

EUROPEAN UNION GRANTS ADVISOR

Finnish IT Firm Gets Grant to Support Quality Management Improvements



“Mepco has a strong belief in entrepreneurship, commitment, and efficient cooperation. The funding that EUGA helped us access has helped improve our quality management, which will give us a solid foundation as we grow our business.”

Markku Pekkola, Managing Director,
Mepco

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Situation

The Ministry of Labour in Finland promotes a concept called “qualitatively sustainable productivity growth.” It aims to support the simultaneous enhancement of productivity and the quality of working life for Finnish companies through the Workplace Development Programme TYKES. Mepco is a successful business providing software for managing human resources, enterprise planning, and customer relationships to many large and small businesses in Finland. It wanted to improve its quality management and work toward certification and was very pleased when representatives of the European Union Grants Advisor (EUGA) programme explained how they could help it apply for funding to the TYKES programme to support its aims.

Solution

With the help of the EUGA programme, Mepco applied to the TYKES programme in May 2006 and received €11,200 (U.S.\$14,350) in funds in September 2006. With the funds, Mepco was able to cover part of its consultancy costs, create a change management plan, and involve all employees in a consultative approach to improving its business.

Benefits

- The grant of €11,200 covered 50 per cent of Mepco’s quality management improvement project.
- The company can now work toward ISO and local Finnish quality management certifications.
- The consultant helped include all employees in the change management process to help improve the business.