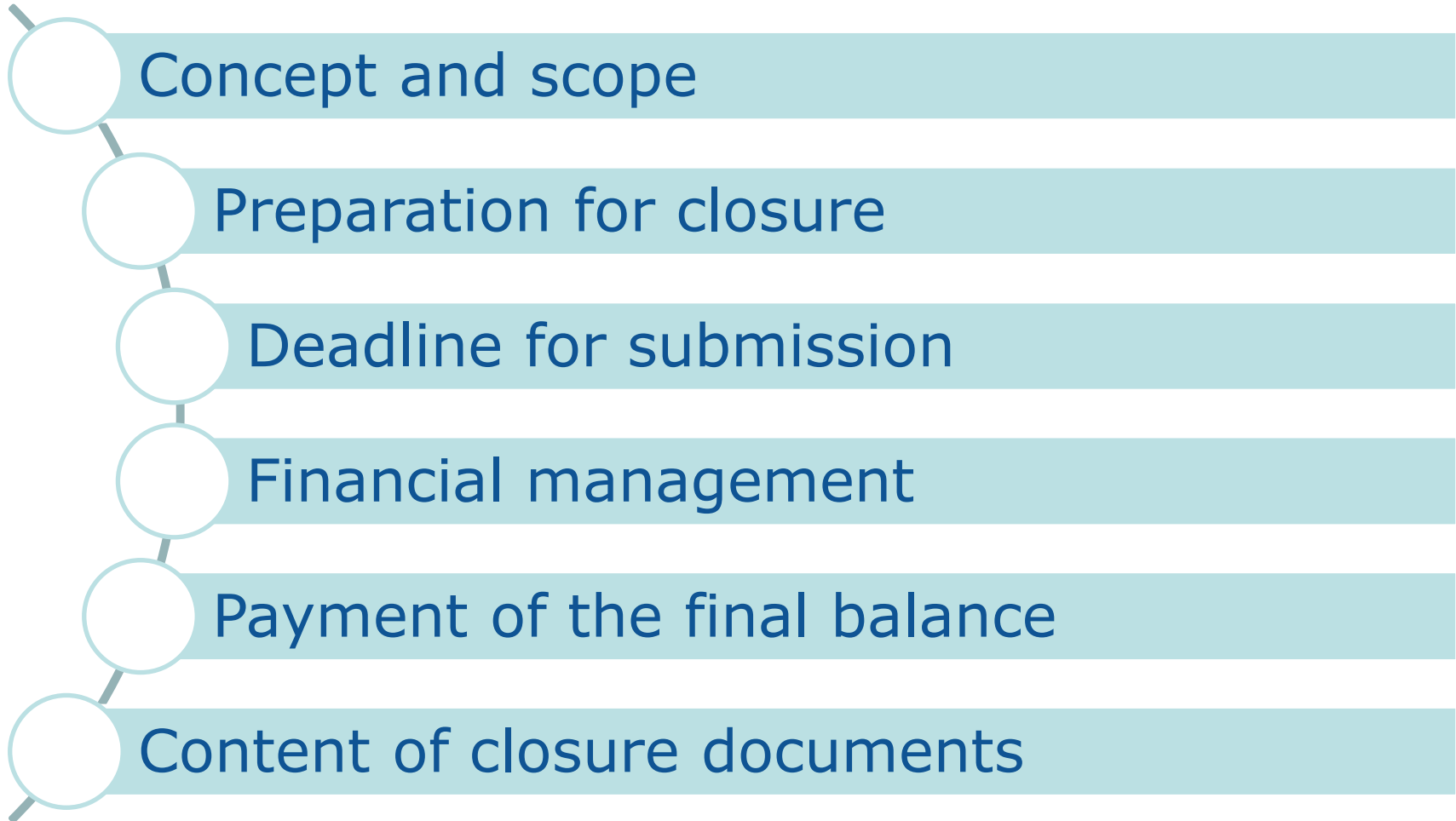




Closure Guidelines 2014-2020

**Presentation to Interreg ERDF and IPA-CBC
authorities – 22 Sept 2022**

Outline



Process so far....

