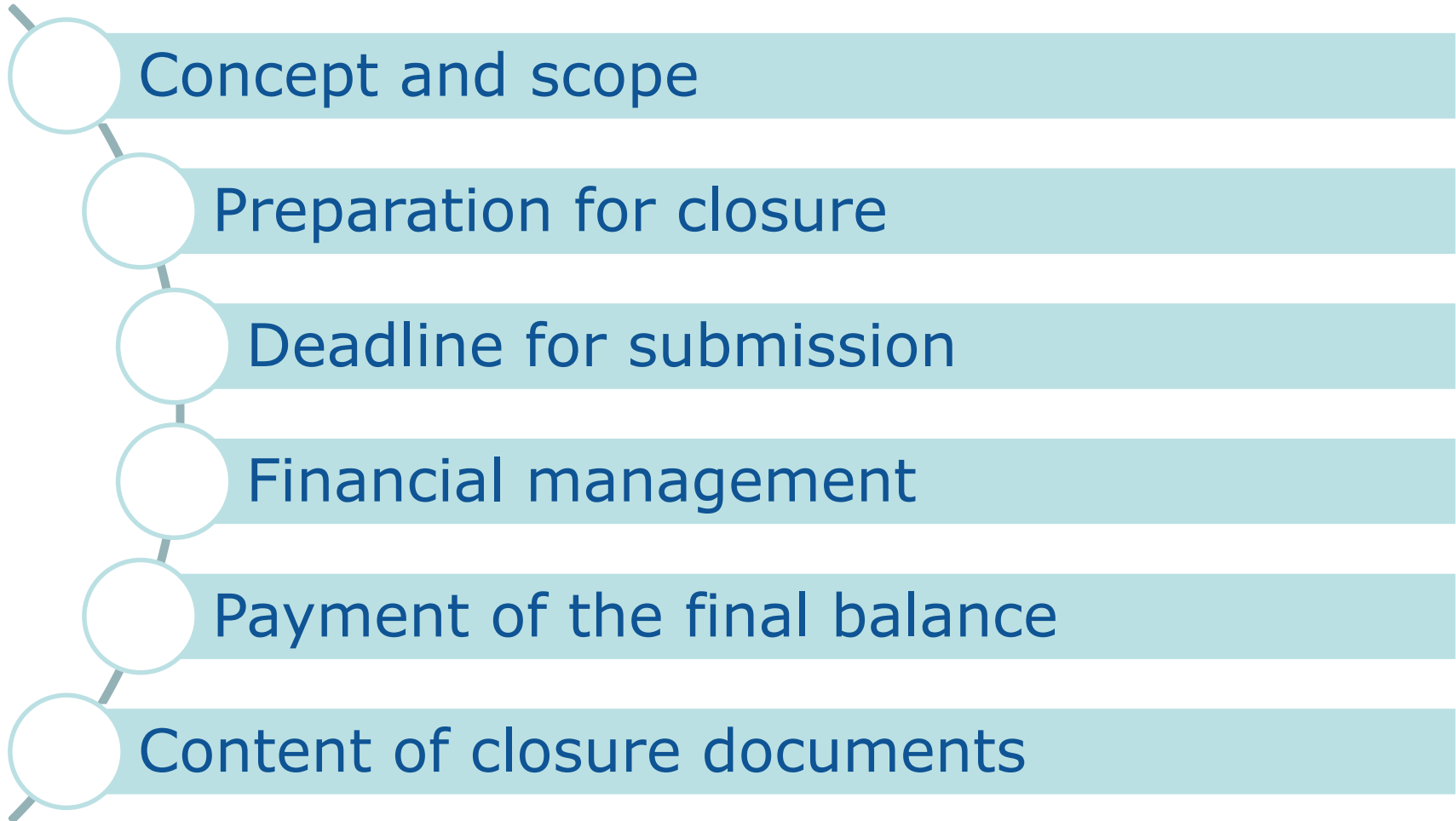




# **Closure Guidelines 2014-2020**

**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

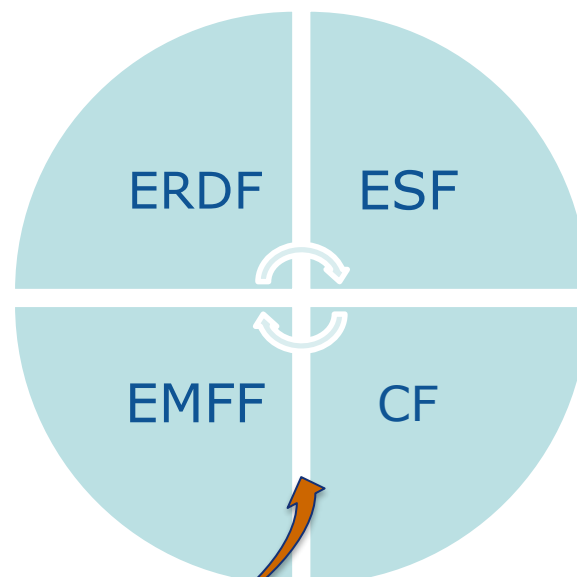
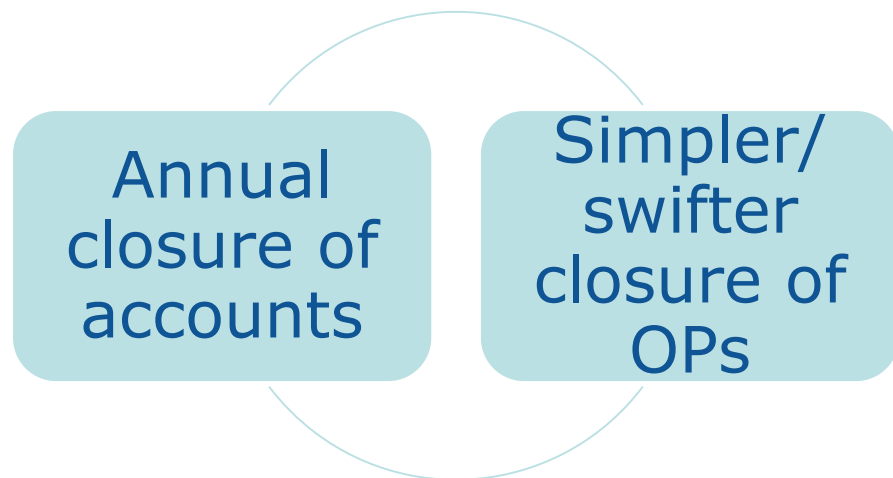
350+ Q&A

