











IT'S THE COMPETITIVE TENDERING PROCESS'

Most common challenges:

- What is the right fund?
- Don't know how to bid!
- The guidance is too complicated!
- Not ready!
- Don't have time!
- Hate writing proposals!
- Don't understand the legal bit!

Five steps



"Don't spend too much trying to choose the perfect opportunity, that you miss the right opportunity." (Michael Dell)

"Quality is the best business plan." (John Lasseter)

4. Deliver

1. Prepare

2. Chase the right deals for you

3. Tell a story

"SIMPLE is harder than COMPLEX. You have to work hard to get your thinking clean to make it simple." (Steve Jobs)

5. Learn and improve

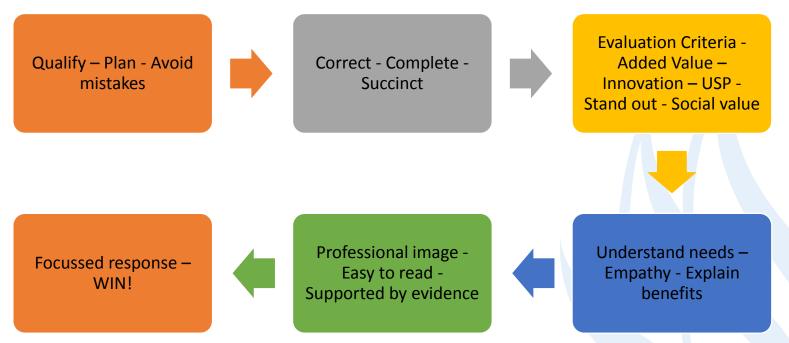
> "Metrics are for doing not for staring. Never measure just because you can. Measure to learn. Measure to fix."

(Stijn Debrouwere)

"The first draft of anything is s**t." (Ernest Hemingway)

TELL A STORY – Why you, why not them?







How good are proposals?	
5%	 Don't qualify Are so bad they have just copied their sales blurb
At least 15%	 Do not actually answer the questions posed Repeat the tender document without additions Try to shoe horn a ready made answer to almost any question
The best	 Have answered the questions without the hard sell Clear, concise, persuasive Woven in reasons that will make you want to do business with them

"A good written proposal might not, in itself, win you the business but a **badly written** one may put you **out of the race**"



Most common mistakes - AVOID!

Late submission	 Check the deadline (timezones) - IT IS NOT A TARGET! Online systems – plan for failure
Incorrect formatting	 Word count, pages, margins, font, formats, presentation, templates, number of copies
Missing/extra information	 Appendices, CVs, accounts, compliance documents, unanswered questions Promotional materials, sales brochures
Incorrect assumptions	Ambiguous questions? Clarification questions period, ASK!
Grammar	Cut & paste, wrong name, spelling, typos
Lack of understanding	 Copy & paste, offering something else than what was asked for, not citing/linking to referenced documents Did we REALLY say that in our bid?

Contact



Gabriela Matouskova, Business Development Manager

CU Social Enterprise CIC

The Enterprise Hub

5 Whitefriars Street, Coventry, CV1 2DS

m: +44 (0)7392 096 012

e: aa3997@coventry.ac.uk

w: CU Social Enterprise

Twitter: @GMatouskova