**Oct 2020 &
March
2021**
EGESIF

13.10.2021
Adoption via
Commission
Notice

2021-2022
Meetings
with MS

End 2022
Modifying
CGL

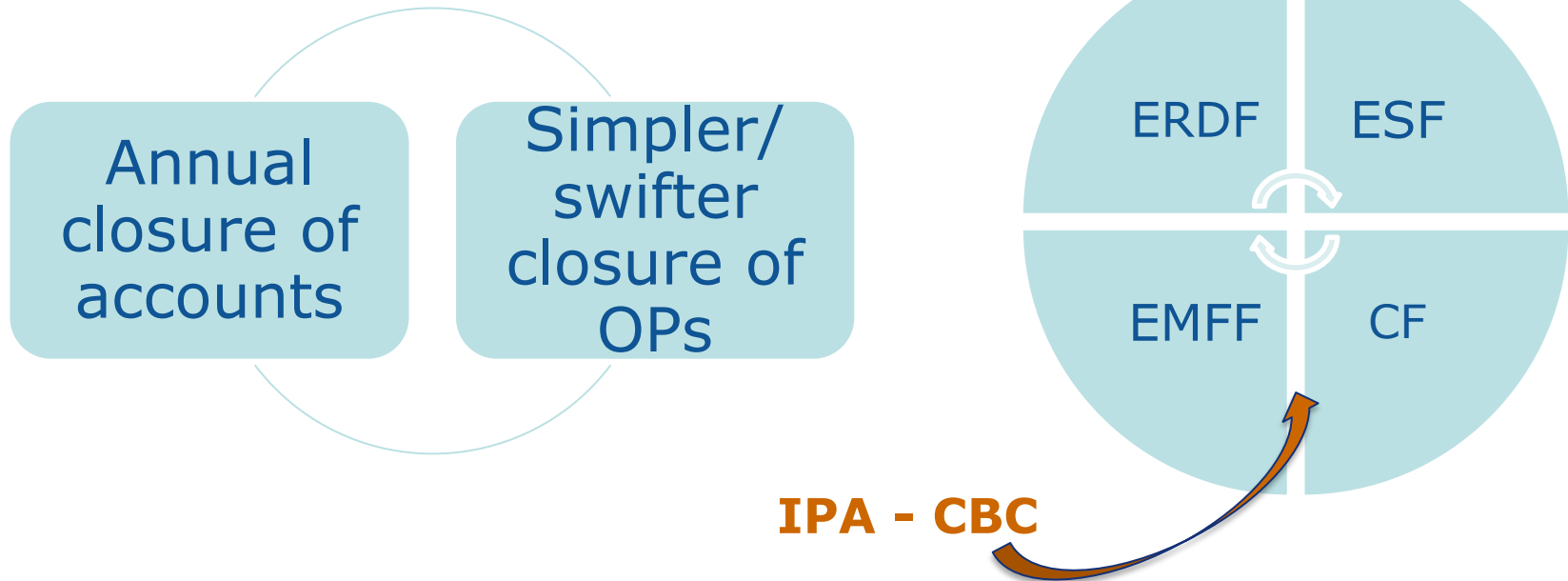
350+ Q&A

CGL Published in OJ on 14/10/2021: [link](#)

!!!Revised CGL – upon adoption of FAST CARE proposal



Concept and scope*



*not covering FEAD,
EAFRD, ENI-CBC

Early closure: possible if all activities related to the implementation of the programme have been carried out

