Community Development & Leadership: Empowering Change Makers

21 – 25 June 2027
Lisbon (Portugal)

UK Trainig
PARTNER



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Why This Course

Strong communities are built through informed leadership, meaningful participation, trusted partnerships, and practical action. Community development leaders play an important role in identifying local needs, mobilizing resources, engaging stakeholders, and guiding initiatives that create lasting social value.

Effective community development requires more than goodwill. It depends on understanding community realities, listening to diverse voices, using local assets wisely, building collaboration, and turning ideas into sustainable projects. Leaders must be able to assess needs, develop shared goals, communicate clearly, manage conflict, and evaluate progress in a way that supports long-term impact.

This intensive 1-week course equips participants with the knowledge, tools, and practical skills needed to become effective community development leaders. Through interactive learning, real-world examples, group activities, and applied planning exercises, participants will learn how to assess community needs, build partnerships, create action plans, and lead sustainable initiatives that drive positive change.

What You'll Learn and Practice

By joining this program, you will:

- Understand the principles, values, and practices of community development.
- Explore current trends and approaches in community-led development.
- Apply asset-based community development methods.
- Conduct community needs assessments using practical tools.
- Collect, analyze, and use data to support community planning.
- Map stakeholders, partners, resources, and local assets.
- Develop a shared community vision, goals, and priorities.
- Build partnerships and mobilize resources effectively.
- Strengthen leadership, communication, negotiation, and facilitation skills.
- Design, implement, monitor, and evaluate community projects.
- Develop strategies to support project sustainability and long-term impact.



The Program Flow

Day 1: Foundations of Community Development

- Introduction to community development concepts and principles.
- Understanding the historical context and current trends in community development.
- Community participation, empowerment, inclusion, and sustainability.
- Asset-based community development approach.
- The role of leadership in mobilizing people and creating change.
- Understanding community strengths, challenges, and opportunities.
- Practical reflection: Identifying leadership roles in community transformation.

Day 2: Community Assessment and Planning

- Methods for conducting community needs assessments.
- Data collection tools: interviews, surveys, focus groups, observation, and community mapping.
- Analyzing community data and identifying priority issues.
- Stakeholder mapping and engagement strategies.
- Developing a community vision and shared goals.
- Aligning community priorities with practical action.
- Workshop: Creating a community assessment report framework.

Day 3: Partnership Building and Resource Mobilization

- Identifying and engaging community partners.
- Building trust and collaboration among diverse stakeholders.
- Strategies for effective partnership development.
- Resource mapping and leveraging local assets.
- Mobilizing volunteers, institutions, funding, and community support.
- Fundraising and grant writing basics.
- Practical exercise: Developing a partnership and resource mobilization map.

Day 4: Leadership and Communication Skills

- Effective leadership styles for community development.
- Building credibility, trust, and participation.
- Conflict resolution and negotiation techniques.
- Public speaking and presentation skills for community leaders.
- Facilitating community meetings, workshops, and dialogue sessions.
- Communicating with diverse groups and managing different expectations.
- Role play: Facilitating a community meeting and handling challenging discussions.



Day 5: Project Implementation and Evaluation

- Developing action plans, timelines, and responsibility structures.
- Project management fundamentals for community initiatives.
- Monitoring progress and managing implementation challenges.
- Evaluation techniques for community development projects.
- Measuring outcomes, participation, and social impact.
- Ensuring project sustainability beyond initial implementation.
- Final activity: Designing and presenting a community project proposal.

Individual Impact

- Strengthen your confidence as a community development leader.
- Improve your ability to assess community needs and identify local priorities.
- Build practical skills in planning, facilitation, communication, and negotiation.
- Enhance your ability to build partnerships and mobilize resources.
- Gain tools for designing, implementing, and evaluating community projects.
- Develop a clear action plan for leading positive change in your community.

Work Impact

- Improve the quality and relevance of community initiatives.
- Strengthen stakeholder engagement, participation, and trust.
- Support better use of local assets and available resources.
- Improve collaboration between community groups, institutions, and partners.
- Enhance project planning, implementation, and sustainability.
- Increase the long-term social impact of community development efforts.

Training Methodology

This program uses a participatory and practice-focused approach to help participants apply community development tools in real contexts. Learning methods include:

- Interactive discussions and guided facilitation.
- Community development case studies.
- Needs assessment and community mapping exercises.
- Stakeholder and resource mapping workshops.
- Partnership-building and communication activities.
- Facilitation, negotiation, and conflict resolution role plays.
- Project planning, proposal design, and presentation practice.
- Peer feedback, group work, and practical action planning.



Beyond the Course

Upon completion, participants will be prepared to lead community development initiatives with structure, confidence, and purpose. They will return ready to:

- Create a comprehensive community assessment report.
- Develop a strategic action plan for a local initiative.
- Build a network of community partners and resources.
- Design and present a practical community project proposal.
- Facilitate community participation and dialogue.
- Lead sustainable initiatives that support meaningful and positive community change.

