



Special EU Programmes Body  
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE  
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects

# Certifying Authority Network

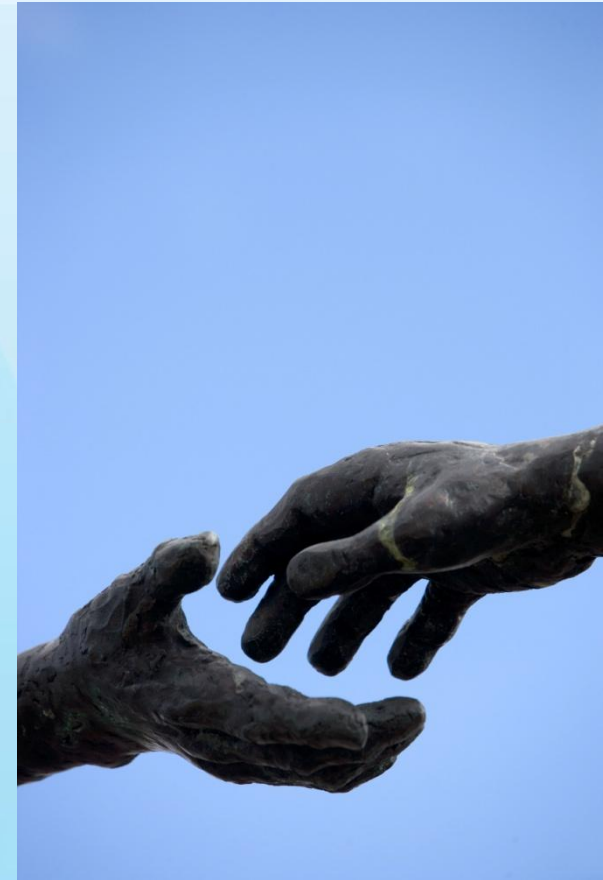
**Gina McIntyre**  
**15 March 2016**



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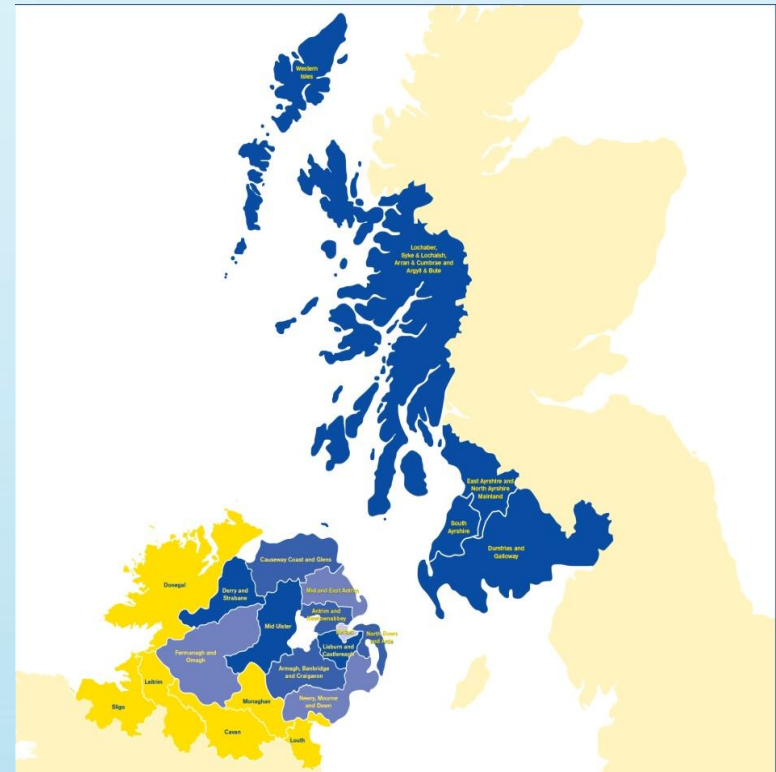
# The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

- A public body created as a result of a treaty between two Member States - the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and The British and Irish Government Act 1999.
- Managing Authority for cross Border EU Programmes in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland and parts of the west coast of Scotland.
- The Body promotes North/South participation in INTERREG IVB and IVC Transnational and Inter-regional programmes.
- Provides advice to both member states on future funding issues.