Preparation for closure

adopted by
31.12.2020

- Transfers between Funds, programmes or categories of regions

**By 15 November
2021 or 2022**

- **[REACT EU]** Transfer between ERDF and ESF → only to ongoing or future years

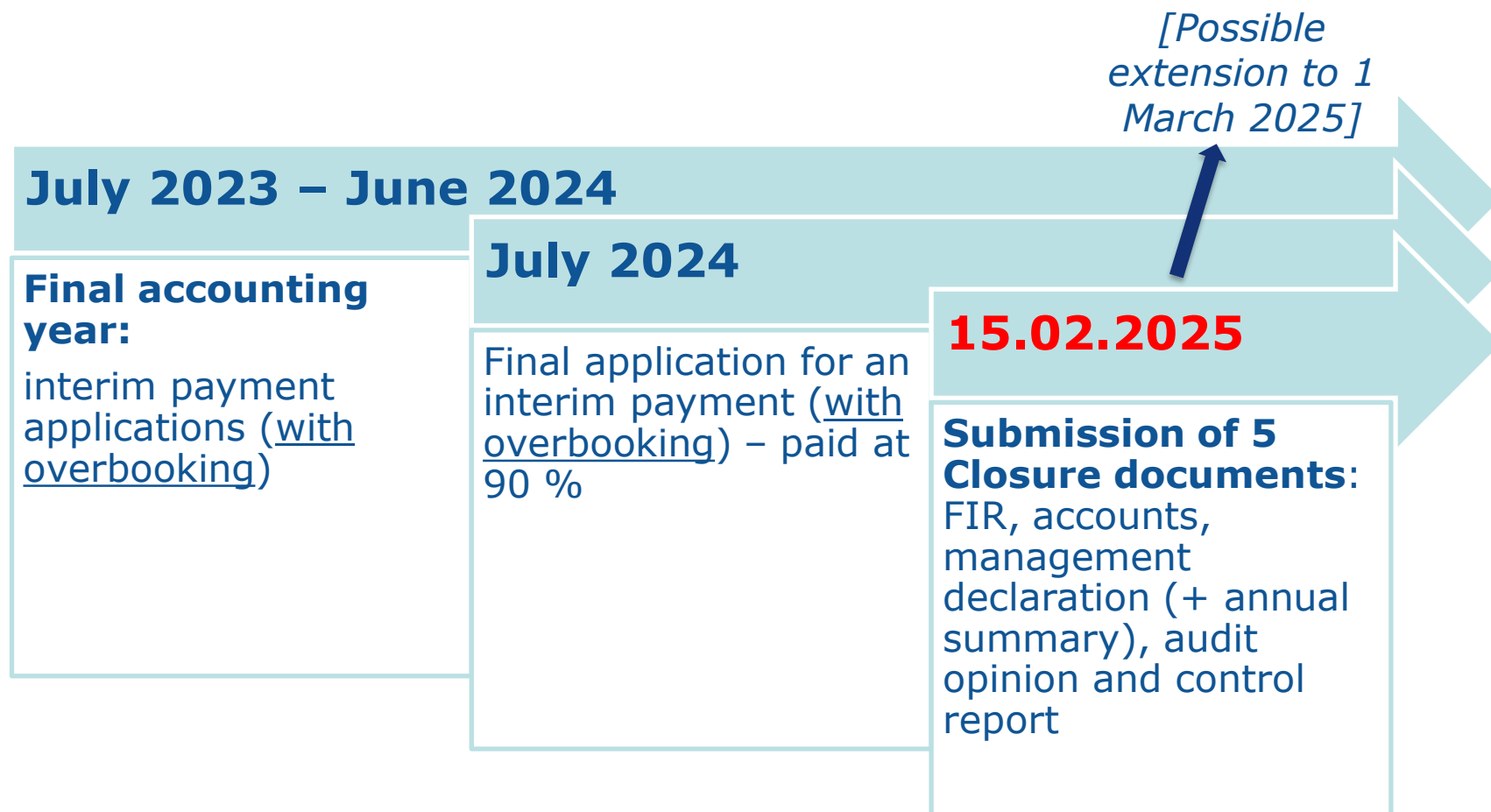
Beyond
31.12.2022

- No revision of indicators' targets **unless...**

to be submitted by
30.09.2023

- transfers btw PA if same OP/Fund/CoR
- Request/notification/amendment of major projects

