



EU Funds for Social Services

Promising Practices and Inspiring Examples

This booklet *EU Funds for Social Services: Promising Practices and Inspiring Examples* is one of the results of the Helpdesk project's effort to facilitate the access of social service providers to EU funding and help Managing Authorities use EU Funds to finance quality social services. Complementing the substantial research, needs assessment, creation of online educational tools and information streams, this material further aims at shaping the abilities of the organisations to be successful in applying for EU funding and running projects and inspire Managing Authorities (MAs) with practices that facilitate the support for quality social projects.

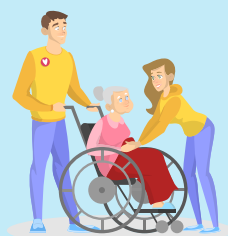
This 12-page booklet is rich and dense in content. It summarises and demonstrates experience of organisations in the field and supplements it with examples of successful projects. We have gathered feedback in 6 areas, distilled and rephrased into simple advice, illustrated with practical examples. We collected almost a hundred interesting projects and selected 24 we considered most illustrative.

Are you a service provider? We recommend that you keep the brochure on your desk and flip through occasionally. It might give you the push to apply for the funding. It might shift your perspective. It may give you new project ideas.

Are you an authority in charge of managing EU funds? We advise that you use this Booklet to gain ideas on what social services need to successfully implement EU-funded projects.

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-  Initiatives improving access to EU funding
-  Relationships with managing authorities
-  Successful project teams
-  Handling project difficulties
-  Project sustainability
-  Administrative simplifications
-  12 recommendations from successful organisations





Initiatives improving access to EU funding

Summary of best practices

MA^s Funding Workshops

Organise workshops targeting specific EU funding streams. Invite past recipients, consultants, or even representatives from the EU to provide insights.

MA^s Helpdesks to access EU Funds

Set up regional or national helpdesks which support social services and civil society organisations to get access to EU funds.

MA^s Collaborative Platforms

Develop digital platforms or forums where organisations can collaborate, share their experiences, and even form partnerships for joint applications.

Internal Resource Libraries

Create an internal database of successful applications, reports, and other related materials to guide and train new staff.

Lobbying and Advocacy

Engage with decision-makers and representatives to communicate the challenges faced by organisations at the grassroots level. This can influence changes at the policy level.

MA^s Networking Events

Organise or attend networking events with stakeholders, other organisations, and experts in the field to share best practices and insights.

MA^s Mentorship Programs

Pair new or less experienced staff with those who have successfully secured and managed EU funds. This one-on-one mentoring can provide hands-on learning.

MA^s Local Collaboration

Partner with local universities, think tanks, or research institutions. These partnerships can enhance the quality of proposals and provide valuable research and data.

Crowdsourcing Solutions

Use digital platforms to solicit ideas and solutions from a broader community on how to improve the application process or project implementation.

Specialised Teams

Form dedicated teams within the organisation focusing solely on EU funding – from staying updated with calls to preparing applications.

Community Engagement

Engage the communities and beneficiaries you serve in the design and implementation of projects. Their voices can make proposals more compelling.

MA^s Practices potentially initiated by Managing Authorities

Housing First

Organisation: Slezská diakonie

Country: Czech Republic

Project Description:

Housing First aims to end homelessness through targeted support, fostering long-term rental stability. It offers housing and comprehensive assistance for security, stability, and personal control. Providing high-level support, it ensures housing, health, life satisfaction, and social integration for homeless individuals with complex needs.

www.slezkadiakonie.cz



Karola Roma Welfare Project

Organisation: Oulu Deaconess Institute

Country: Finland

Project Description:

The Karola Roma welfare project by Oulu Deaconess Institute Foundation (ODL) promotes health and well-being among the Roma community. It raises awareness about factors influencing their health, involving them in planning and implementation. The project aims to enhance Roma inclusion, equality, and foster dialogue with the majority population.

itu2.odl.fi



MOAI LABS/INTRAS Foundation: The MOAI LABS/INTRAS Foundation project highlighted the importance of offering training and dissemination actions such as webinars, newsletters, and national helpdesks. Moreover, personalised guidance during project proposal stages by national management authorities played a pivotal role in facilitating access to EU funding.

Linha dos Fundos, Portugal: Portugal has launched a Funds Desk and a Funds Line, to support beneficiaries and applicants for European Funds. This national helpdesk is a partnership between the Portuguese national coordination body (AD&C) and all Managing Authorities and Intermediary Bodies. It supports (potential) applicants and beneficiaries by keeping them up to date about funding opportunities and answering questions by phone, livebot, webform and video calls.

