

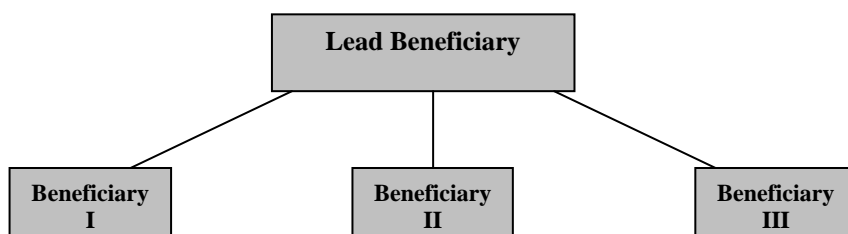


II Partnership

Lead Beneficiary Principle

Background

The activities of a project will be carried out by a number of partners of whom one will act as Lead beneficiary and thus form the link between the project and the programme secretariat, which acts on behalf of the Managing Authority and Paying Authority.



The Lead Beneficiary and the (project) beneficiaries are considered as final beneficiary. Payments to the project must be based on expenditure actually paid out by the final beneficiary. The Lead Beneficiary will act as a link between the project (partnership) and the programme (Joint Technical Secretariat). At project level the Lead Beneficiary is the overall administratively and financially responsible body.

The Lead Beneficiary is responsible for:

- Signing a partnership agreement with all the beneficiaries, where at least the following has to be covered:
 - Provisions guaranteeing the sound financial management of the funds allocated to all beneficiaries and sub-partners;
 - Provisions securing the protection of the audit trail at all levels;
 - Arrangements for recovering amounts unduly paid.
- Appointment of a project controller,
- Delivering project reports and documentation,
- Delivering project outputs,
- Production of documents required for control and payments,
- Overall project management,
- Compliance with public tendering procedures for the entire partnership.

All payments from the programme will be made to the Lead Beneficiary. The Lead Beneficiary must pass on the relevant ERDF share to the partnership as quick as possible.

References

- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006, Article 15 & EC 1080/2006 Article 20