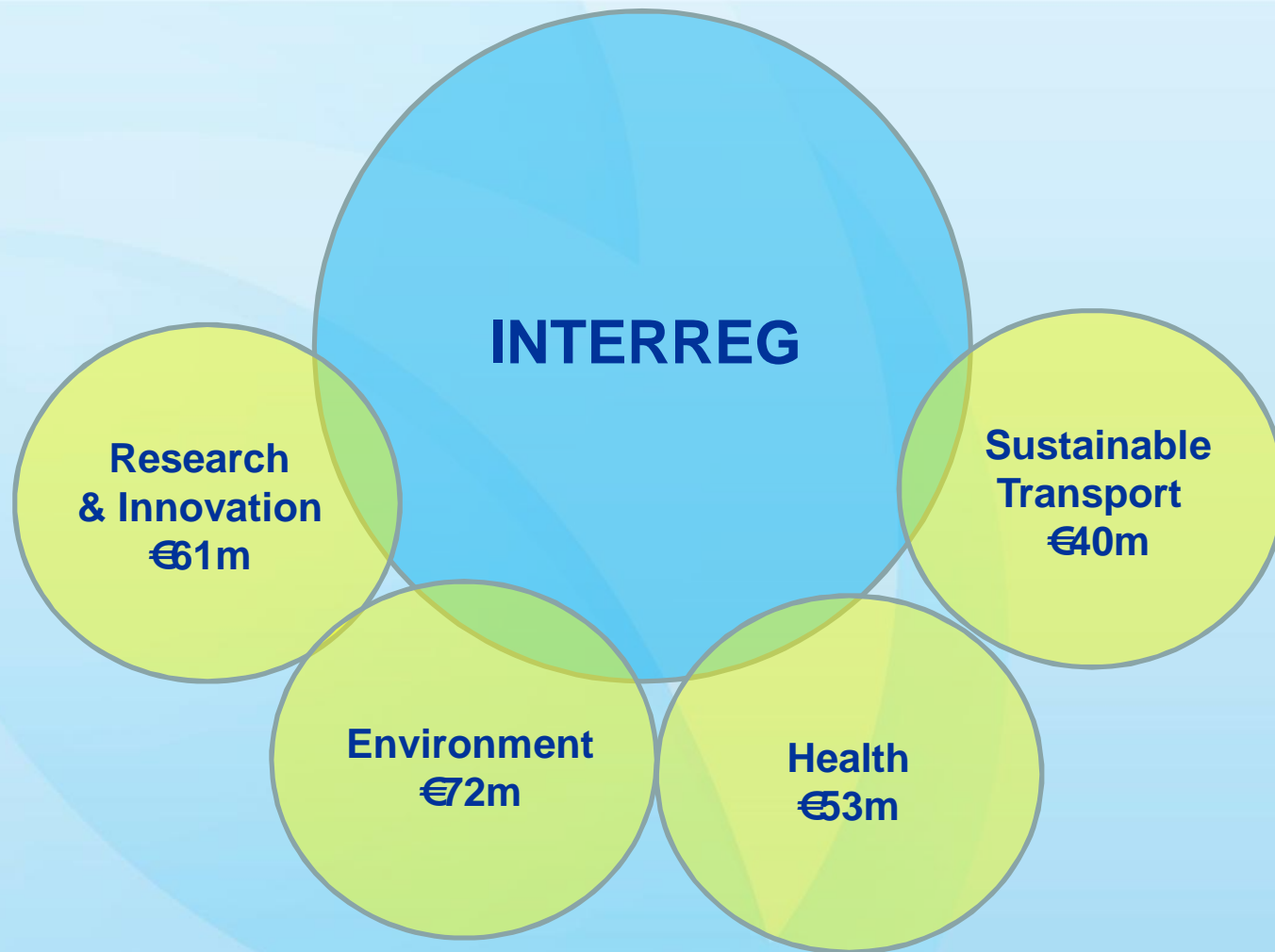


# INTERREG Programme (2014-2020)

- Eligible Area: Greater Belfast & Western Isles of Scotland included.
- ERDF Programme Value: €240m
- Up to 85% maximum intervention rate.
- State Aid rules apply to all funded projects/initiatives.
- 20% of Programme budget can be spent outside of eligible area (if necessary to create benefits to the region).
- Projects must involve at least two Member States (UK & Ireland) and demonstrate cross-border cooperation. Ideally, INTERREG V projects should be as widely based across the eligible area as possible