Creation of a social and health border system in the Vysočina Region, Kraj Vysočina, Czech Republic: Recognising the need for administrative adaptation, Vysočina Region outlines the evolution in management approaches between different programming periods. Enhanced digitisation and communication with Managing Authorities, coupled with dedicated training for securing funds, proved beneficial.

The Association of Social Care Providers, Czech Republic: The Association of Social Care Providers of the Czech Republic emphasises the proactive role of Managing Authorities in programs like Erasmus+ and the European Social Fund in organising pre-application seminars. The Association is also an advocate for the establishment of a national helpdesk in the Czech Republic to assist potential applicants.

Europe en Hainaut, France: Positioned as a helpline for project holders, Europe en Hainaut supports local stakeholders in the submission and management of European projects. It also accentuates the value of being a part of various informational and sector-specific networks, fostering improved access to EU funding. As a local platform facilitating access to EU Funds, Europe en Hainaut strives to close the gap between EU Funds authorities and final beneficiaries. On the one hand, the Europe Direct department operates as a helpdesk for local stakeholders through monitoring EU calls for proposals, facilitating partnership with MAs and partners, and providing training on technical aspects of EU Funds. On the other hand, the ESF Intermediate Body is a key local actor in the field of employment. Their proximity to social services allows them to write and implement calls for proposals based on a deep knowledge of local needs and challenges.



Unidiversity

Organisation: Fundación ONCE

Country: Spain

Project Description:

Fundación ONCE prioritises social inclusion through training and employment for young people with disabilities. Collaborating with the European Union, universities, companies, and national federations, their "Unidiversity" project aids over 30 Spanish universities to develop inclusive training programmes for young individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism.

www.fundaciononce.es



MOAI LABS

Organisation: MOAI LABS/INTRAS Foundation

Country: EU

Project Description:

MOAI LABS focuses on multidisciplinary research and social innovation to address loneliness and social isolation in older adults. It uses participatory methodologies, involving "Experts by Experience" and "Early Demand" groups to co-create innovative solutions based on collective intelligence.

www.intras.es



Relationships with managing authorities

Summary of Best Practices

Open Communication

Keep the lines of communication open. Regularly update the MA about the progress of the project, even if they don't explicitly request it. Transparency is key.

Proactive Reporting

Don't wait for deadlines. Submit reports, updates, and necessary documentation proactively, ensuring that everything is detailed and clear.

Seek Feedback

Regularly ask for feedback on your project's implementation and progress. This shows that you value their insights and are open to guidance.

Regular Meetings

Schedule periodic face-to-face (or virtual) meetings to discuss project milestones, challenges, and expectations. If challenges or obstacles arise, approach them collaboratively. Engage the MA in finding solutions rather than presenting them problems.

Attend Workshops/Training

Participate in any workshops, seminars, or training sessions organised by the MA. This demonstrates commitment and provides opportunities for networking and direct interaction.

Participative programming and monitoring process

Taking part in the programming and monitoring meetings of a programme reinforces the partnership between managing authorities and project holders.

Adhere to Guidelines

Ensure strict adherence to guidelines, regulations, and protocols set by the MA. This will build your reputation as a reliable and compliant partner.

Invite to Project Activities

Actively invite representatives from the MA to attend project events, launches, or any significant milestones. This provides them with a firsthand look at the project's impact.

Promptly Address Concerns

If the MA has any concerns or issues, address them promptly and efficiently. Demonstrating responsiveness builds trust.

Documentation and Record-Keeping

Ensure that all interactions, agreements, and discussions are well-documented. This ensures clarity and can be beneficial if there's a change in personnel or any disputes arise.

Engage in Joint Publicity

Collaborate with the MA on publicising project milestones or successes. Joint press releases, events, or media engagements can foster a sense of partnership.

Shared Vision

Regularly reinforce the shared objectives and goals of the project. This common vision can act as the foundation for a strong and collaborative relationship.

