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**EU funds as the management instrument of local development on the
example of rural municipalities of Łódź province**

Dissertation abstract

The aim of this thesis was the relation assesment between the local development and the absorption of EU funds by rural municipalities of Łódź province in two periods of programming: 2007 -2013 and 2014 -2020, furthermore the verification of hypotheses which assumed that a low level of EU fund absorption by municipality offices results from the lack of high qualified people working in those offices. Moreover, the acquisition of EU funds by the municipality offices by means of external companies causes their greater absorption and these funds obtained by municipalities fostered the development of enrichment of local infrastructure. The conducted research shows that rural municipalities of Łódź province are significantly interested in obtaining EU funds. Nevertheless, the most frequent obstacle to get the funds is the human factor, namely the lack of high qualified staff capable of preparing proper competition documents. In order to suport the commune self-governments with the acquisition of the funds in subsequent programming periods, it seems necessary to take actions focusing on informing and training municipality workers so as to increase their qualifications and also promote good practice. These actions should include the greatest number of practical elements connected with the opportunity to get a substantial help concerning the designed projects

Key words: EU funds, rural municipalities of Łódź province