UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Turno C - La cooperazione internazionale dell'Unione Europea: dalla ricerca di un bando al report di valutazione finale

2122-2-F8701N033-TC

Learning objectives

With about 10% of its budget dedicated to so-called “external actions”, the European Union is the main donor of development cooperation funds on a global level.

The workshop intends to offer an overview of the main funding opportunities and financial lines available for supporting development assistance and international cooperation actions in the EU partner countries (third countries), focusing in particular on funds channeled through open calls for proposals / grant contracts.

The course aims to provide participants with the main information and tools necessary to plan, execute and review an EU-funded international cooperation Project. The programme will follow the (chrono)logical process, that starting from the formulation of a Project Proposal, leads to the management, completion and reporting of the Project, through the following steps:

- The research and identification of funds
- The selection and analysis of a Call for Proposals
- The establishing of an effective partnership
- The development of a coherent (technical and financial) Project proposal
- The implementation of the Project and the monitoring of its effectiveness, in-itinere
- The preparation of the technical and financial reports for the interim and final evaluation of the Project by the contracting authority (European Union)

Contents

The workshop agenda includes an overview of the main funding channels (grants, tenders for supplies and services, direct support to third countries' budgets, etc.) and on the thematic priorities of the current EU programming 2021-2027. The focus of the course will be on those EU funds that are delivered through open Calls for Proposals, via Grant contracts.

During the course, participants will learn about the main approaches, techniques and tools that the EU foresees for effectively plan, realise, and review a Project intervention, ensuring its coherence with the desired objectives.

The teaching modes will foresee theoretical presentations complemented with practical exercises, group work, and sharing of experiences and reflections by the teacher and the participants. Examples of Calls for Proposals and Projects (in English language) will be proposed and analysed, in view to serve as a basis for participants to test themselves in the elaboration of the main Project formulation tools (context and stakeholder analysis, problem and objective tree, logical framework matrix, budget), individually and in small groups.

Detailed program

1. Introductory module

The international partnership and development cooperation in the EU's multiannual political and financial framework (historical background, thematic and geographical areas, institutions)

The strategic priorities of the EU international cooperation policy

2. The main typologies and financing lines in the field of international cooperation: where and how to identify funding opportunities

The registration on the EU PADOR- Potential Applicant Data Online Registration's portal

3. The Project partnership

4. The search and assessment of EU cooperation funds

5. The Project proposal formulation: the Project Cycle Management and Logical Framework approach

5.1 The Project identification phase: the Stakeholder Analysis

5.2 The Project identification phase: the Problem Analysis

5.3 The Project identification phase: the Objective Analysis

Practical exercise in groups

5.4 The Project identification phase: the field of intervention and strategy choice

5.5 The Project formulation phase: the Logical Framework Matrix

Practical exercise in groups

5.6 The Project formulation phase: the Concept Note

5.7 The Project formulation phase: the Full Proposal

5.8 The Project formulation phase: the Budget for the Action

5.9 The Project evaluation

Practical exercise in groups

The new European logical framework

Practical exercise in groups

6. The Project implementation, evaluation and monitoring

6.1 The Project award and funding

6.2 The Grant Contract: main rules and contractual obligations

6.3 The Project Manager

7. The Project interim and final report to the donor (EU)

8. Conclusions

Prerequisites

An intermediate-level of knowledge of English is recommended, particularly as far as the **comprehension of written texts** is regarded (the majority of the EU external actions - related documentation and the Project tools / samples proposed are in English).

Teaching methods

The workshop includes the **presentation of theoretical contents complemented with guided practical exercises** that require individual involvement and group work. Coherently with the topics and learning goals addressed, the teacher will use traditional didactic tools, such as Power Point presentations, Word and Excel files. Navigation on the European Union's websites, participatory analysis of the Calls for Proposals' and the Grant Contracts' documentation, as well as practical exercises, drafting of key Project formulation tools (Logical Framework, Budget, Plan of action), **group work** and feedback sessions are also foreseen. Some homework may be foreseen (limited to the interval between 22nd and 29th of April.)

Assessment methods

The evaluation consists in the proactive and constant participation in the workshop (24 hours).

Textbooks and Reading Materials

· European institutions and bodies and their role: https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies_en

· Official website of the European Commission (in Italian): https://ec.europa.eu/info/index_it , and in English: https://ec.europa.eu/info/index_en

- The European Union's next Multiannual Financial Framework: Prospects and Challenges for EU Development Cooperation: https://ettg.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/ETTG-policy-brief-the-EUs-MFF_prospects_and_challenges_for_Development_cooperation.pdf

· Agenda2030: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: https://unric.org/it/agenda-2030/

· EC Project Cycle Management Manual (the edition dates back to 2004, but it is the most exhaustive among the EU official handbook published so far on PCM), you can download it for free at:

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/methodology-aid-delivery-methods-project-cycle-management-200403_en.pdf

· Practical guide on contract procedures for European Union external action (PRAG):

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/?header_description=DEVCO+Prag+to+financial+and+contractual+procedures+applicable+to+external+actions+financed+from+the+general+budget+of+the+EU+and+from+the+11th+EDF&long=53054&header_keywords=ePrag%2C+europa

The Potential Applicant Data Online Registration (PADOR) portal: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/eim/external/register.cgi

Other reference texts and websites will be provided during the course.