Comprehensive Crime Prevention Project in the Bruntál Region

Organisation: Slezská diakonie

Country: Czech Republic

Project Description:

The project aims to assist ex-offenders and their families by providing support during and after their prison term punishment. It seeks to bridge the gap after prison release, fostering social inclusion and combating poverty through active assistance.

www.slezkadiakonie.cz

Development of a Unitary Integrated Care-giving System

Organisation: Consorzio COOB

Country: Italy

Project Description:

The project aims to create a unified and integrated care-giving system by collaborating with the public social-health system, local Employment Centres, and private social partners.

www.coob.it



Activating Monitoring Committee membership, Government of Romania:

In Romania, the government set up Monitoring Committees for the implementation of ERDF and ESF funds, and in accordance with the methodology and functioning of the committees, at least 40% of the members are representatives of civil society, academia, and social partners. Round tables, seminars and workshops are organised to facilitate networking, communication, and monitoring of the programmes (implementation per se and monitoring of results and spending), as well as promotion of good practices and field visits.

OP PRAGUE - Growth Pole of the Czech Republic (a multi-fund programme ERDF+, ESF+, 2014-2020 programming period) The Managing Authority of the operational programme decided to increase trust of the applicants and beneficiaries by establishing a posi-

tion of an independent Ombudsman. In case of any doubts about the procedure, process or the conduct of the staff of the MA, applicants or beneficiaries were able to contact an independent expert without their identity and question being related to the MA staff. The role of the independent expert (Ombudsman) was to assess the specific situation, recommend a solution and the most appropriate course of action. The Ombudsman was also able to mediate a problematic situation between the MA and the applicant or beneficiary.

Creation of a social and health border system in the Vysočina Region, Kraj Vysočina, Czech Republic: The Vysočina Region maintained active communication and cooperation with the Managing Authority throughout its project. Collaborative consultations led to mutually beneficial solutions, fostering smooth project documentation and reporting.



Home Based Therapeutic Services

Organisation: FSWS (Foundation for Social Welfare Services)

Country: Malta

Project Description:

This European Social Fund-funded project in Malta reunites families in crisis through personalised assistance and support, helping children stay with their families.



Partnerships for Labour Market Integration

Organisation: Swedish City Missions

Country: Sweden

Project Description:

The project integrates marginalised individuals into work through second-hand businesses. It involves public authorities, civil society, and social economy in a five-stage process to develop business models and on-the-job training criteria. A year is allocated for knowledge collection and feasibility study, followed by regional and local tests during the implementation phase.



Successful project teams



Summary of Best Practices

Clear Role Definition

Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each team member. This helps eliminating ambiguity and facilitates smooth project execution.

Regular Training & Capacity Building

With EU projects, it's crucial to stay updated on policies, best practices, and technical skills. Regular training sessions can help your team stay aligned with EU guidelines and requirements.

Effective Communication Channels

Establish clear communication methods, be it through regular team meetings, project management software, or email chains, ensuring that everyone is informed about the project's progress. Use project management tools like Trello, Asana, or Microsoft Teams.

Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

Implement strategies to address and resolve conflicts promptly. Whether it's through mediation, open dialogue sessions, or team-building exercises, address issues head-on.

Feedback Loops

Create mechanisms for regular feedback, both from within the team and from external stakeholders. This helps in identifying areas for improvement.

Practical Applications

SWR, Association for Regional Cooperation, Poland:

The SWR initiative highlighted the importance of in-person networking. During an info day, consortium members met, allowing them to understand project dynamics and potential collaborations before the project's start.

Quality audits in social services, The Association of Social Care Providers of the Czech Republic:

In this initiative by the Association of Social Care Providers of the Czech Republic, clearly defined roles, such as a professional guarantor and manager, were crucial. Staff members were involved in specific tasks, optimising the workforce according to project needs.

Live2Work, Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa, Portugal:

The L2W initiative stood out for its clear planning, role definition, and organised management. Effective communication channels were established, with the leadership adeptly handling issues, setting milestones, and ensuring initial preparations were thorough.

Creation of a social and health border system in the Vysočina Region, Kraj Vysočina, Czech Republic:

The Vysočina Region initiative emphasised professionalism, communication, and positive team relationships as foundational for success. Regular coordination meetings and both financial and goal-oriented motivations kept the team aligned and inspired.

Successful projects



SWR

Organisation: Association for Regional Cooperation

Country: Poland

Project Description:

ESF+ finances Poland's major project aiding Ukrainian refugees, creating 40 jobs for them in Silesia, Poland. SWR obtained EUR 420,000 from the Regional Operational Programme, backed by the regional government. Grants go to social enterprises hiring refugees, while other centres also received funding for refugee support.

swr.pl



Training Care Workers and Changing Lives

Organisation: The Cyprus Paraplegic Organisation

Country: Cyprus

Project Description:

In this project, unemployed individuals in Cyprus are being trained to become home care workers for people with disabilities. Participants are provided with foundational care training and practical experience, enhancing the quality of life for caregivers and recipients alike.

opak.org.cy



Handling project difficulties



Regular Check-ins

Schedule frequent project status meetings to monitor progress, discuss challenges, and brainstorm solutions collaboratively.

