

# PRINCE2® Poster Series #8

## An Introduction to the PRINCE2 Themes

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The PRINCE2 themes describe 7 fundamental aspects that must be continually addressed during the project. When you give thorough attention to these themes you are more likely to fulfil your role of a project manager in a professional manner. In PRINCE2 the 7 themes integrate and have been carefully designed to link together.

Although all seven themes must be applied on a PRINCE2 project, it's important that they are tailored 'up' or 'down' according to the scale, nature and complexity of the individual project.

### Progress

The Progress theme makes sure that the necessary controls and monitoring mechanisms are in place and that the project's plans are still viable. It explains the decision-making process for approving plans, monitoring performance and escalating issues if events don't go according to plan. Ultimately, this theme determines whether and how the project should progress. It answers the questions; *Where are we now? Where are we going? Should we carry on?*

### Quality

The Quality theme explains how to develop the initial idea of the project into specific quality attributes and ensure that everyone on the team understands exactly what the project needs to deliver. The theme also explains how project management can subsequently make sure that the specified requirements are delivered. It answers the questions; *What level of quality do we need? How do we plan and control quality?*

### Organization

For a project to be successful, clear accountabilities must be allocated to managers of the organization so that they can steer the project through to completion. As projects are cross-functional normal line structures are not suitable. The Organization theme defines the roles and responsibilities on the project and helps answer the questions; *Who does what? Who are the stakeholders? How do we effectively communicate with them?*

### Plans

A PRINCE2 project contains a series of approved plans that match the various levels of the project organization. The Plans theme describes the steps required to develop these plans along with the PRINCE2 techniques that should be applied. It provides a focus for communication and control throughout the project. The Plans theme answers the questions; *How is it done? How much resource?*

### Business Case

All projects are based on an idea that has potential value for the organization. The Business Case theme addresses how this idea can be developed and implemented. It explains the investment and business case for the project. It helps project manager stay focused on the project. The Business Case theme answers the questions; *Why are we doing this project? What are the benefits? How do we measure success?*

### Change

The Change theme describes how project management handles issues that have the potential to impact any of the baseline aspects of the project, i.e. the project's plans and completed products. It addresses the issues we mean general problems, re-requirements, or quality failures. The Change theme answers the questions; *What is the impact of change? What is the procedure for documenting and handling issues?*

Projects typically entail more risk than steady day-to-day work. The Risk theme addresses how to identify, assess and indicate the risks on the project and in the wider organization. It helps project manager answer the questions; *What are the risks? How do we manage them? How do we report risks?*

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