UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Final Exam - Turno C - La cooperazione internazionale dell'Unione Europea: dalla ricerca dei bandi alla formulazione, gestione, monitoraggio e valutazione finale del progetto

2324-2-F8701N033-TC

Learning objectives

The European Union defines and implements its foreign policy and international cooperation actions through the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Directorate for International Partnerships (DG INTPA, formerly DG DEVCO), respectively the political body and the operational development agency in charge of combining the strategic interests of the EU with the development objectives.

Starting from a brief historical review of the main themes and phases of the EU international cooperation strategy, the workshop intends to offer an overview of the EU main funding opportunities and channels in the field of international development cooperation at the global level, focusing in particular on the funds provided through Grants and Calls for proposals open to European civil society organisations from the EU and from the partner countries, and on sustainable socioeconomic development.

The workshop participants will learn both theoretical content and practical tools for the identification of funding opportunities, the analysis of the Calls for Proposals, the setting up of the partnership, the formulation of the project proposal in accordance with the Project Cycle Management (PCM) approach and its main methodological tool, the Logical Framework Matrix, to which workshop day 2 will be devoted entirely. Further, the course will focus on the project implementation phases and on the management tools for the realisation, monitoring, evaluating and reporting the project intervention.

The workshop integrates theoretical contents and practical experiences drawn from the trainer’s twenty-year experience of international cooperation project formulation and management, and foresees a strong interaction with and between the participants in view to adapt the topics to the participants’ peculiar expertise and interests.

Contents

The workshop agenda includes a brief historical excursus from the Treaties of Rome to the present day, followed by an overview of the main funding channels (grants, tenders for supplies and services, direct support to third countries' budgets, others) 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, and focus on socioeconomic and sustainable development issues.

During the course, participants will learn about the main approaches, techniques and tools for designing, managing and monitoring projects. A significant space is dedicated to the problems and objectives analysis and to the Logical Framework Matrix, which represent the main tools for effectively planning, implementing and monitoring a project intervention, ensuring its consistency 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 the EU funds

5. The formulation of the Project proposal: the Project Cycle Management and the 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 formulation phase: the Logical Framework Matrix Practical exercise in groups
5.5 The Project formulation phase: the Concept Note

5.6 The Project formulation phase: the Full Proposal

5.7 The Project formulation phase: the Budget for the Action

5.8 The evaluation of the Project proposal
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: main competences, role, and career opportunities

7. The preparation of the technical and financial reports for the donor body (EU aimed to the interim and final evaluation

8. Conclusions

Prerequisites

An intermediate-level of knowledge of English is recommended, particularly as far as the comprehension of written texts is regarded (most of the excercise documentation will be proposed in English). Calls for tenders and project proposals in the field of EU international cooperation are produced in most cases in English (or, alternatively, in French, Spanish, Portuguese where these languages are spoken in the partner countries, beneficiaries of the intervention).

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 (in line with the lessons schedule)

Assessment methods

The evaluation consists in the proactive and constant participation in the workshop (24 hours), and in any case for a minimum of 18 hours.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

• European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/info/index_en
• The EU Multi Annual Financial Framework: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/2021-2027/documents_en
• International Partnership Directorate General (DG INTPA) - https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/international-partnerships_en
• UN AGENDA2030: https://unric.org/it/agenda-2030/
• Concord's GUIDE TO GLOBAL EUROPE FUNDING 2021-2027: FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS) : https://concordeurope.org/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=23082
• EC Project Cycle Management Manual (the Manual was published in 2004, but it is so far one of the most complete and exhaustive handbooks on PCM: https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2020-09/methodology-aid-delivery-methods-project-cycle-management-200403_en.pdf
• Practical guide on contract procedures for European Union external action (PRAG) : https://www.info-cooperazione.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/ePrag-en-2018.0-1.pdf
• Info-cooperazione website (section on EU funding): https://www.info-cooperazione.it/2021/01/al-via-un-nuovo-ciclo-per-la-cooperazione-europea-ecco-cosa-cambia-alla-commissione/
Other reference texts and websites will be provided during the course.

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | CLIMATE ACTION | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS