GIS Leadership & Geo-AI Strategy for Smart Infrastructure Training Course

1 – 5 February 2027
Addis Ababa

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Ref: 103600394_225212 **Date:** 1 – 5 February 2027 **Location:** Addis Ababa **Fees:** 4500 Euro

Course Overview:

The course equips professionals with the skills and strategies required to lead geospatial initiatives in complex urban and infrastructure contexts. Based on the frameworks in "Strategic GIS Planning and Management in Local Government" by David Holdstock, "Managing GIS Volume 3", and "Smart Citizens", this course focuses on integrating enterprise GIS implementation, GIS governance frameworks, and geo-AI integration in infrastructure.

Target Audience:

- GIS managers and directors
- Chief data officers
- Smart city planners
- Urban and regional planning managers
- Public sector innovation leaders
- Infrastructure program managers
- ICT and e-government consultants

Targeted Organizational Departments:

- Urban planning and development
- Smart city governance
- Public works and transportation
- Environmental management
- IT and digital transformation offices
- Utilities and infrastructure systems

Targeted Industries:

- Government and municipalities
- Smart cities and infrastructure
- Energy and utilities
- Environmental and sustainability agencies
- Construction and civil engineering
- Transport and logistics

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Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Design and lead GIS leadership development initiatives
- Build strategic GIS planning processes across departments
- Implement enterprise GIS implementation strategies at scale
- Integrate geo-AI in urban infrastructure use cases
- Use GIS governance frameworks for smart city transformation
- Apply spatial data science applications in predictive analytics with GIS
- Manage scalable GIS architecture for infrastructure systems
- Engage stakeholders through GIS dashboards for decision-makers and open platforms

Training Methodology:

The course uses a mix of case studies, real-world project simulations, interactive workshops, and facilitated group discussions. Key methodologies include role-based scenario planning, stakeholder alignment mapping, and interagency GIS collaboration activities. Participants will work through public sector GIS innovation models, review municipal GIS strategy case studies, and develop their own GIS decision-making processes and GIS for smart city governance plans. Practical labs use tools aligned with cloud-based GIS solutions and digital twins with GIS and AI. Content is grounded in real scenarios from the provided PDFs and aligned with best practices in GIS management.

Course Toolbox:

- Digital workbooks and planning templates
- GIS governance framework checklists
- Reading material from Holdstock, URISA, and Smart Citizens
- GIS and AI case study archive
- Executive GIS strategy templates
- Smart mobility integration guides
- Predictive analytics datasets and models

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Course Agenda:

Day 1: Foundations of GIS Strategy & Smart Infrastructure

- **Topic 1:** Principles of Strategic GIS Planning in Public and Private Sectors
- **Topic 2:** Building the Case for GIS: Business Needs and Infrastructure Demands
- **Topic 3:** Smart Infrastructure and Urban Planning: Conceptual Frameworks
- **Topic 4:** Aligning GIS Initiatives with Organizational Goals and Leadership
- **Topic 5:** Stakeholder Identification and Engagement Strategies
- **Topic 6:** Challenges of Centralization vs. Decentralization in Smart City Models
- **Reflection & Review:** Strategy vs. Technology: What Defines Smart Infrastructure?

Day 2: GIS Governance, Leadership & Digital Transformation

- **Topic 1:** GIS Program Management and Institutional Leadership Models
- **Topic 2:** Data Governance, Interoperability, and Open Standards
- **Topic 3:** Managing Organizational Change through GIS Innovation
- **Topic 4:** Roles of GIS Leaders in Driving Civic Innovation
- **Topic 5:** Bridging Local and Global Innovation through Smart Citizen Collaboration
- **Topic 6:** Ethical and Legal Implications of Spatial Intelligence
- **Reflection & Review:** Building a Culture of Transparency and Collaboration

Day 3: Geo-AI Integration in Smart Infrastructure

- **Topic 1:** Fundamentals of Geo-AI: What Leaders Need to Know
- **Topic 2:** Applying AI in Geospatial Data Analysis and Predictive Modeling
- **Topic 3:** AI-Driven Urban Intelligence for Transport, Energy & Environment
- **Topic 4:** Real-Time Data Streams: IoT, Sensors & Spatial AI
- **Topic 5:** Integrating AI Tools with GIS Platforms for Decision-Making
- **Topic 6:** Evaluating AI Readiness in Your GIS Infrastructure
- **Reflection & Review:** Is AI Enhancing or Replacing Spatial Expertise?

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Day 4: Smart Citizen Engagement and Digital Democracy

- **Topic 1:** From Smart Cities to Smart Citizens: Evolution of Urban Intelligence
- **Topic 2:** Digital Inclusion, Participatory Platforms, and Civic Co-Design
- **Topic 3:** Using GIS to Visualize and Communicate Policy Impact
- **Topic 4:** Empowering Local Communities Through Spatial Storytelling
- **Topic 5:** Data Privacy, Consent, and Rights in Geo-Enabled Governance
- **Topic 6:** Citizen-Led Mapping and Urban Sensing Projects
- **Reflection & Review:** Bottom-Up Innovation in a Top-Down System

Day 5: Strategic Implementation, Innovation Labs & Future Trends

- **Topic 1:** Creating a GIS Strategic Implementation Roadmap
- **Topic 2:** Establishing GIS Centers of Excellence and Innovation Hubs
- **Topic 3:** KPIs and ROI Metrics for GIS and Geo-AI Programs
- **Topic 4:** Leveraging Open Data and Public-Private Partnerships
- **Topic 5:** Emerging Trends: Digital Twins, Metaverse, and Spatial Web
- **Topic 6:** Building Future-Ready Teams and Lifelong Learning Ecosystems
- **Reflection & Review:** Leading Beyond Today: Visioning Future Smart Infrastructure

FAQ:

What specific qualifications or prerequisites are needed for participants before enrolling in the course?

No technical coding skills are required, but participants should have foundational knowledge of urban planning, infrastructure development, or GIS. The course is designed for leadership-level professionals looking to align geospatial systems with strategic transformation goals.

How long is each day's session, and is there a total number of hours required for the entire course?

Each day's session is generally structured to last around 4–5 hours, with breaks and interactive activities included. The total course duration spans one week, approximately 20–25 hours of instruction.

Is there a difference between GIS decision-making processes and GIS governance frameworks?

Yes. Decision-making processes refer to the day-to-day operational and planning choices made with GIS data, while governance frameworks define the structures, standards, and accountability mechanisms that guide enterprise GIS implementation. Both are critical, as explained in Holdstock's GIS planning model.

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How This Course is Different from Other GIS Leadership Courses:

The course differs from typical GIS management programs by integrating high-level strategy, public policy, and emerging technologies. Based on principles from Strategic GIS Planning, Managing GIS, and Smart Citizens, the course offers both theoretical insights and practical frameworks.

Participants will explore enterprise GIS implementation, GIS leadership, and the use of geo-AI in infrastructure planning. The course emphasizes innovation in public sector GIS, citizen engagement, and data-driven smart mobility. Through collaborative exercises and hands-on tools, attendees will gain actionable strategies for modern urban development.