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

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



# Concept and scope\*



**IPA - CBC**

\*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

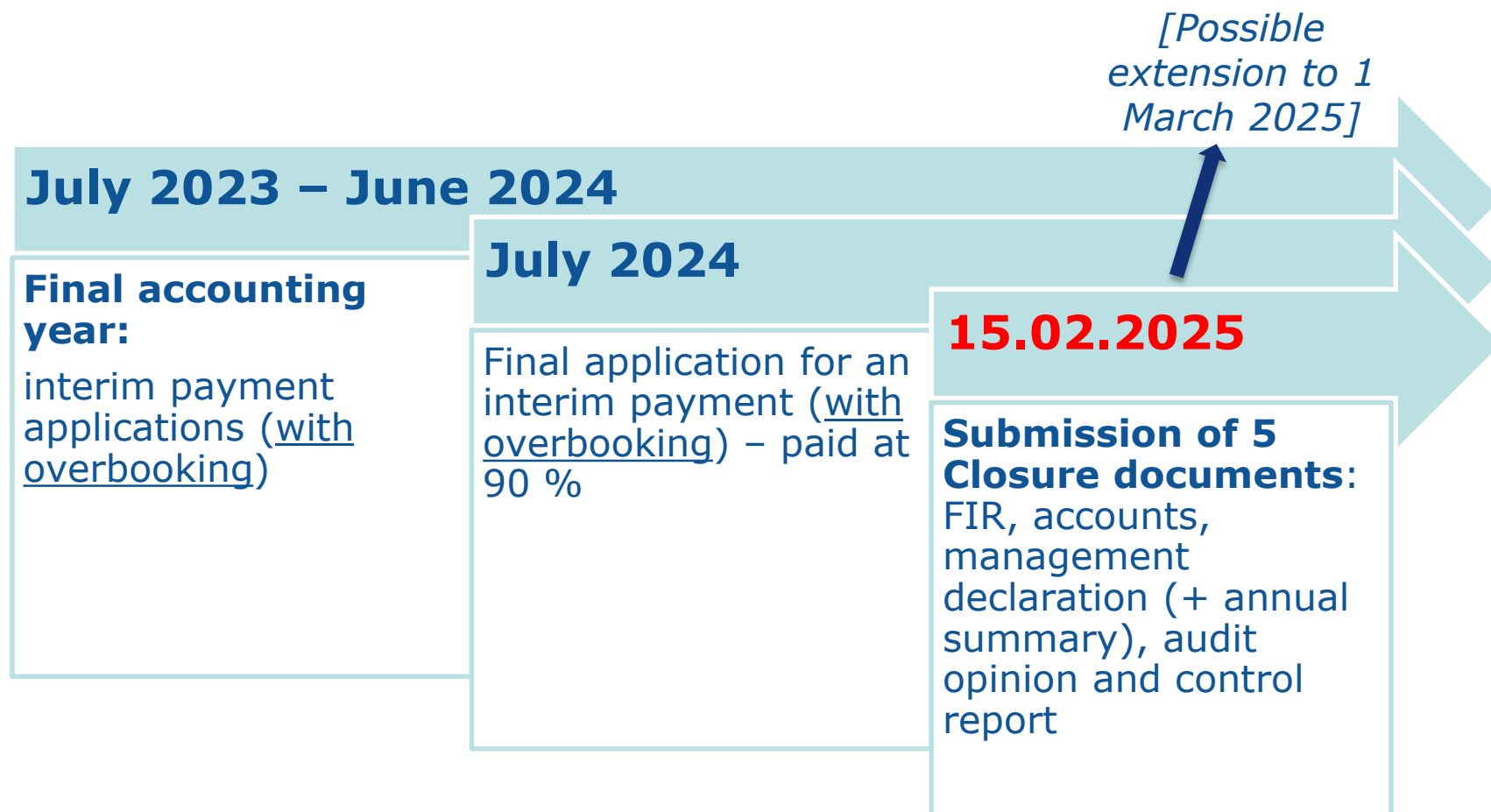
Beyond  
**31.12.2022**

- 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



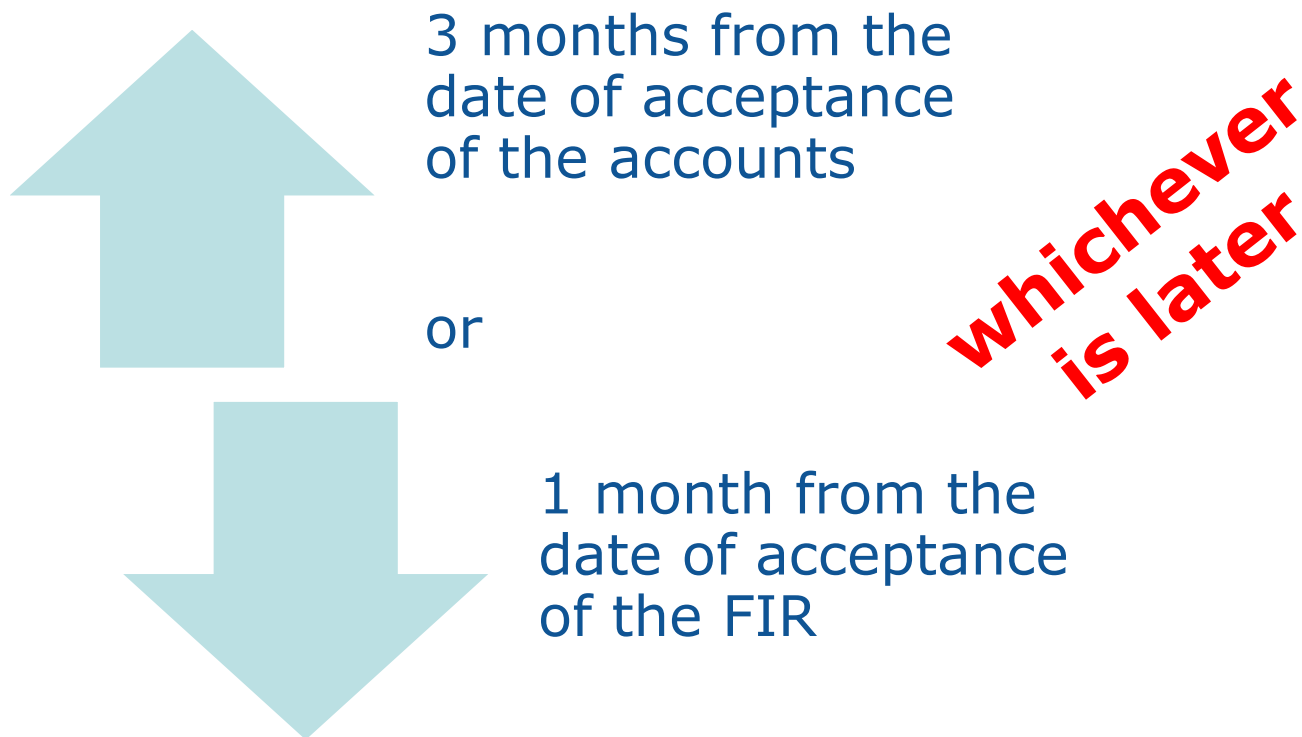
**Reminder:** 31 December 2023 – eligibility period ends

