the best option.
We’ll respond with the information you need.
About Us

Professional Development - 30+ Years of Innovation and Excellence

We believe that the key to a thriving and rewarding career is continuous professional development.

For over 30 years, Professional Development has led the way in providing practical, innovative courses leading to relevant and respected certifications.

We specialise in delivering training for core business skills including project management, agile, scrum, lean six sigma, management, communications, sales, and training design and delivery skills.

Our courses are designed to expand your skills, & enhance your career potential

Our Courses

Our courses are a balanced blend of both theoretical learning and practical application. This focused learning environment optimises the impact of training.

Our Team

Our trainers are chosen for their engaging manner and expertise in a chosen field. They bring a wealth of experience to each programme they deliver.

Our Clients

We provide training for Ireland’s leading brands, working with companies of all sizes in every industry. We also provide training for non-corporate organisations.

Our Certifications

In many sectors, international certification is now essential. We provide many options for globally recognised certification in each subject area.
Contact Us

Head Office
Suite 11, Plaza 256,
Blanchardstown Corporate Park 2,
Ballycoolin, Dublin 15, D15 T934

Freephone  1800 910 810
Dublin   01 861 0700

ask-us@professionaldevelopment.ie

www.professionaldevelopment.ie