



## **2. “ACTORS” INVOLVED IN PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION**



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Beside the LB and partners, the actors involved in the projects implementation are eleven (11). Out of them, only the first six reported below are relevant to project implementation. The other five are more involved in Programme rather than in project implementation.

They are indicated for references.

### *Actors relevant to project Implementation.*

1. **Managing Authority (MA);** The Managing Authority (MA) is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy), which has its operational base in Cagliari (Italy) within the Presidency of the Sardinia Region. Two units compose the MA: Authorizing and Accounting. The MA will be responsible for managing the Programme in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, and ensuring that decisions of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) comply with the law, regulations and provisions in force;
2. **Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS):** The JTS is composed of international staff recruited through a public procedure. It operates by the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Cagliari). The JTS performs a supporting function to assist the MA and other Programme bodies, and a direct function in coordination with the MA. The JTS is the initial reference for the beneficiaries on project implementation;
3. **2 Branch Offices (BOs):** The hosting institutions for the 2 Branch Offices are: Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) based in Jordan for Eastern Mediterranean and the Region of Valencia (Generalitat Valenciana) based in Spain for Western Mediterranean. The BOs support locally the MA and the JTS in project monitoring. Their added value is the proximity with project implementation areas and knowledge of related contexts;
4. **National Contact Points (NCPs):** One National Contact Point (NCP) for each participating country is appointed by the relevant National Authority (NA) and functionally independent from the Control Contact Point and the member of the Group of Auditors. The NCPs assist beneficiaries during project implementation in terms of facilitating relations with national partners. A LB will be in touch with the NCPs in case of a Partner in a given country does not respect the contractual rules;
5. **The Auditors of the Beneficiary and Partners:** The Lead Beneficiary and partners according to the national rules and following a procurement process select the



Auditors. It goes without saying that the Auditors play a key role in performing the agreed-upon procedures with due care and full respect of the Code of Ethics therein indicated. The Auditor selection process follows national procedures as detailed in chapter 3.

6. **Audit Authority (AA):** the Audit Authority is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia with a dedicated office established within the Presidency of the Region. The AA is authorised to carry out directly, or through its sub-contracted audit company/ies its duties on the whole Programme territory, according to the specific modalities to be decided in the audit strategy. Sample audit on projects will be managed by the AA;

*Actors relevant to Programme implementation.*

7. **National authorities (NAs):** is the national institutional counterpart of the Managing Authority (MA) in each participating country;
8. **Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC):** is composed by the NAs and is the key decision-making body of the Programme;
9. **Group of Auditors (GoA):** The AA will be assisted by a Group of Auditors, comprised of a representative of each participating country in the Programme. The AA will chair the Group of Auditors. The main functions of this advisory body are to support the AA and its providers in their duties;
10. **Control Contact Points (CCPs):** Each participating country will appoint one or more Control Contact Points (CCPs) to support the MA in the control tasks related to project expenditure verification. CCPs endorse the Auditors selected by Lead Beneficiary and Partners and check the Expenditure Verification Reports (EVRs), if needed (GC art 6.6 third paragraph).
11. **Project Selection Committee (PSC):** Members of PSC are nominated by the JMC. The function of PSC is proposals evaluation.

### **Key issues**

- ✓ Even if not directly involved in project management, the Lead Beneficiary and the partners shall allow the above-mentioned actors the right of access to sites and locations at which the project is implemented (GC art.16.4.b);
- ✓ Lead Beneficiary and partners should start working relations with the national bodies of their respective countries since the beginning of project implementation. This is in the interest of the project since NCPs can provide support to project implementation and CCPs are directly involved in expenses control.