

Project Management System saves time

The Problem

The Calderdale College External Funding Unit has sourced and manages over £7.5 million of 'live' projects from European and UK project funding. A dedicated team bids, monitors, tracks, claims and reports on a large number of projects supported by multiple funding bodies.

Over the years, various paper-based records, procedures, spreadsheets and a bespoke Access database have evolved to support project administration. These ad-hoc information sources were neither integrated nor coherent. Knowledge was stored in paper based project files and a variety of electronic files.

Joanne Patrickson, Head of External Funding commented "we found ourselves spending more and more time compiling information for College management and funding bodies rather than pursuing new sources of funds".

Each month considerable effort was devoted to collating and extracting reports. Producing auditable, recoverable claims and reliable management information became increasingly time consuming and error-prone.

The Solution

Joanne wanted a simple solution that integrated project financial and output information. College management and funding bodies insist on information presented in particular formats so the solution had to be extremely flexible to cope with current and future demands.

In August 2004, Joanne installed FM2000 Fund Manager. The database-driven web-based project repository enables her team to centrally record project bid, budget, actual cost and output information.

The implementation was straightforward and problem free. Joanne noted, "several months after installation we asked about some minor changes, which were done willingly and at no cost. At our six month review, we were pleased to see our best suggestions already incorporated into the product. CHL is a very professional organisation".

The Results

Since going live, FM2000 Fund Manager has eliminated the need for multiple data sources. The easy dissemination of project information gives College staff with different roles secure access to the right level of detail whenever they need it.

Joanne said, “since the implementation of this piece of software it has certainly cut down on a variety of other information bases from which we have had to draw financial & output information from in order to satisfy funding bodies. FM2000 has helped build on the good practice we already had. I would recommend it to any organisation heavily involved in funding”.

More Information? Contact Us

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