

# Interactive knowledge transfer for INTERREG

Future Cross-border Cooperation Slovakia – Austria 2007-2013  
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## The Lead Partner Principle

**Elise Blais**  
INTERACT Point Managing Transition  
and External Cooperation

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### NOTA BENE...

- Legal source

#### **Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006, Art. 20:**

*„Responsibilities of the Lead Beneficiary and the other beneficiaries“*

- Vocabulary

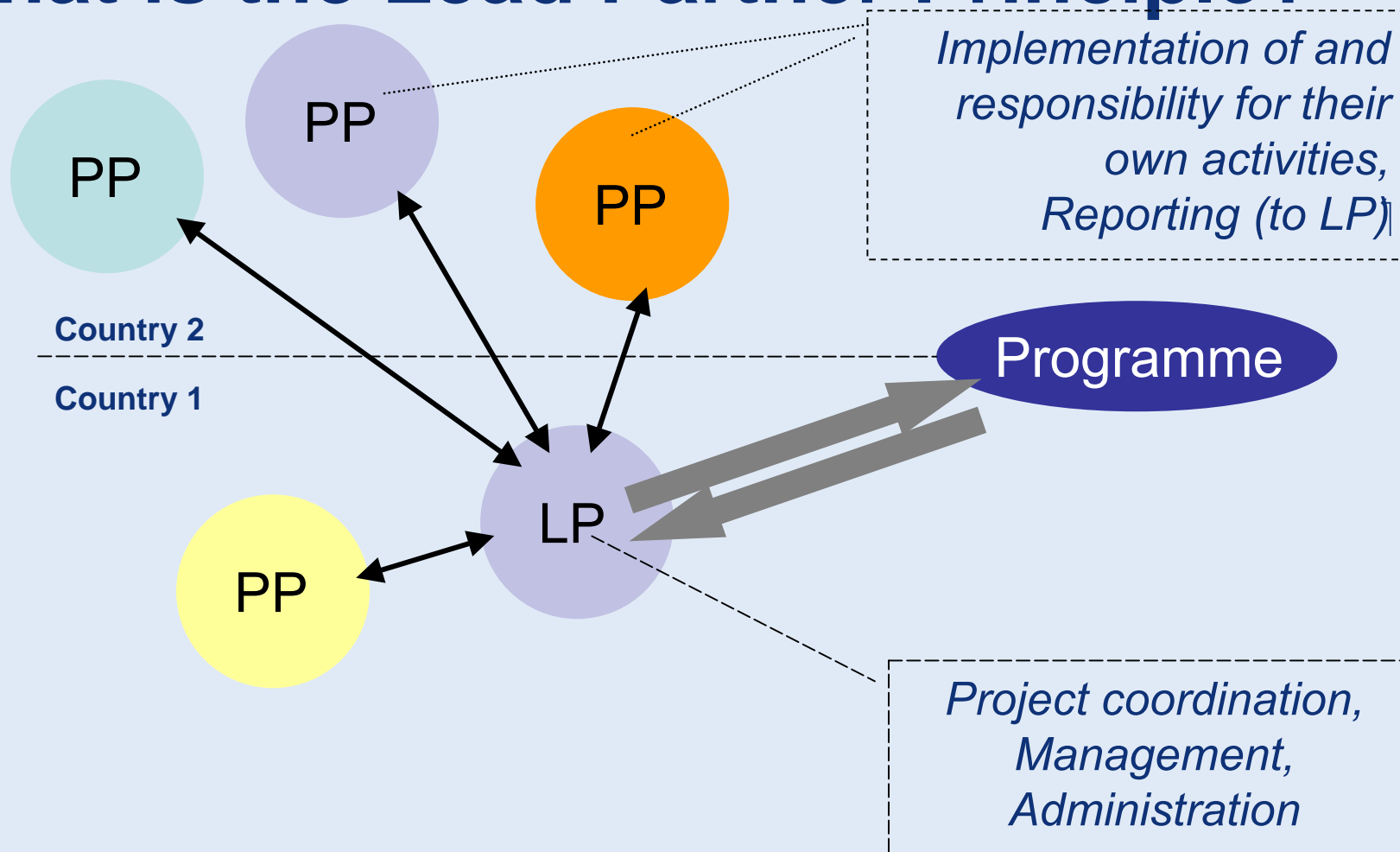
**Lead Partner = Lead beneficiary**

**Other partners = other beneficiaries**

### Why the LPP?

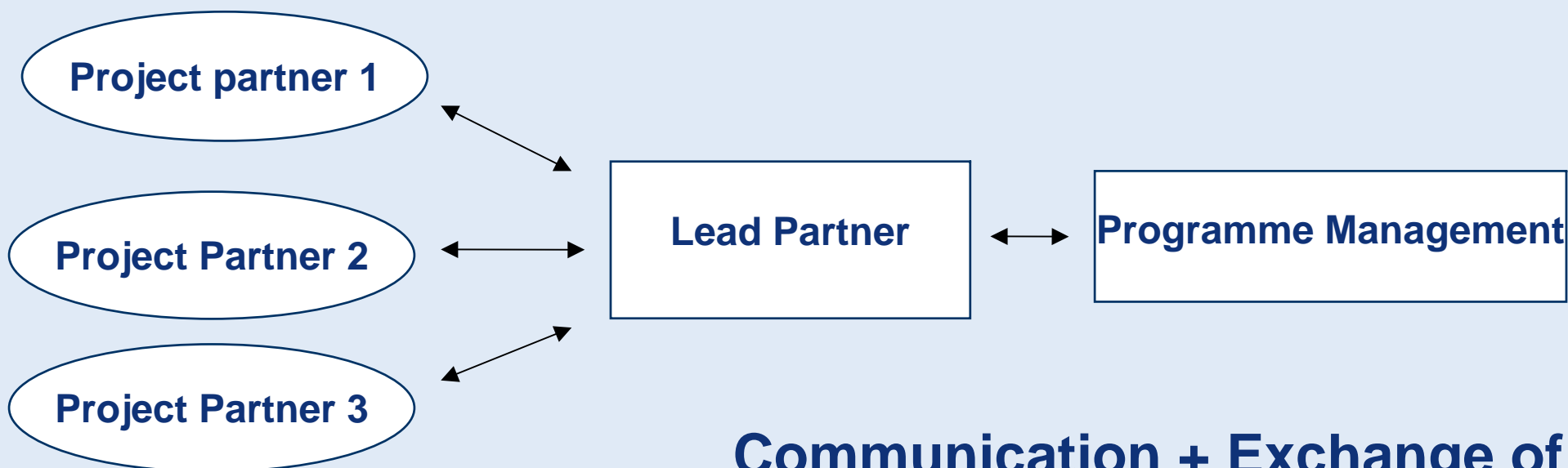
- To run projects/programmes **JOINTLY** => no „single“ or „mirror“ projects
- To simplify the **Responsibility Chain**: the LP is solely responsible for the project towards the Managing Authority => 1 Subsidy contract – 1 Payment flow – 1 Contact person.
- **Fewer but larger and more strategic projects**, easier participation of small organisations as partners (limited responsibility)
- **N+2, N+3**: LPP enables more precise **Monitoring**

## What is the Lead Partner Principle?



## The Lead Partner has a central role: between Partnership and Programme bodies

Administrative Link between Project and Programme:



**Communication + Exchange of information – both ways !!**

But the LP is **not solely responsible** for the entire implementation of the project!

