

**According to the EC Guidance on Monitoring and Evaluation, it is considered a "good practice" that an independent body or external experts carry out the representative sampling. Are beneficiaries or intermediary bodies not allowed to collect the data?**

No. Beneficiaries or intermediate bodies may collect the data and might assist in drawing the sample. However, since it is important to consider factors with precise statistical meaning when a sample is drawn (size, representativeness, quality, etc.), it is strongly advised to consult an appropriate expert (internal or external), who can design and document this process accordingly.

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