

Introduction

The aim of this book is to provide to students and executives useful conceptual framework and tools to strategically use European Union funds, both those managed by EU Commissions through its Directorates General and those managed by other Institutions (at national and regional levels or by, among others, European Investment Bank).

The first chapter provides a general overview of the main financial tools available to support public, private and not for profit organizations.

In the second chapter there is a description of the main features and rules of structural and sectoral funds and those for agriculture and cooperation.

In the third chapter the strategic approach to EU funds is explained and some useful tools to execute it are provided.

The fourth chapter is dedicated to writing a successful proposal to get access to EU funds. Its annex gives an example on how to fill in an application form, with detailed information about how to deal with information package provided by the managing Authority of the selected program and how to deal with budget.

The fifth chapter is dedicated to financial and administrative issues, mainly related to the duties of the lead partners once awarded a grant.

This book aims at providing a reference guide to access to EU funds; therefore, it gives general tools and information about funding programs and administrative and financial rules. Each program has its own specific rules that must be clearly understood prior to submit a proposal. They can be found in the websites of the competent authorities.

I hope this book could help you to develop the necessary skills to be successful in your funding proposal within European Union programs.

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