

Strategies and beyond





#### Who we are

ACZ Consulting is a consultancy company founded in 2008 specialized in socio-economic research, strategic advisory and technical assistance for public administration and private firms.

#### Our vision

We are a young and independent company working in an open, straightforward and reliable way. We aspire to set the example of integrity, professionalism and of delivering highest quality services. As our motto says, we always try to look *beyond*, when approaching each of our specific works: *beyond* the specific moment, *beyond* the specific place, *beyond* that specific field or institutional framework, and even *beyond* the immediate needs perceived by our clients, we try to deliver them the best and most useful service in time.

## Our mission

We aim to put our expertise at the service of the clients, assisting, supporting and guiding them, making them sure that we provide the right, creative, innovative and perfectly fitted solutions for each of them, valuable in time. Our aim is to challenge the standards of reliability and efficiency, and to be considered a reference for the way in which we take into consideration our clients specific needs, and for the way we believe that strategies are not made just for drawers.

## Our main fields of expertise

- 1. Technical assistance for the management of policies and programmes
- 2. Ex-ante, ongoing, ex-post evaluation of programmes and policies
- 3. **Economic and social research, strategies** for national/regional/local development
- 4. Management of projects implemented with European funding
- 5. **High level training** for professionals of Public Administration and private sector
- 6. Consultancy for accesing funding opportunities



- (1) Our services of technical assistance for the management of policies cover:
- **programme monitoring procedures** and systems, and particular monitoring arrangements for key/strategic projects;
- expenditure plans to guarantee the highest absorption of funds;
- **financial management** procedures, including reporting of expenditure to the primary financing institution;
- first level control and audit procedures;
- organization and monitoring of the implementation of the **horizontal principles within the programme**: non-discrimination, gender equality, sustainable development, innovation;
- arrangements and procedures to guarantee the multi-level governance and partnership levels required by the ESI Funds Regulations;
- support to the setting up and management and evaluation of **financial instruments**;
- introduction and management of the **simplified cost options** within the programmes;
- arrangements and organization of **aid schemes for enterprises**, including state-aid legislation related aspects;
- drafting of calls and guidelines for applicants.
- (2) Regarding the evaluation of programmes and policies, our services are based on both qualitative and quantitative methods, validated through our previous experiences, but in the same time adapted and improved according to the specificity of each contract.

We have been involved in numerous evaluations covering all the stages of the implementation process: ex-ante, ongoing and ex-post. The topics of evaluation have been linked in several occasions to the estimated and achieved impact and results of the programme/policy undergoing the evaluation. In the case of ex-ante evaluations, we have also provided the technical expertise for the Strategic Environmental Assessment process.

Nevertheless we have had the opportunity to assess also specific elements included in programmes and policies like, for example, how the **gender equality and non-discrimination principles** are taken into consideration or if the **information and publicity actions** have reached the target groups.



(3) We currently offer an extensive expertise in delivering professional services for elaborating **sectorial**, **regional or national strategies**, **studies** and **analysis** able to substantiate public administration policies.

The following are some of the services that we provide in this area:

- Development of national sectorial strategies;
- Elaboration of local sustainable development strategies and strategies for regional development;
- Market research and elaboration of marketing studies;
- Sociological research studies, both at national and local level;
- o Development of **economic and social studies and analysis** covering a wide range of themes;
- o Elaboration of integrated urban development plans;
- Development of cost-benefit analysis for various kinds of investments.

We have delivered strategies in all the most important fields of policy, like for example:

- · smart specialization;
- simplification and quality systems in Public Administration;
- tourism promotion and development;
- local and regional economy;
- competitiveness of SMEs;
- agriculture;
- rural environment;
- · minorities.
- (4) We offer management consulting services for a variety of projects by assisting the clients (public or private entities) to proper implement their projects and to improve their practice of project, programme and/or portfolio management.
- (5) Since 2010, we are authorized to organize a series of trainings in several fields of interest for the national economy: IT, financial, project management and tourism. Our experience in delivering training shows our concern in investing in human resources, as a key resource for the sustainable development of the local, regional and national business environment.
- (6) We also provide **integrated consultancy services** in the field of funding opportunities, for a large range of potential applicants, in all stages of the project life cycle (design and preparation, evaluation and selection, implementation, ex-post monitoring).



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