Timeline



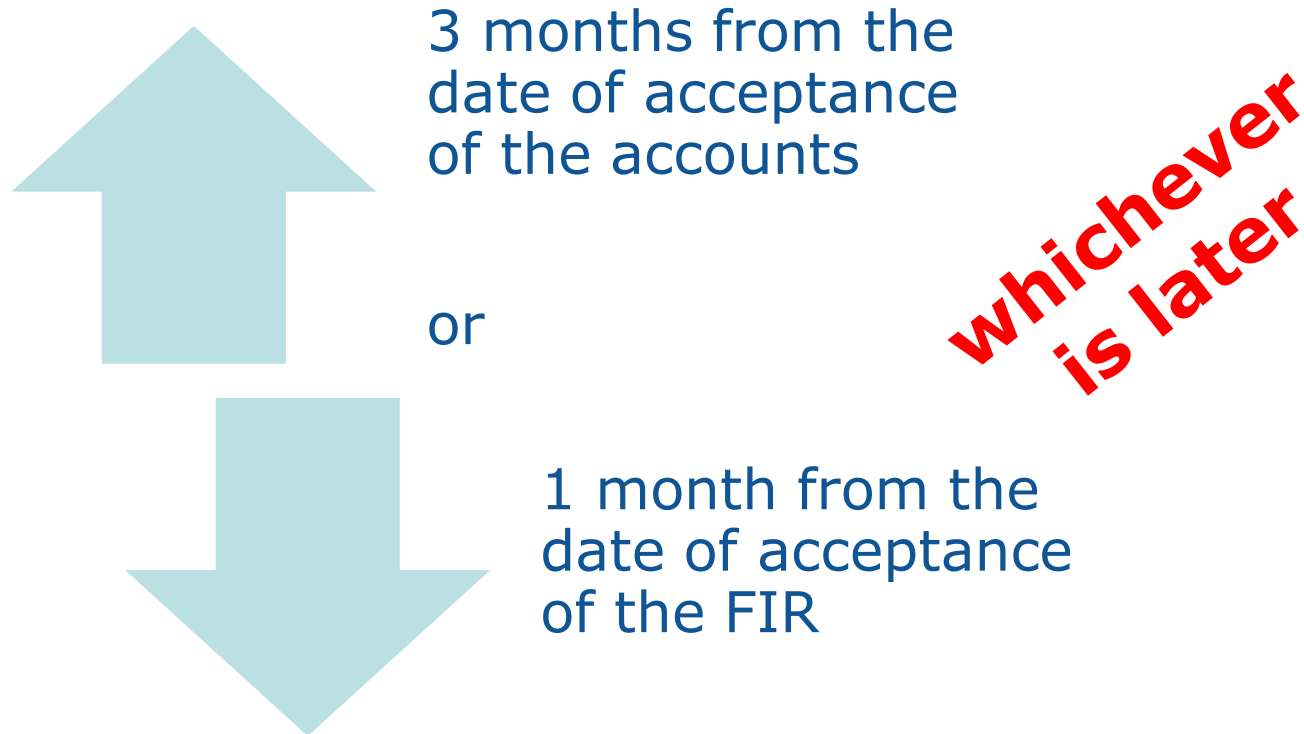
Reminder: 31 December 2023 – eligibility period ends

Financial Management

When calculating final balance to consider:

- Clearance of **initial & annual pre-financing** (incl. REACT-EU) by OP/Fund/CoR
- **2020 accounts:** amounts cleared or recovered
- **10%** (15% in FAST-CARE proposal) **flexibility** (CRII+) by Priority, per Fund / CoR
- **Overbooking** – taken into account if declared in final accounting year

Payment of the final balance



legality and regularity issues can be raised by EC after payment of the final balance and closure of the programme

Closure documents

FIR
ERDF/ESF/CF

Last AIR
EMFF

Accounts

**Management
declaration +
annual
summary**

**Audit opinion
and Control
report**

**for the final accounting year
(1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024)**



Final Implementation Report (FIR)