Adaptive Planning

Be prepared to modify the project plan based on changing circumstances or unforeseen challenges, ensuring flexibility in approach.

Risk Management

Establish a risk management process to identify, assess, and prioritise potential threats, and develop mitigation strategies for each.

Resource Reallocation

Be prepared to redistribute resources, whether human, financial, or material, to address and overcome challenges as they arise.

Collaborative Problem Solving

Encourage a collaborative culture where team members work together to identify and address challenges, pooling their expertise and insights.

Documentation

Maintain detailed records of all challenges encountered and the solutions implemented. This not only aids in accountability but provides a reference for future projects.

Stress Management

Recognise the mental and emotional toll of challenges on the team and provide support, whether through counselling, team-building activities, or breaks. Acknowledge and celebrate smaller achievements and milestones, boosting team morale and motivation.



Implementation of a model for the inclusion of students with special needs in the education system in Kaunas district

Organisation: Public Institution Lecturers

Country: Lithuania

Project Description:

This Lithuanian project strives for inclusive education for students with special needs. Partnering with educational, cultural, and social organisations, the initiative aims to enhance inclusion, motivation, and support for students. The model offers coordinated support, therapy services, workshops, and virtual tools to ensure an inclusive learning environment.

www.lektorai.eu

MOAI LABS - Innovative transnational laboratory, Spain, Portugal, France: To ensure the smooth coordination and management of MOAI LABS, governing bodies were established. The Steering Committee and the MOAI Working Group were responsible for strategic management, technical coordination, and administrative oversight. For ongoing evaluation and improvement, the Global Evaluation Methodology of the MOAI LABS Project was developed, with evaluation carried out by an External Experts Committee. This structured approach helped in achieving the project's objectives without unforeseen incidents and difficulties.

Europe en Hainaut, France: Europe en Hainaut addressed multiple issues faced by local organisations, such as the lack of capacity in managing EU projects and in finding partners, as well as the limited initial capital needed to initiate an EU project. Solutions included calls for expressions of interest, partnerships with banks for pre-financing, offering training on various technical aspects of EU funding, and proposing assistance in areas like project management and final reporting.



Poweria!

Organisation: KVPS - Service Foundation for People with an Intellectual Disability

Country: Finland

Project Description:

With help of ESF-funds, this project assists multicultural individuals with mild intellectual disabilities or special needs in Finland in discovering educational and career paths. It offers group and individual coaching sessions, fostering self-awareness and social inclusion, and aims to determine effective support for diverse individuals.

kvps.fi



Project sustainability

Summary of Best Practices

Detailed Exit Strategy

Begin by mapping out a clear exit strategy that describes how the project will transition from being grant-funded to being self-sustainable or how its benefits will continue to be felt by its beneficiaries.

Diversify Funding Sources

Explore multiple avenues for funding including private sector partnerships, local government support, crowdfunding, and more. Avoid reliance on a single source.

Capacity Building

Invest in the training and development of local staff and stakeholders. This ensures that there is local expertise to continue the project even after the initial funding and external support end.

Stakeholder Engagement

Engage stakeholders, both beneficiaries and local authorities, from the beginning to ensure they have a vested interest in the project's continuation.

Build Strong Partnerships

Form partnerships with local businesses, NGOs, and other relevant organisations. These entities can provide both resources and expertise to keep the project running.

Scalable Model

Design your project in a modular or scalable fashion. Start with a pilot, and if it is successful, expand gradually. This can demonstrate efficacy and attract additional funding.

Document Successes and Lessons Learned

Maintain detailed records of what works and what doesn't. This not only aids in refining your approach but can also be used as evidence to attract further support or funding.

Financial Self-sufficiency

For projects that can have revenue-generating components, focus on making them profitable. This can include training local participants in business skills or investing in marketing for the products/services of the project.

Promote Local Ownership

Empower the local community or stakeholders to take ownership of the project. This sense of ownership can drive them to find ways to sustain the project after the initial funding.

Monitor and Evaluate

Continuously monitor the project's progress and evaluate its impacts. By understanding its strengths and weaknesses, you can make necessary adjustments and ensure its long-term viability.

Seek Policy Integration

If your project aligns with national or regional priorities, work towards integrating it into local or national policies. This can ensure that it gets sustained support and recognition.