**....each partner has duties/obligations and tasks!**

# Project development – the partnership

- **Larger institutions as LP** (more difficult for smaller, e.g. financial and administrative capacity - consider outsourcing?)
- **LP needs:**
  - good communication and management skills
  - financial and administrative capacity
  - Good knowledge of the area
  - Contacts
- **Early involvement of the partnership:** all partners to commonly agree on a LP
- **Balanced partnership** (small-large, complementarity etc)

### Cooperation and partnership

2 Partners from 2 countries + at least 2 of the 4 cooperation criteria:



- 1) **Active participation** of all partners from the starting phase. Joint designation of the LP. LP becomes coordinator.
- 2) No duplication of functions (e.g. a Project manager within each partner!) => **1 Project management**
- 3) **1 Budget – 1 Bank-account** (at the LP). All Partners should contribute financially – balanced repartition.
- 4) All Partners contribute to achieve project objectives. **Activities are run together and are linked to each other.**

# Project development – Planning

- **Longer preparation phase:**
  - Set up a strong and relevant partnership
  - Develop and write the application together
  - Clear repartition of tasks (“Work Packages”):  
***“who does what, when, with whom?”***

# Project development – Planning

- **Take time to prepare an accurate budget, with, a.o.:**

**Precise allocation** of financial and human resources for each activity:

- Budget per Partner, “Work Package”, Year, Budget line
- Budget for coordination:
  - LP-funds for general Project management.
  - Partner-funds for cooperation.





# Legal Responsibilities under the LPP

- LP submits the **application** on behalf of Partnership
- LP and Managing Authority (MA) sign Subsidy contract
- LP drafts **Partnership Agreement**, to be signed by all partners (1080/2006 Art 20(1)(a))
  - => Each partner has its own tasks and responsibilities => balanced participation

- **Subsidy contract**
  - **Rights:** e.g. to receive the subsidy
  - **Duties:** reporting, deadlines, spending targets, archiving (keeping documentation), Info&Comm., recovery procedure
  
- **Partnership Agreement**
  - Respective rights and duties of each partner (tasks, reporting, etc.)
  - Recovery procedure
  - etc

### Financial Responsibilities under the LPP:

- **All Partners (incl. LP):**
  - Are responsible for their own Expenditure and Activities, incl. Reimbursement in case of irregularities
  - Must have their expenditure controlled – by the First Level Controller nominated by their Member State
- **LP:**
  - Reporting and administrative activities
  - Receives ERDF funds from the programme and transfers their share to each partner
  - In case of irregularities: reimburses the Certifying Authority and then claims funds back from the concerned partner

### Project implementation - Monitoring

- **Activity reports enable control and evaluation of the progress of the project.**
  - 1 report for the whole project – participation of each partner to the activities must be documented.
  - Indicators for the whole project (Result-Output)
  - Information and Publicity measures
- **Controls:** Indicators and visit on the spot (at LP and/or other partners)
- **Coordination:** Project Steering Committee