# 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

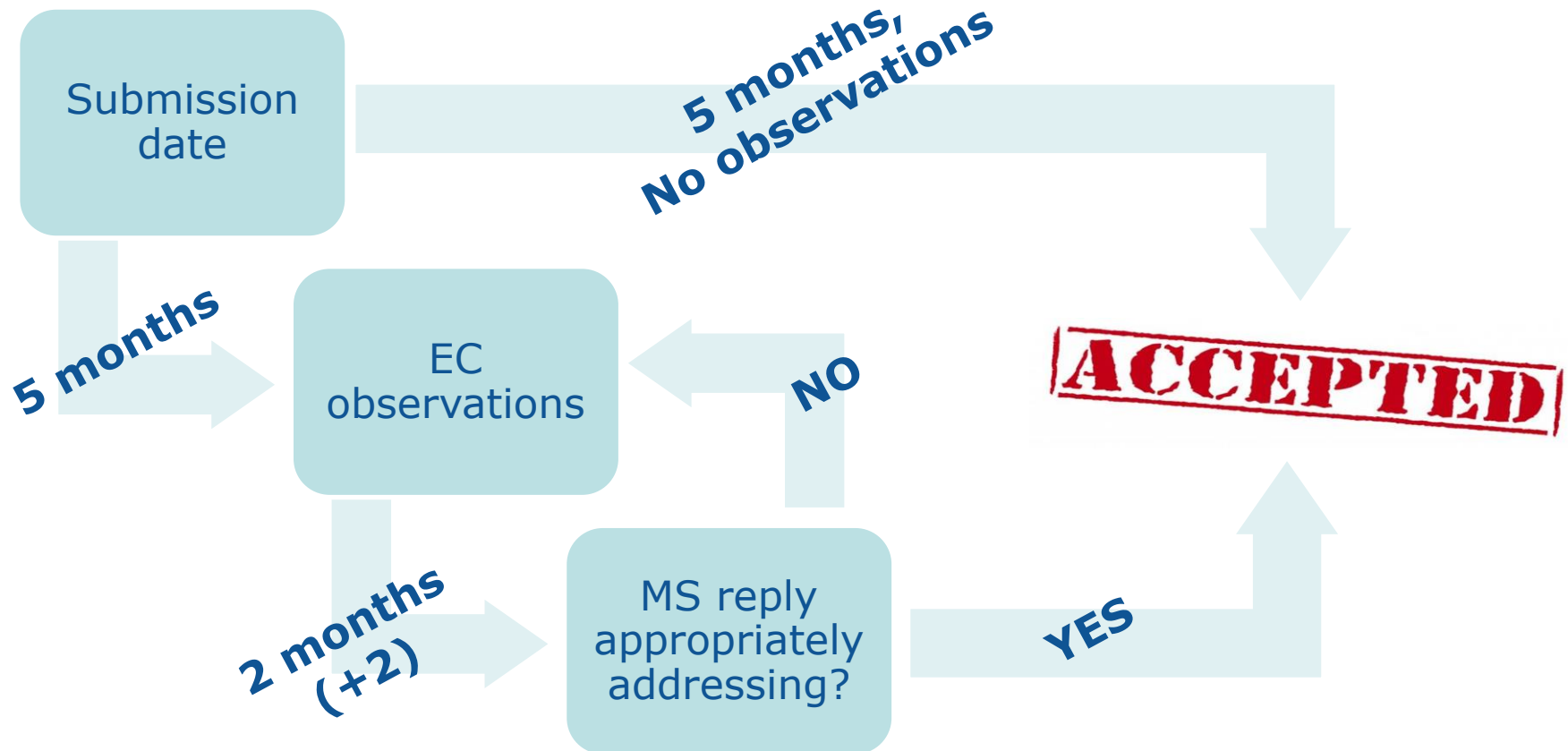
**Annex X:** European Territorial Cooperation



- ✓ Report on the use made of additional REACT EU pre-financing (Reg 2022/613)
- ✓ Report on the fulfilment of article 98(4), 4<sup>th</sup> 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
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
(15%)

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

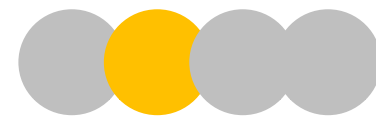
**FIR**

**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