Establish a Legacy Plan

This goes beyond an exit strategy. Think about how the project's infrastructure, knowledge, and resources can be utilised for future initiatives, ensuring that the project's benefits continue in some form.

Successful projects



Alternative Public Policies in the Field of Health

Organisation: Fundatia Filantropia Timisoara

Country: Romania

Project Description:

The project aims to develop skills of 65 NGO members in the Philanthropy Federation to develop health policy proposals in 6 months. It establishes procedures and tools through a 25-member working group from 20 NGOs, involving central public administration for 8 months. It strengthens social and civic dialogue with 100 representatives for 3 months.

fft.ro



Quality Care for Older People in Slovakia

Organisation: Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region

Country: Slovakia

Project Description:

The Banská Bystrica region in Slovakia establishes community-based social service centres for quality long-term care, enhancing older people's daily lives and dignity.

www.bbsk.sk



Support for the transformation of the Home at Rychmburk Castle, Domov Na cestě, Czech Republic: Domov Na cestě uses EU funds to transition from institutional to community-based services. By sharing knowledge stemming from this transition process with countries like Croatia and Slovenia, they increase sustainability.

Innovative approaches in the Pardubice Region, Pardubický kraj, Czech Republic: The Pardubice Region commits to sustaining project practices beyond the

obligatory period. They intend to share their methods community-wide and stress quality assurance through regular audits.

Quality audits in social services, The Association of Social Care Providers of the Czech Republic: The Association of Social Care Providers of the Czech Republic provides ongoing access to project resources, promoting continuous learning and quality assurance through both offline seminars and online resources.



Duunista Totta

Organisation: Caritas Finland

Country: Finland

Project Description:

The project fosters collaboration between disabled individuals, employers, and educational institutions in Oulu, Rovaniemi, and Kempele. Its objectives are to facilitate disabled people's employment in the open labor market through employment contracts, promoting inclusion, raising awareness among employers about hiring disabled individuals, and preventing their exclusion.

www.caritas.fi



Support Model for Independent Living MAVI

Organisation: Independent Life Support Centres

Country: Portugal

Project Description:

MAVI offers personal assistance through Independent Life Support Centres in Portugal, co-financed by EU funds, benefiting individuals with disabilities.

www.inr.pt



Administrative simplifications

Summary of Best Practices

Centralised Project Management Systems

Consider developing or adopting centralised project management tools. These should track milestones, deliverables, and budgets and be tailored to fit the requirements of the specific EU fund, ensuring organised and efficient management.

Regular Internal Reviews

Proactively conduct internal audits and reviews. This diligence helps you to spot and rectify administrative inefficiencies at an early stage.

Standardised Templates and Forms

Customise your internal templates and forms to match the requirements of the funding program. This adaptation accelerates data collection and reporting processes while minimising errors.

Digitising Data Collection

Embrace digital tools for data collection, particularly in areas like monitoring and evaluation. This approach can streamline your data gathering, storage, and analysis processes.

Dedicated Project Teams

Designate specific individuals or teams to handle EU-funded projects. Having specialised and knowledgeable oversight fosters expertise and simplifies internal processes over time.

Internal Knowledge Sharing

Host regular workshops and training sessions for your staff. Share experiences from past projects to reduce the learning curve for new ventures and offer insights into simplification strategies.

Feedback Mechanisms

Implement feedback loops within your organisation. Encourage team members to suggest administrative improvements, fostering an environment of continuous enhancement.

Time-tracking Software

If staff costs form a significant component of your projects, invest in time-tracking software. Ensure it's tailored to the categories of the EU project, simplifying the calculation and reporting of personnel costs.

Pre-validated Supplier Lists

Maintain lists of pre-validated suppliers that comply with EU funding criteria. This practice will streamline your procurement processes and ensure consistent compliance.

Automated Financial Tracking

Implement financial software aligned with EU's financial reporting requirements. This aids in streamlining your budgeting and financial reporting, providing real-time tracking and adherence to set budgets.

Social Agriculture Project

Organisation: Social cooperative Co.M.E.S.