### Reporting – First Level Control

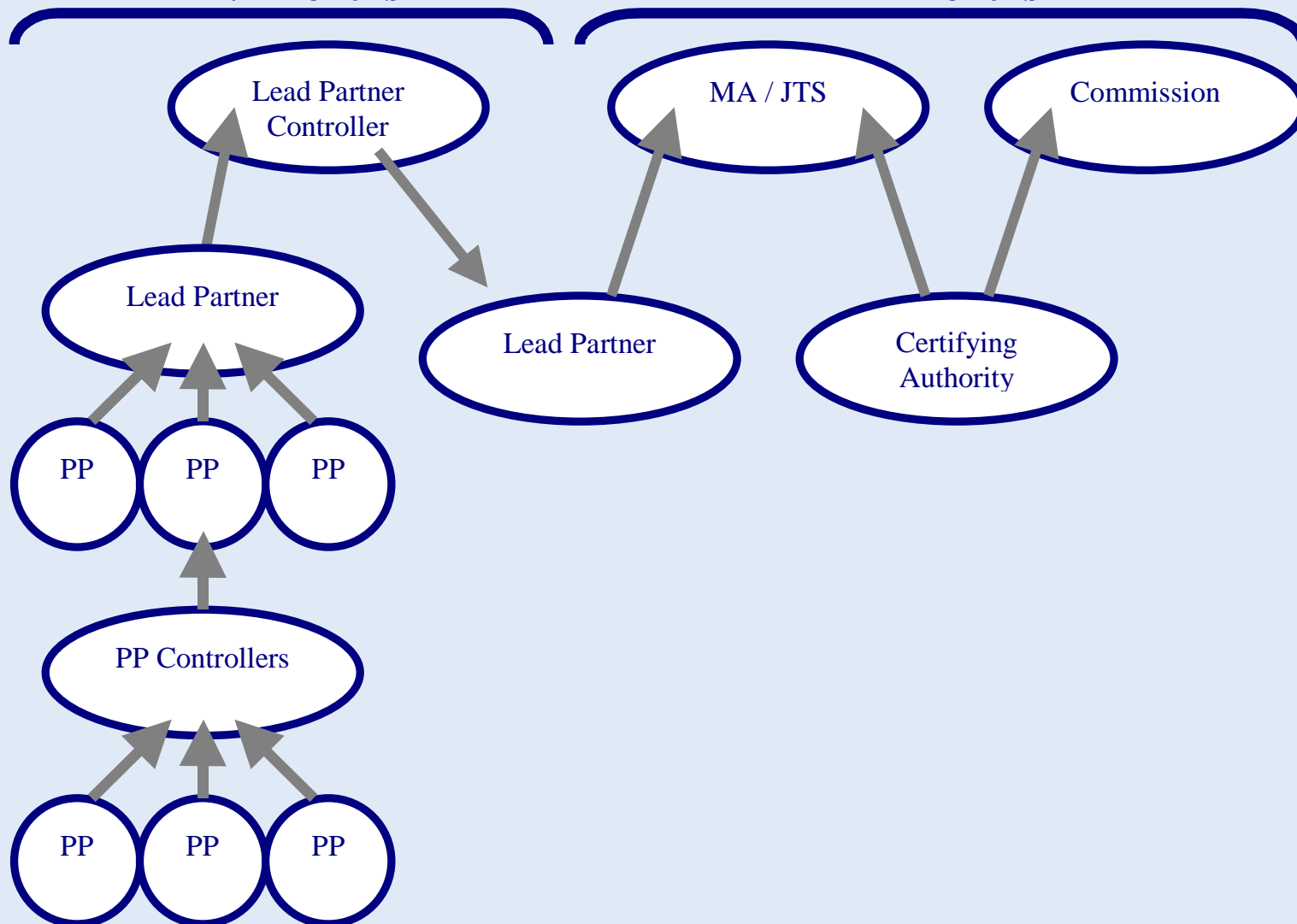
- **First Level Controllers** (designated by each Member State) control and validate expenditure of respective partners, incl. LP.
- Control based on **national eligibility rules**.
- LP collects all certifications and submits a payment claim – after verifications :

