

MANIFESTO

FOR THE ADOPTION OF GOOD PROJECT MANAGEMENT PRACTICE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF EUROPEAN FUNDS

PREAMBLE

The pandemic that we have been experiencing since 2020 is causing an enormous health, social and economic crisis in our country, as in the rest of the world, and the European Union has mobilised an enormous amount of economic resources to alleviate its effects, with the clear aim of a sustained long-term recovery. This is NextGenerationEU, a temporary recovery instrument endowed with €750 billion for the whole of Europe that will help to repair the immediate economic and social damage caused by the pandemic and lead us towards a greener, more digital, more resilient Europe that is better adapted to current and future challenges.

In Spain, the resources made available by NextGenerationEU could reach €140 billion, in addition to the funds allocated by the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and the funds from the previous Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, of which around two thirds are still to be implemented and are due to be executed by 2023. This represents an unprecedented challenge for our country, which must face this transformative opportunity from the collaboration of all the agents involved in its management: Public Administrations, Companies, Universities, Organisations, Civil Society and Professionals.

This enormous amount of funds will be channelled mainly in the form of projects. The urgent deadlines required for their preparation and execution, together with the conditions demanded by Europe in terms of transparency, justification of the use of funds and the achievement of objectives and their management, make it essential to put in place good management practices recognised by all the agents involved.

These good practices in Project Management, Standards, Competences, Principles, Frameworks and Methodologies are applied internationally. Their application from the initial stages of the project maximises the chances of success in the management of projects and the delivery of value for the benefit of citizens.

The signatories of this manifesto are convinced that it will only be possible to make the most of this opportunity through collaboration and coordination that incorporates these internationally recognised best practices and skills in Project Management.

In Spain there are a large number of professionals skilled in these good practices and who implement them to achieve the best possible results for each project. They are professionals and companies, prepared by different organisations recognised both in Europe and the rest of the world, which endorse their good practices, knowledge, philosophy, and common language.

OBJECT

This manifesto arises from the conviction that we are facing a challenge and an opportunity that can define the future of our country and to which it is necessary to take a step forward and contribute as much as possible.

We, the undersigned associations and professionals, place ourselves at the disposal of Spanish society.

There are organisations, professionals and companies in our country that are experienced and accredited in internationally recognised best practices in Project and Programme Management. They know how to maximise the delivery of value through Projects.

This manifesto is a declaration of the need for their participation and the use of these good practices in order to manage European funds with maximum efficiency and effectiveness for the benefit of all citizens.

MANIFESTO

We consider that good practices, common understanding, ethics, professionalism, and the commitment of all the agents involved, be they public or private, will be decisive, as in any project, in order to achieve the common objective of ensuring that the European recovery funds granted to Spain are fully transferred to our economy. This is the only way to achieve the sustained economic recovery that we need at this time in our country.

To this end, we believe that the following elements must be addressed, with the support and commitment of all actors:

- 1** All actors involved in the identification and approval, planning, execution, monitoring and control of projects, in each and every one of the levels involved, i.e. central, regional and/or local public administrations, private sector and professionals, must share common project management principles, frameworks and methodologies, which guarantee the necessary coordination and understanding between all parties involved.

- 2** All project management professionals involved from each of the parties involved shall have knowledge of internationally known Project Management principles and best practices recognised by professional project management organisations, and shall necessarily act in an ethical, transparent and professional manner.

3 It is the responsibility of the Public Administrations involved to ensure that they have an efficient organisational model for the management of projects, programmes and project portfolios, which focuses on obtaining the planned value and benefits. To this end, we believe that a law regulating the management of projects and programmes in the public administration, as well as the professional career of project and programme managers, would facilitate their implementation and success.

4 The approval of the resources requested for each project should be supported by the fulfilment of the requirements, but also by a master plan defining the benefits that the project will generate. It shall also consider the identified risks that could compromise it, the resources and time needed to achieve the objectives, as well as its alignment with the strategic objectives of the programme or portfolios in which the project would be included and its particular objectives.

5 All the agents involved in the management, execution, monitoring and control of the funds and the projects that consume them must be aware of the economic and social importance of achieving the common objectives, and must ensure that those who participate directly or indirectly in the projects also understand this.

In Spain, 27th April 2021