IPMA level A programme management

With an IPMA level A certificate you demonstrate that you are an experienced project manager and that you managed a wealth of very complex programmes. If you have a minimum of five years’ worth of experience as a manager of complex programmes, then opting for the IPMA level A course is certainly a good choice, as it means you will be right up there with the world’s most experienced programme managers.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for IPMA level A certification, you must demonstrate adequate experience with sufficiently complex programmes. Below are the minimum experience requirements, which refer to all projects that count for IPMA level A or B.

To be eligible for IPMA level A program, you must demonstrate sufficient experience with sufficiently complex programs. Below are the minimum experience requirements, which refer to the total of all programmes that count for that level.

*In the last 12 years:*  
*At least 5 years (60*non-overlapping *months) of experience as programme manager in a responsible leadership role in very complex programmes at strategic level (complexity ≥32)*

*OR*

*At least 4 years (48 non-overlapping months) of experience as programme manager in a responsible leadership role in very complex programmes at strategic level (complexity ≥32)*

*AND*

*a minimum of 3 years (36 non-overlapping months) experience as project manager in a project manager*  
*Responsible leadership role in very complex projects at strategic level (complexity ≥32)*

You describe as many programmes as needed in order to demonstrate that you meet this experience requirement. There is room to describe 3 programmes. But if, for example, you only need 2 projects to meet this experience requirement, you may leave the rest empty.

You may not be able to demonstrate sufficient months of experience in the last 6 (level C) or 8 (level B) years, for example because you temporarily held a different position. However, you can compensate by demonstrating that have gained sufficient experience in the period prior that.  
In such cases, it may be possible to count experience from 9 to 12 years ago in order to meet the experience requirements.

Programme indicators

An indication of the expected minimum size of a ‘typical’ level A programme is given below. However, these are not minimum requirements: the figures are indicative and their interpretation varies from sector to sector.

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| **Indicative criteria of complexity** | **IPMA level A** |
| Period you were the designated programme manager | ≥ 24 months |
| Scheduled programme lead time | ≥ 24 months |
| Actual lead time | ≥ 24 months |
| Number of people directed | ≥ 12 |
| Number of people indirect managed | ≥ 60 |
| Number of hours of the people you directed | ≥ 40.000 |
| Number of hours spent on the project as a project manager | ≥ 2.400 |
| Number of stakeholders | ≥ 16 of which min. 6 at board level |

A detailed description of the admission requirements and complexity can be found in the Explanatory Note and Instructions. The templates, instruction and sample papers are available on [request](mailto:info@ipmacertificeren.nl).