Should data be collected and recorded also for entities that benefit indirectly from ESF support?

No. In the same way as for participants, monitoring data should cover only entities that benefit directly from ESF support. In the EC guidance it is noted that “Outputs are measured at the level of supported people, supported entities …” and “Result indicators capture the expected effects on participants or entities brought about by an operation”. As a guiding principle the selection of the most appropriate programme-specific indicator(s) depends on the specific intervention logic, on the nature of the actions and on who concretely benefits from the actions.

For example, ESF support funds the development (but not the implementation) of new guidelines aimed at improving the functioning of third sector organisations. A government department gets ESF funding and subcontracts the development to a specialist organisation. The government department is supported directly and should be counted. However, the subcontracted company is simply being paid to provide a service and is not supported (thus, not to be counted).

After completion of the project, the guidelines are implemented by a number of organisations; this occurs later as a result of the standard being required by law, and is not a direct result of the ESF support but of the legislation. Therefore has no relevance to monitoring and the organisations that will implement the guidelines benefit indirectly and are not counted as supported entity.

In the case that the ESF also contributed to the cost of implementation of the new guidelines, these organisations would be directly supported and they should be counted accordingly.

View PDF