### LP must check:

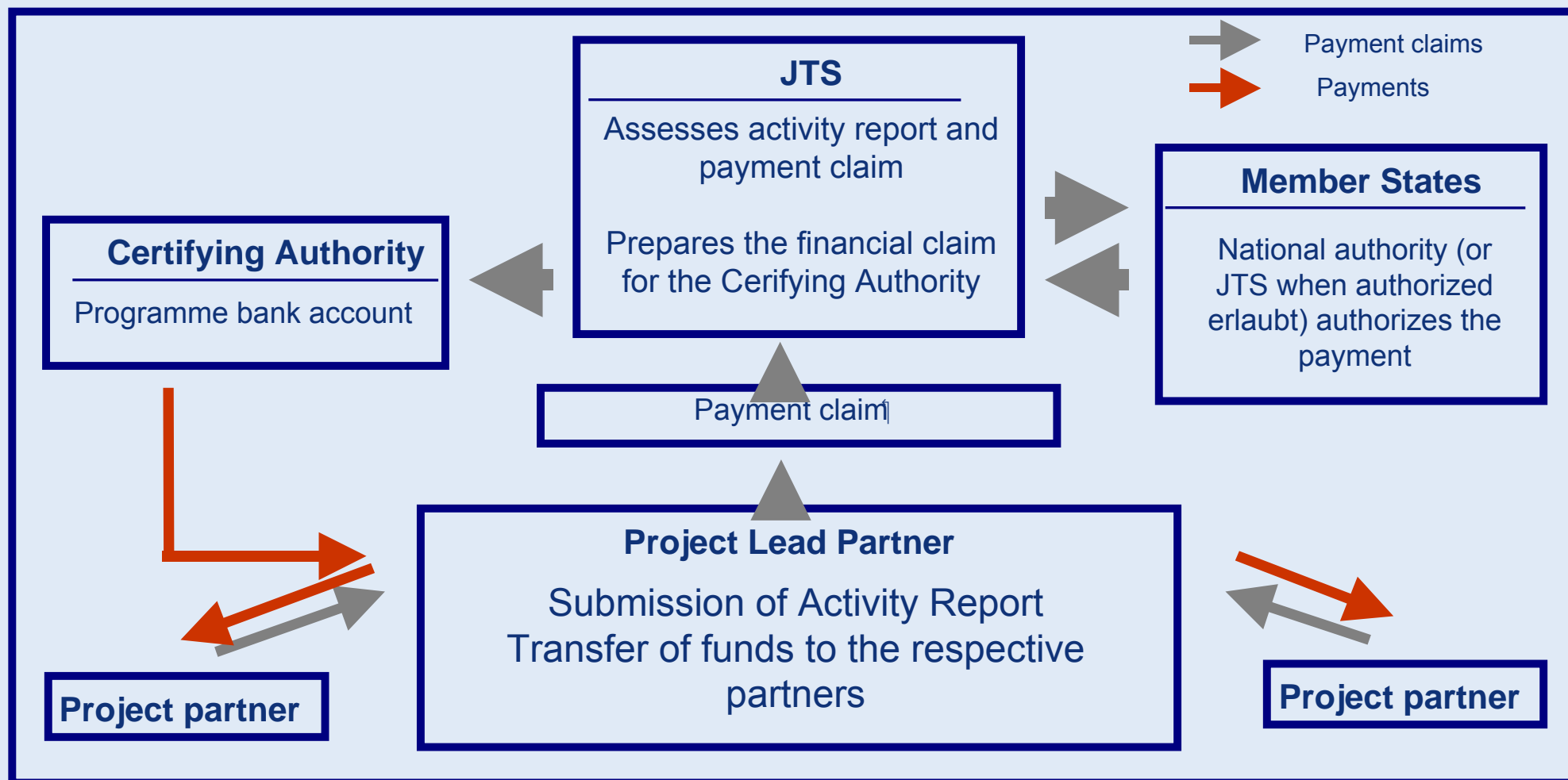
- that the expenditure presented by each partner is **in line with the activities** listed and agreed in the project application, subsidy contract and partnership agreement.
- that the expenditure presented by each partner has been **controlled and validated** by the FL-Controller

