

"The unity of Europe was a dream of a few. It became an aspiration for many. Today it is a necessity for us all."

Federal Chancellor Konrad Adenauer in a government statement to the German Bundestag on December 15, 1954

"If the inhabitants of Europe learn to understand that it is not a bureaucratic monster that wants to restrict or even deny their independence, but merely a new type of community that significantly expands their freedom, then the European Union will not have to fear for its future."

Czech President Vaclav Havel in a speech to the European Parliament on March 8, 1994

Many people say: We pay x million into it, but only get y million out of it. But without Europe, there is no guarantee that these y million would actually be available for the same purpose. Europe combines certain forces. These funds only exist because Europe exists."

Quote from an interview with experts from regional administration in a 2019 study by the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation entitled "Europas Regionen besser fördern" (Promoting Europe's regions better)

"Many people hesitate to apply for funding out of fear of the barriers - language, regulations - to tackle it. And fear of making mistakes. That's why I say: a regional budget would be good."

Quote from an interview with experts from regional administration in a 2019 study by the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation entitled "Europas Regionen besser fördern" (Promoting Europe's regions better)

"You have to listen to the people at the local level: What do they see in projects that could potentially receive funding from Brussels? If you listen and pick up the people locally - incredibly complex and time-consuming - you can achieve acceptance. Incredibly time-consuming. But it's a process that potentially promises success [in the fight against right-wing populism]."

Quote from an interview with experts from regional administration in a 2019 study by the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation entitled "Europas Regionen besser fördern" (Promoting Europe's regions better)

"Increasing acceptance would also include to show once again what has been funded in the last 20 years and what lasting effects this has had."

Quote from an interview with experts from regional administration in a 2019 study by the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation entitled "Europas Regionen besser fördern" (Promoting Europe's regions better)

"We are all much better off personally than we were 30 years ago. And yet there is still a fear, a fear of change, of reducing what we have achieved, of collapse. Breaking that down with the instrument of regional promotion is kind of funny. That alone won't help."

Quote from an interview with experts from regional administration in a 2019 study by the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation entitled "Europas Regionen besser fördern" (Promoting Europe's regions better)