- ✓ Structure
- ✓ Deadlines
- ✓ Substantive issues to be included
 - Indicators (Common and programme specific)
 - Performance Framework
 - Reporting on Major Projects
 - Phased operations
 - Non-functioning operations
 - On-going national investigations / suspended operations



FIR: Structure

Implementing Regulation 2015/207

Annex V: Investment for growth and jobs

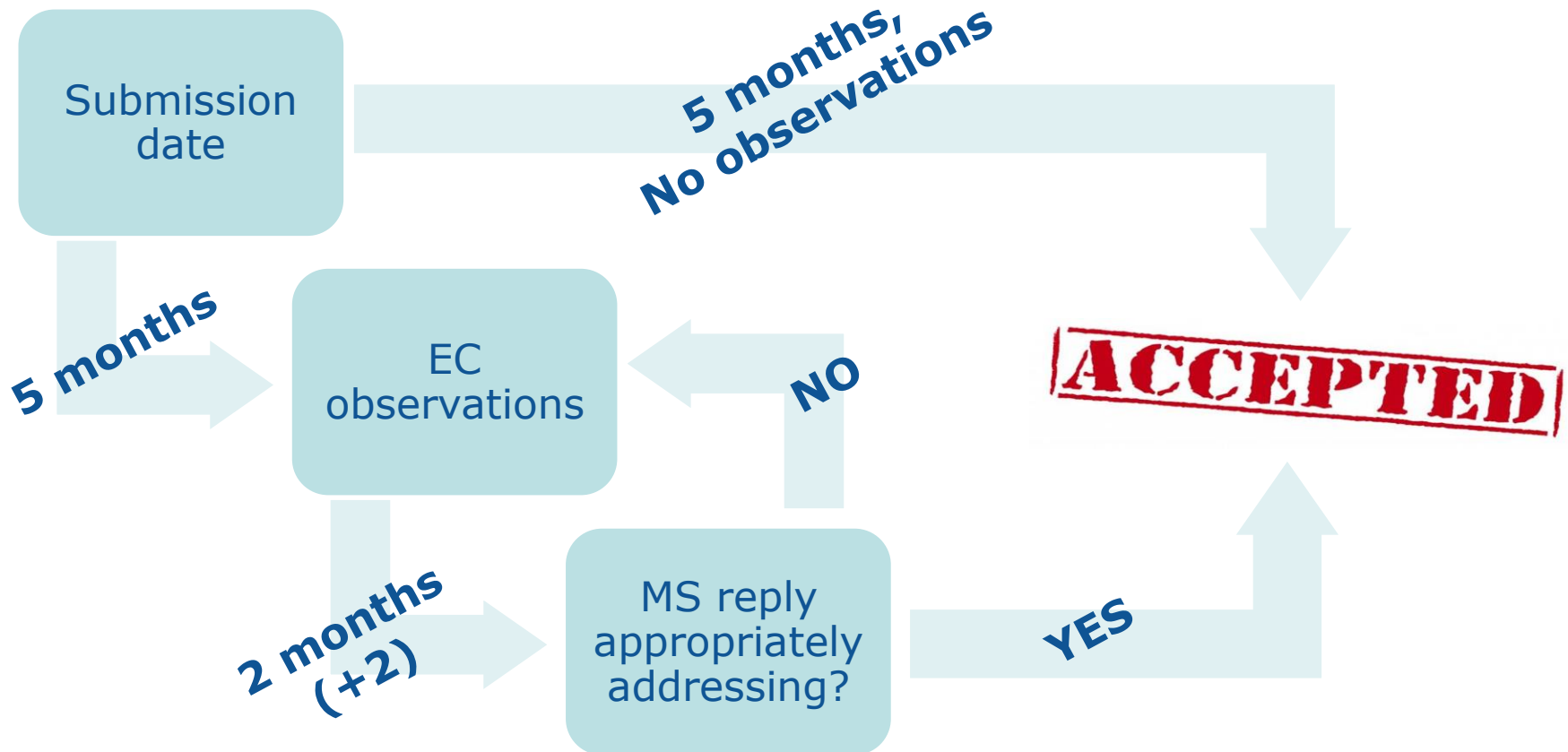
Annex X: European Territorial Cooperation