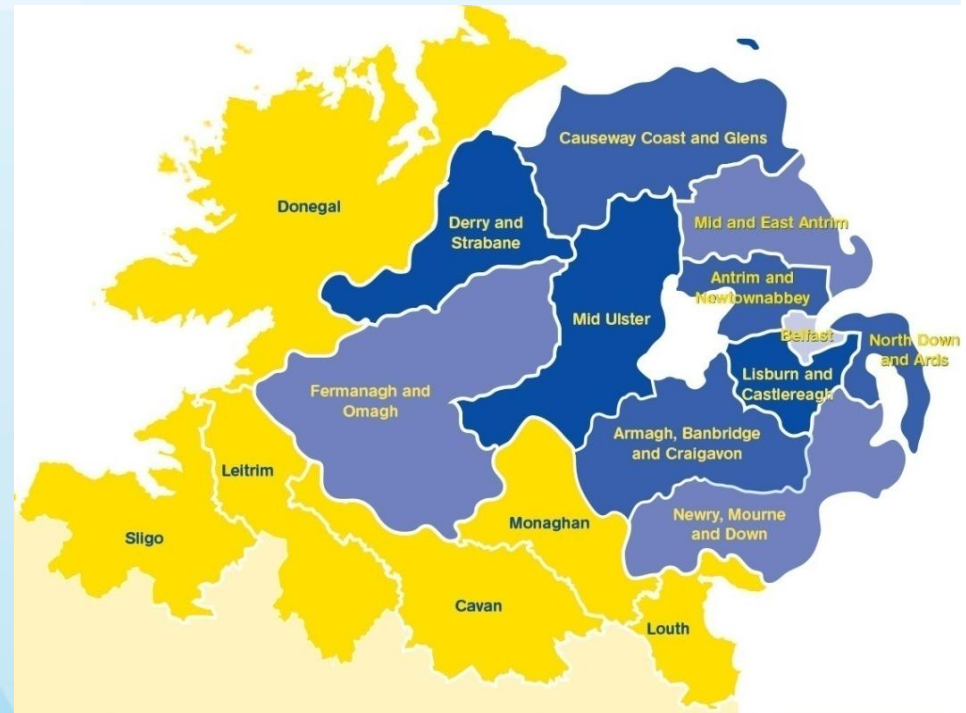


# Types of Activity to be Supported

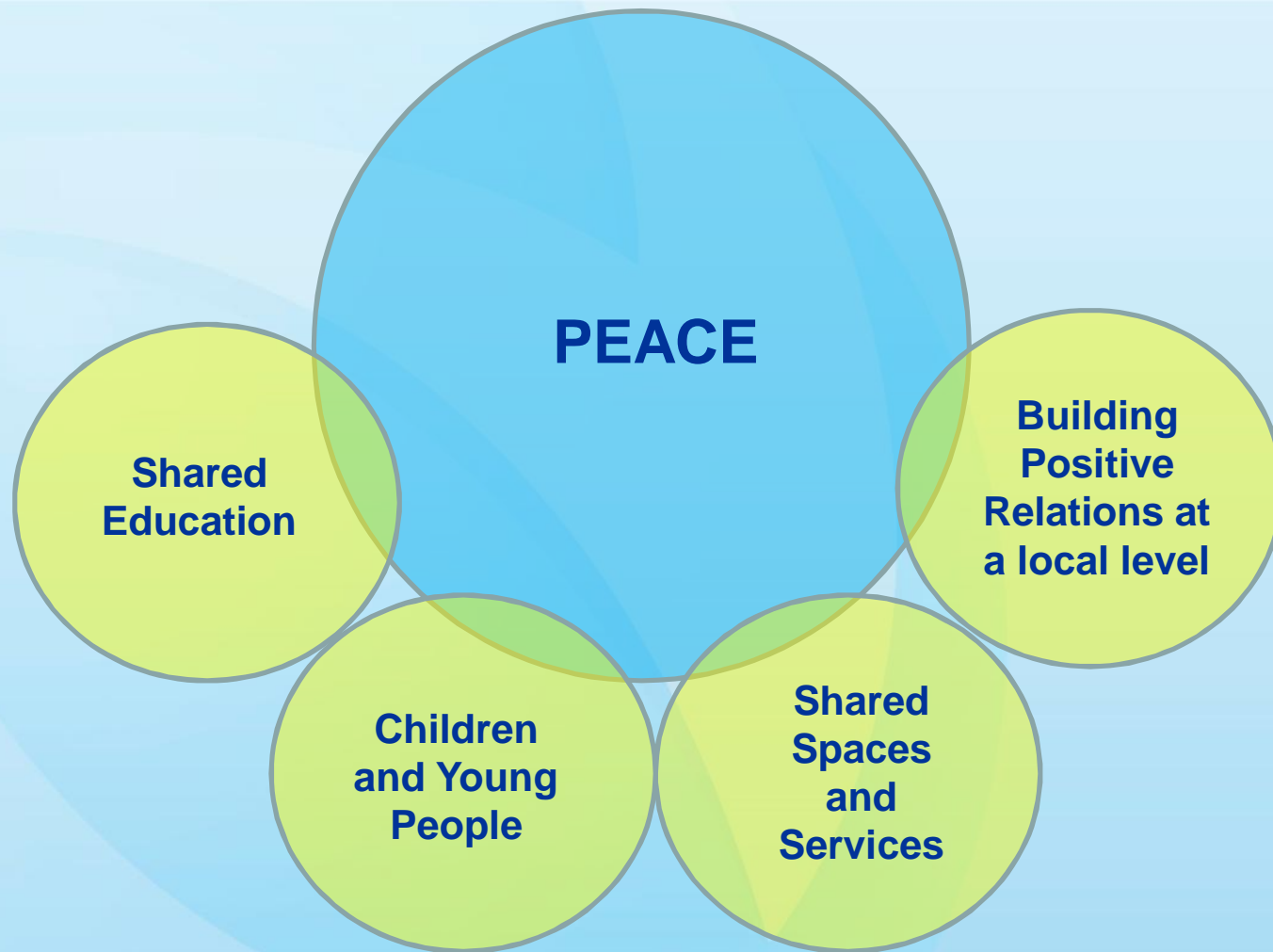


# PEACE Programme (2014-2020)

- Eligible Area: Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.
- ERDF Programme Value: €229m.
- Up to 85% maximum intervention rate.
- 20% of Programme budget can be spent outside of eligible area (if necessary to create benefits to the region).
- Single jurisdiction projects can be supported, provided that they contribute to the Programme results and outputs.



# Types of Activity to be Supported



**The INTERREG VA and the PEACE IV Programmes are managed through a set of defined structures which are divided into three main areas of work:**

- The Managing Authority (including the Financial Control Unit);
  - The Joint Secretariat;
  - The Certifying Authority.
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# The Managing Authority