# The Lead Partner Principle

## FLC under the LPP



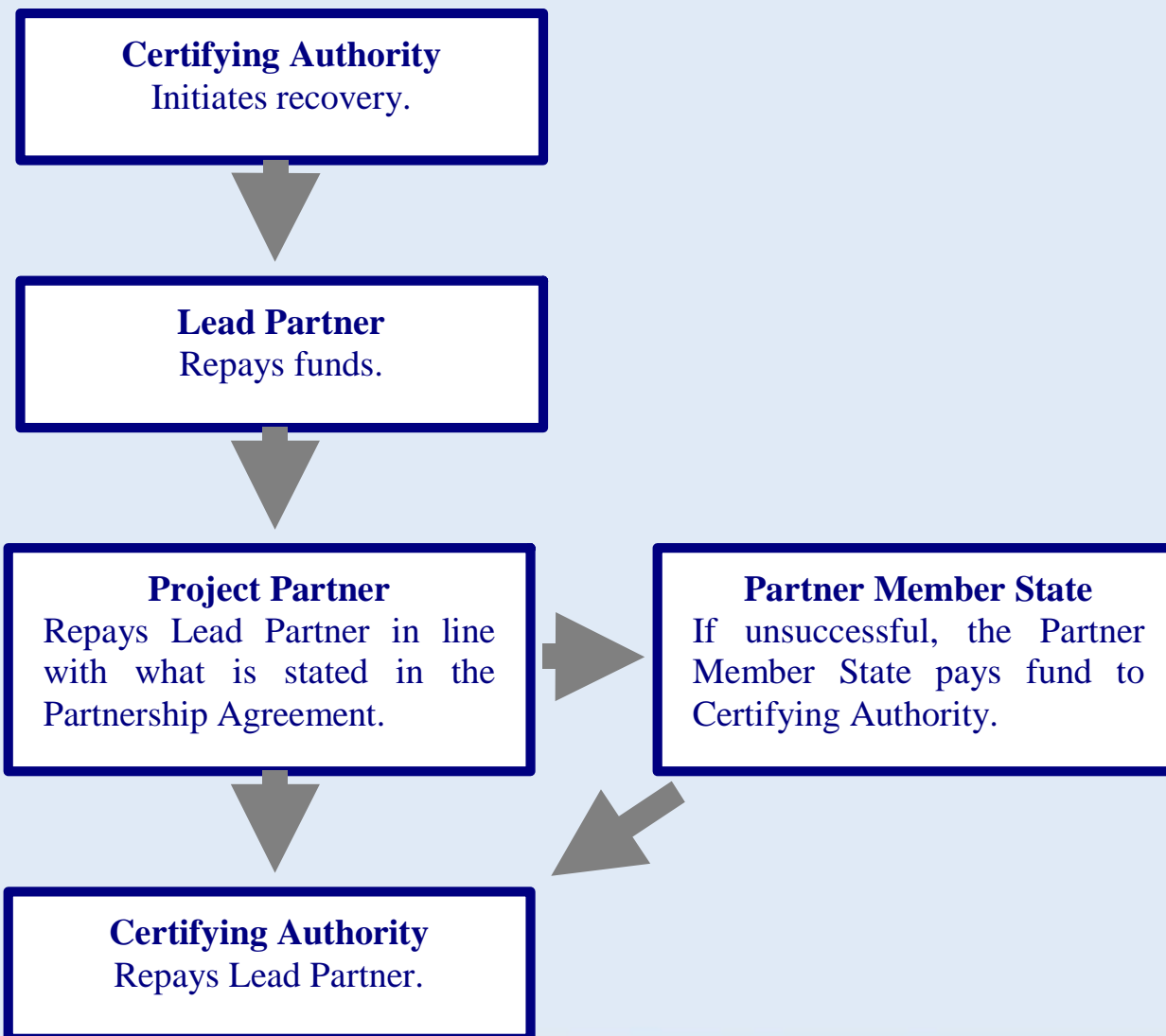
## Payment claims – Payments



### Reminder

- **Payments:**
  - LP claims the funds on behalf of **whole partnership**.
  - LP **informs all partners** in detail about funds claimed and received.
  - **Transfer costs are eligible.**
- **Changes in the project:** must be discussed and agreed among all partners

## Reimbursements



### Project closure

- **FLC certificate for each Partner**, consider eligibility in time (deadlines), Evaluation of the project results.
- **Final report** (LP Responsibility – drafted with information from all partners)
- **Keeping documentation / Archiving** (each partner).

### Sources

The main content of this presentation is an extract from the INTERACT study:

**“Good Practice INTERREG III Lead Partner Principle HANDBOOK for Future European Territorial Cooperation Programmes”**

By INTERACT Point Tool Box, Valencia



For further information: Mr. Manuel Gonzalez, [ip.tb@interact-eu.net](mailto:ip.tb@interact-eu.net)



INTERACT Point Managing Transition and External Cooperation

Please do not hesitate to contact us  
for further information or visit  
**[www.interact-eu.net](http://www.interact-eu.net)**

feel free to contact also  
**Elise Blais, [elise.blais@interact-eu.net](mailto:elise.blais@interact-eu.net)**