

STRESZCZENIE W JĘZYKU ANGIELSKIM

The European Union (EU) legal order is the foundation on which the European Union rests the functioning of this community, which includes 27 member states. It is a system of legal norms that shapes both the relations between the member states and the relations of these countries with EU citizens. Over the decades, this system has developed on the basis of the founding treaties, which form the basis of EU law, and decisions of EU institutions, including rulings of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). The EU, as a unique political and legal structure, has introduced a new quality to the international legal order. EU funds bring many benefits to local government units (LGUs) that support their development and improve the quality of life of residents. The analysis of the literature on the subject and the author's many years of experience in the management of EU projects allowed to indicate a research gap in the management of EU projects in local government units (LGUs). The author covered the 2014-2020 programming period, which is due to several important reasons related primarily to the budget cycle of the European Union, the assessment of the effectiveness of policies and programs, as well as monitoring of the progress and drawing conclusions for the future. The PhD student was also prompted to undertake research by the observation of the problems municipalities face at different stages of project implementation. These challenges concern both resource management and compliance with formal requirements, which often hinder the effective implementation of EU projects in local government units. Identifying determinants influencing the implementation of projects is strategic from the point of view of planning and management of public resources. Understanding these factors can contribute to the improvement of the efficiency of activities, as well as to minimise the risk of problems occurrence at different stages of the project, which is crucial for local and regional level development. The stimulus for undertaking the research was the desire to identify the determinants of EU project management in local government units in order to increase the success of their implementation. In addition, there was a lack of in-depth literature considerations regarding the definition of determinants and barriers to the management of EU projects in local government units.

The doctoral student was also prompted to undertake research by direct observation of the problems faced by local governments and municipal management staff. Therefore, the main

goal of this doctoral dissertation is Identification of determinants of EU project management in local government units and assessment of their impact on the effectiveness of the implementation of individual stages of this process.

The next stage of the research was to develop a research tool to verify the hypotheses formulated for the purposes of the dissertation. For the conducting of the research, the doctoral student decided to use a research tool in the form of a survey questionnaire and the electronic survey method CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interviews) was used to collect data. In connection with the main goal set by the PhD student, which was to identify the determinants of EU project management in local government units and to assess their impact on the success of this process, the obtained primary data were analysed using statistical programs. The structure of the dissertation is as follows: the first three chapters are theoretical chapters, in which the author reviewed the literature on the subject in the field of determinants of EU project management in local government units. The fourth chapter presented the results of empirical research, including quantitative analysis. In the first chapter entitled Local government units (LGUs), as an entity managing EU projects, the author presents the conceptualization of the essence and role of local government units and inter-municipal associations. She characterized the development of local government units. As part of the presented chapter, the author presents the specificity and scope of investments as the basic factor in the development of local government units. In the second chapter entitled European Funds as a source of financing the development of local government units (LGUs), the author focused on the presentation of aid programs and selected instruments supporting the local development of local government units in the years of 2014-2020, and then characterized the essence and role of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) in Poland in the 2014-2020 perspective. In the next step, she presented the procedures and conditions that must be met when obtaining funds from the European Union by local government units. In the third chapter entitled Management of EU projects in local government units (LGUs), the author focused her attention on the characteristics of EU project management, taking into account human, financial, material and technical resources. Then she presented the determinants of EU project management in local government units and the barriers accompanying the management of EU projects by local government units. Within the chapter in question, the author presented the use of EU funds on the example of municipalities of the Central Subregion of the Silesian Voivodeship. In the fourth chapter entitled Determinants of EU project management in local government units in the light of own research. The PhD student presented the research problem and analysed the empirical data obtained as part of a

questionnaire survey conducted in 2024 on a group of 75 members of the Central Subregion of the Silesian Voivodeship. The fourth chapter concludes with a summary of quantitative research. The author characterized the surveyed entities of the Central Subregion of the Silesian Voivodeship, assessed the factors influencing the management of EU projects and assessed the importance of factors influencing the management of EU projects, dividing it into stages: - stage 1 - analysing and planning the acquisition of external funds by local government units,

- stage 2 - applying for external funds by local government units,

- stage 3 - preparation for the implementation of EU projects in local government units,

- stage 4 - implementation of EU projects in local government units,

- stage 5 - monitoring and auditing of EU projects in local government units,

- stage 6 - settlement (evaluation and reporting) of EU projects implemented by local government units,

- stage 7 – achieving and maintaining the indicators assumed in the application for co-financing of projects implemented by local government units.

The PhD student made a collective analysis of the importance of factors influencing on the management of EU projects, the importance of barriers affecting the management of EU projects in local government units, broken down into types of barriers. She pointed out the dependencies of the importance of determinants in the implementation of EU projects in local government units depending on the type and size of the municipality. Statistical analysis of the determinants of EU project management was performed using R software (version 4.1.2). The variables constituting the characteristics of the research group were categorical variables and were described by the number of respondents and the percentage of respondents in relation to the entire group. The variables describing the importance of determinants and the importance of management barriers for EU projects were treated as numerical variables and presented using basic descriptive statistics:

– measures of central tendency (mean and median),

– the measures of dispersion (standard deviation, interquartile range), i.e. the first and third quartiles, and the range, i.e. the minimum and maximum values.

Due to the ordinal nature of the parameters describing the importance of determinants and barriers for the management of EU projects, to assess the relationship between the importance of determinants and barriers and the type of municipality and the size of the municipality, a non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test was used. For multiple comparisons, i.e. the so-called

post-hoc tests, the Dunn test was used with the Bonferroni amendment. Multiple comparison tests were carried out in situations where the Kruskal-Wallis test indicated a statistically significant result. The reliability of the questionnaire was verified using the Cronbach Alpha coefficient (α), the α coefficient was given along with its 95% confidence interval. Statistically significant results were considered to be those for which the p-value met the condition of < 0.05 . The paper ends with final conclusions summarizing the entire dissertation and indicating further possible directions of research. Then a list of literature was presented, on the basis of which the dissertation was created, a list of tables and appendices.