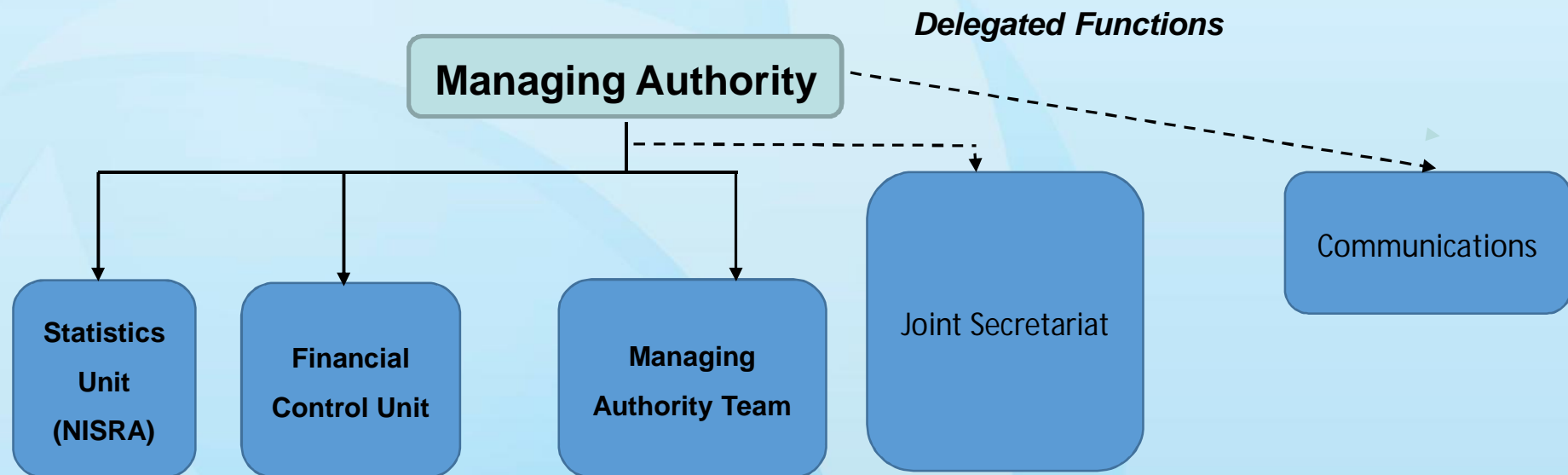
The Special EU Programmes Body is the designated Managing Authority to carry out the functions described in Article 125 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013 and Article 23(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1299/2013.

The following Units are within the Managing Authority:

- Financial Control Unit;
  - Joint Secretariat;
  - Statistics Unit (NISRA).
  - With direct access to the Communications Unit
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# Organisational Chart for the Managing Authority and its Units



# Functions of the Managing Authority

- Support the work of the Monitoring Committee;
  - Draw up and submit to the Commission annual and final implementation reports referred to in Article 50;
  - Make information available to Intermediate Bodies and Beneficiaries re: their tasks and the implementation of operations;
  - Establish a computerised system to record and store data on each operation necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification and audit;
  - Satisfy itself that, where the operation has started before the submission of an application for funding to the Managing Authority, applicable law relevant for the operation has been complied with;
  - Put in place effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures taking into account the risks identified.
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# Functions of The Financial Control Unit

- Verify that the co-financed products or services have been delivered and that expenditure declared by the Beneficiaries has been paid and that it complies with applicable law, the cooperation programme and the conditions for support of the operation;
  - Ensure that Beneficiaries involved in the implementation of operations reimbursed on the basis of eligible costs actually incurred maintain a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to an operation;
  - Set up a procedure to ensure that all documents regarding expenditure and audits required to ensure an adequate audit trail are held in accordance with the requirements of Article 72;
  - Draw up the Management Declaration and Annual Summary referred to in Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation.
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## **Communications Unit**

This Unit within the Corporate Services Directorate reports to the Managing Authority in relation to ensuring that the Programmes meet the regulatory requirements in relation to communication as outlined in Article 115 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013.

## **Joint Secretariat**

Functions delegated to the Joint Secretariat by the Managing Authority include appraising, selecting, and approving operations, and ensuring their compliance for the entire implementation period, with applicable rules.

## **Statistics Unit**

The Managing Authority has contracted with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) through a Service Level Agreement to provide specialised services in relation to the statistical analysis of monitoring data. This unit will play a key role in the development and implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation plan for the Programmes.

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# Management Declaration and Annual Summary

- Each year in drawing up the Management Declaration, the Managing Authority will:
    - Ensure that all verification and audit activity has been recorded, findings communicated, and corrective action identified and completed;
    - Exclude any financial risks from the Management Declaration, pending conclusion of follow-up action;
    - Take account of the previous Annual Control report and findings from all audit and verification work and provide analysis on any weaknesses or deficiencies in the control framework;
    - Put an action plan in place which will address any weaknesses;
  - The Managing and Certifying Authority will provide the Audit Authority with their respective draft documents & audit trail by 30 November each year;
  - The MA & CA will review and action any queries by 15 January;
  - The MA, CA and AA will upload their respective final documents to SFC in advance of the 15 February deadline;
  - The MA, CA and AA will meet on a regular basis to ensure complete, accurate and timely submission of documents to the Commission.
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# Functions of The Certifying Authority

