

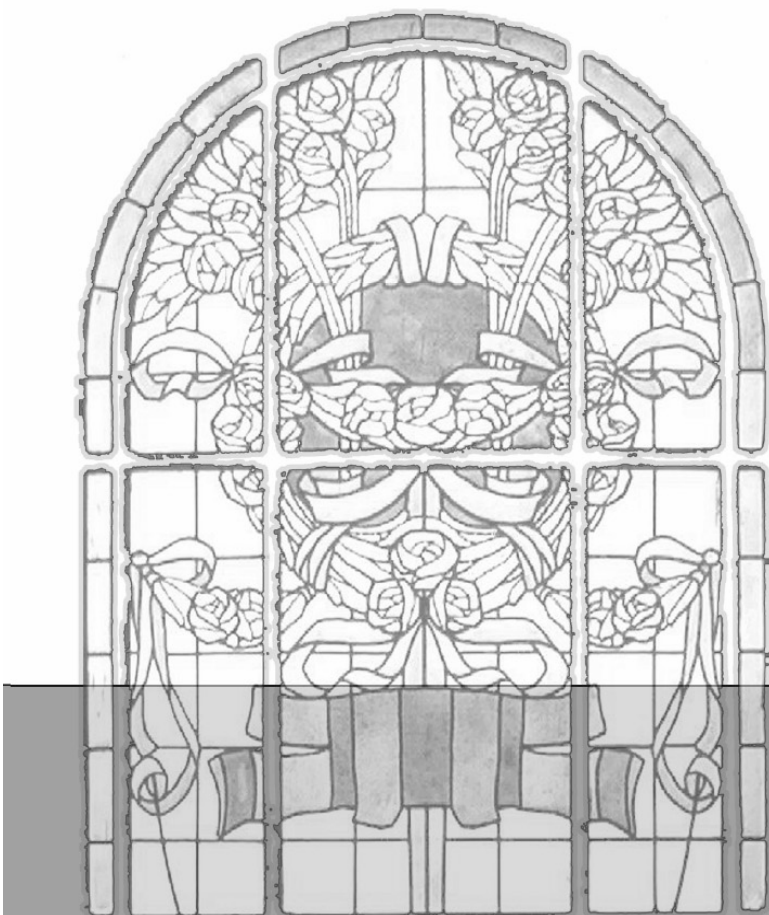
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ANATOMY STUDY OF A STATE AID REGIME

CASES AND MATERIALS ON INCENTIVES TO ENTERPRISES

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Unità di Valutazione degli Investimenti Pubblici



The Public Investment Evaluation Unit (UVAL – *Unità di valutazione degli investimenti pubblici*) provides technical support to government bodies by preparing and disseminating methods for evaluating public investment programs and projects before, during and after the projects themselves, in part to optimize the use of EU Structural Funds. The unit is a part of the network of central and regional evaluation teams.

UVAL operates within the Department for Development Policies of the Ministry for Economic Development, to which it was transferred by decree of the Prime Minister on 28 June 2007, as published in the *Gazzetta Ufficiale* on 19 September 2007. The unit received its current structure in 1998 as part of the reorganization of the development promotion functions, which were previously assigned to the Ministry for the Economy and Finance.

The unit determines whether investment programs and projects comply with economic policy guidelines, assesses the financial and economic feasibility of the initiatives, and determines whether they are compatible and appropriate as compared with other solutions, while also evaluating their social and economic impact in the areas concerned.

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Anatomy study of a State Aid Regime Cases and Materials on Incentives to Enterprises

Abstract

This paper provides food for thought on the mechanics of Italy's State aid schemes for enterprises, in the belief that in public policies the link between objectives and results depends on the quality of a set of detail rules. Starting point of the paper is the experience of Law 488/1992, with a focus on the last call for proposals (the thirty-first) in the industrial sector, which introduced important innovations as to the integration between bank credit and State aid. The aim is not an overall assessment on the effectiveness of the policy instrument; it is rather a valuable anatomy study to provide policy-makers with guidance on how mechanisms based on detail rules may affect the achievement of the economic policy objectives pursued. The first part of the work is a synthetic reconstruction of the evolution of Law 488/1992 that, over time, has been placed at the service of a variety of purposes through very heterogeneous technical solutions. The second part of the paper analyses specific operating procedures so as to evaluate their coherence and usefulness in attaining the objectives pursued and, ultimately, to ponder their possible use in the context of other present and future State aid schemes.

Anatomia di un regime d'aiuto Casi e materiali sugli incentivi alle imprese

Sommario

Questo lavoro offre spunti di riflessione sulla meccanica dei regimi di aiuto alle imprese, nella convinzione che la coerenza tra obiettivi e risultati delle politiche pubbliche dipenda dalla qualità di un insieme di regole di dettaglio. I temi affrontati assumono come punto di partenza l'esperienza della Legge 488 del 1992 (con approfondimenti sull'ultimo bando Industria, il 31°, che presenta importanti innovazioni rispetto al passato nell'integrazione tra finanza bancaria e aiuti pubblici), ma l'intento non è una valutazione complessiva di efficacia dello strumento. Si tratta piuttosto di uno "studio di anatomia", utile per fornire al *policy maker* indicazioni su come, in tema di politica economica, i meccanismi disciplinati dalle norme di dettaglio possono influenzare il raggiungimento degli obiettivi. La prima parte del lavoro è una ricostruzione sintetica del percorso evolutivo della L. 488/1992 che, nel corso del tempo, è stata posta al servizio di molteplici scopi, attraverso soluzioni tecniche molto eterogenee. Nella seconda parte del lavoro si analizzano alcune specifiche modalità operative per vagliarne la coerenza e l'utilità rispetto agli obiettivi prefissati e, in ultima analisi, la possibilità di un loro utilizzo nel contesto di altri regimi di aiuto presenti e futuri.

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