- ✓ Report on the use made of additional REACT EU pre-financing (Reg 2022/613)
- ✓ Report on the fulfilment of article 98(4), 4th subparagraph (subject to FAST-CARE adoption)



FIR: Acceptance and deadlines





FIR: Common and programme specific indicators

- ✓ Tables 1-2 of Annex X to Regulation 2015/207
- ✓ Values of 2023
- ✓ Observations: “Significantly different”? 20% deviation
- ✓ Revision of Targets: recommendations
- ✓ Special cases
 - Phased operations into 2021-2027
 - Non-functioning operations

FIR: PF indicators



- ✓ Table 3 of Annex X to Regulation 2015/207
- ✓ Revision of Targets: Specific cases through Programme Amendment
- ✓ Serious failure: <65% of Target Value (**financial correction**)
- ✓ Is the COVID-19 crisis a *force majeure* event?
- ✓ **Non-functioning operations**: “corrective measure”



FIR: Major Projects Reporting

- ✓ Successful implementation
- ✓ Explain any divergence in implementation:
Table 7 (Annex X)
- ✓ Also phased projects from 2007-13



WHAT to do?



Phasing of operations

Non-functioning operations



Phasing of operations (Annex I to CGL)

**CPR
conditions
for phasing**
(cumulative) !

- Two phases from financial point of view
- Total cost \geq EUR 5 million
- Audit trail \longrightarrow no double declaration
- 2nd phase: eligible under 2021-2027
- MS undertakes to complete

**FAST CARE
proposal**
**(new
art.118a)**

Project selected and started before 29 June 2022
Total cost \geq EUR 1 million
Relaxation of eligibility rules for 2nd phase



Non-functioning operations (Annex II to CGL)*

 CGL: exclude expenditure from the last accounts for non-functioning operations, **unless...**

Total cost >
EUR 2 million
(1 million)

10% of total
eligible
expenditure of
OP
(20%)

Functioning
before **15**
February
2026
(15 Feb
2027)

* Subject to the on-going revision of the Closure guidelines



On-going national investigations or suspended operations

(Annex III to CGL)

- ✓ MS decision: include / exclude from the accounts
- ✓ If included: Annex III + MS to inform on the outcome
- ✓ Irregularities established: Commission proceeds with the recovery
 - Possibility to use overbooking (if available)
- ✓ *Suspended operations: No expenditure may be declared after July 2024*

Closure documents

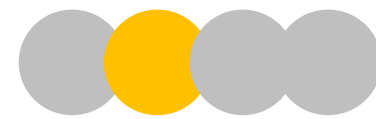
FIR

Accounts

**Management
Declaration
+ Annual
summary**

**Audit
opinion and
Control
report**

**for the final accounting year
(1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024)**



Accounts / Irregularities

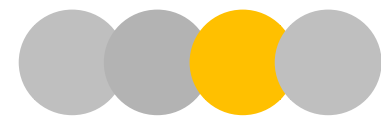
Deductions: as in any accounting year

Amounts to be recovered

- EC will exclude from of the final balance
- MS should report on the outcome

Irrecoverable amounts

- EC will exclude from of the final balance
- EC will assess if amounts should be charged to EU budget



Management Declaration / Annual Summary



No further guidance from the Commission



Audit opinion and control report

***Audit opinion** as any other accounting year*

***Control report** = as any other accounting year +*

- ✓ information on **open findings** from EC/ECA audits;
- ✓ assurance on legality and regularity of expenditure under **financial instruments**;
- ✓ assurance on reliability of data on **indicators**;
- ✓ Assurance: **public expenditure** paid to beneficiaries \geq Funds contribution received

Conclusions