Country: Italy

Project Description:

The social agriculture project aims to define a model for the reception of disadvantaged people in agricultural enterprises and for the development of multi-functionality in small farms.

not available

VASTE Programme

Organisation: Jobseeker Services Division in partnership with the Lino Spiteri Foundation (LSF)

Country: Malta

Project Description:

The VASTE Programme empowers vulnerable individuals in Malta by providing training and job exposure opportunities. The project offers personalised training plans, including Pre-Employment Training, Basic ICT Training, Sheltered Employment Training, Headstart Programme, and Supported Employment. Job Coaches facilitate job integration by identifying work buddies for ongoing support.

obsplus.gov.mt



LEAP Project, The Foundation for Social Welfare Services, Malta: The LEAP Project introduced the Family Profiling Systems, streamlining the process of interviewing clients, filing information, and formulating care plans. Further advancements were made with the development of a Case Management System, now a standard across all their social services.

Creation of a social and health border system in the Vysočina Region, Kraj Vysočina, Czech Republic The Vysočina Region simplified their project budgeting process. They now allow the entry of the total unit price for the entire project period upfront in the budget application, with a more detailed budget kept as an annex. This change makes on-going project administration notably smoother.

NICE - New Ways to Inclusion through Circular Economy, Fondazione Caritas Ambrosiana: diocesan Caritas of Milano, Italy: For effective reporting, the NICE project emphasises the importance of maintaining a straightforward list of activities and related dates, providing a clear snapshot of project proceedings at any given time.

Live2Work, Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa, Portugal: The Live2Work project showcases the benefits of detailed planning, offering all partners a clear vision regarding reporting and output development statuses. They have also introduced simple report templates and ensure regular discussions to clarify any uncertainties about these templates.



KOMPETENT Mobility

Organisation: Josefs-Gesellschaft (JG)

Country: Germany

Project Description:

The Josefs-Gesellschaft (JG) in Germany offers rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities, focusing on fostering personal independence. The KOMPETENT Mobility Project promotes mobility skills, aligning with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Online training materials cover topics like wheelchair usage and safe travel. The program benefits those preparing for the job market, enhancing safety and participation in professional and social life.

jg-gruppe.de



Live2Work

Organisation: Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa

Country: Spain

Project Description:

The Live2Work project equips professionals working with vulnerable young adults with the knowledge and strategies to facilitate life project creation and development. The project's outputs include a theoretical manual, a course guide, and a toolbox funded with support from the European Commission.

scml.pt



EU Funds for Social Services: Where to Focus

12 recommendations from the successful organisations

Budgeting Realistically

Always allocate at least 10% of your budget for unexpected expenses. Invariably, there will be unforeseen costs, and it's vital to be financially prepared without compromising your project's essence.

Evaluation Metrics

Define clear metrics to evaluate your project's success from the outset. These benchmarks will not only guide progress monitoring but also provide concrete data to demonstrate achievements to stakeholders and funding entities.

Team Dynamics

Ensure your team has a mix of expertise. Don't merely focus on sector knowledge; value soft skills and team dynamics equally, as effective collaboration often ensures smoother execution.

Documentation

Maintain meticulous records of all processes, decisions, and changes. This not only aids during audits but is invaluable for reviewing the project's progress and training newcomers.

Risk Management

Always have a risk management plan. Identify potential pitfalls early, devise mitigation strategies, and allocate responsibilities. Regularly review and update this plan.

Feedback Loops

Implement regular feedback mechanisms for both your team and beneficiaries. Continuous feedback can identify issues early, enabling timely corrections.

Sustainability Planning

From the onset, consider what happens post-funding. Develop a sustainability strategy, exploring alternative funding sources, partnerships, or integrating the project into existing structures.

Regular Training

Investing in regular training sessions can keep the team updated on regulations, ensuring compliance, and leveraging any new opportunities within EU funding frameworks.

Communication with Authorities

Cultivate a proactive relationship with managing authorities. Regular check-ins, transparent communication, and seeking their advice can smooth out many potential bumps.

Leveraging Technology

Utilise modern management tools and software to streamline processes. Digital solutions can aid in reporting, monitoring, and ensuring effective communication across dispersed teams.

Time Management

Time overruns can be costly. Adopt a robust project management methodology, break tasks into manageable chunks, and regularly review timelines.

Community Involvement

Beyond stakeholder engagement, involve the local community in decision-making where feasible. Their sense of ownership can drive project success and longevity.

The HELPDESK project funded by the European Commission aims to launch the building blocks for a Social Services Helpdesk. The ultimate goal of this project is to increase the use of ESF+ (European Social Fund Plus) and ERDF (the European Regional Development Fund) funding by social services and to make it easier for social service providers to access these funds. To learn more about the project activities, benefit from the online training and receive further support from the HELPDESK team, visit the project website.

eufunds4social.eu



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