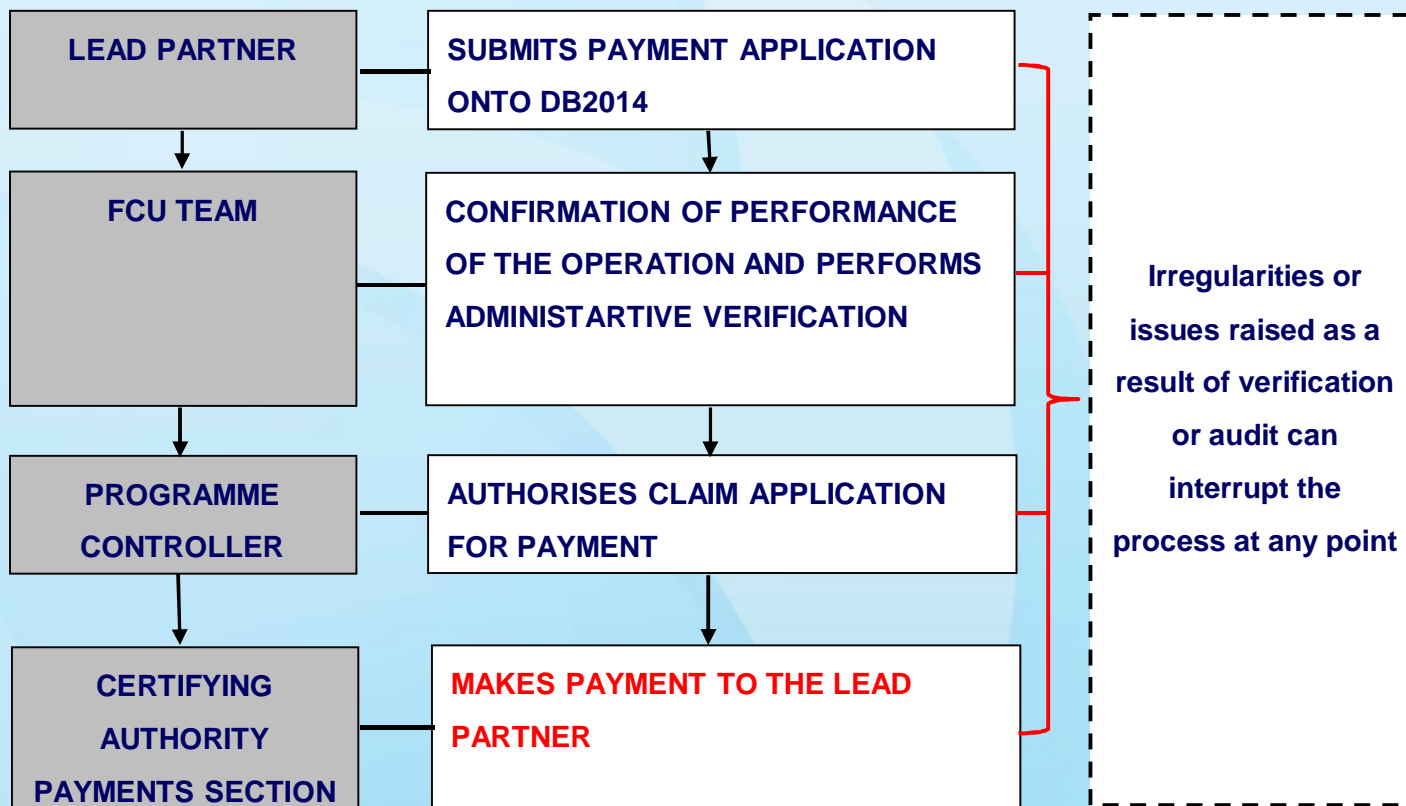
The Special EU Programmes Body is also designated as the Certifying Authority for the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes, and will carry out the following functions:

- Draw up, certify, and submit payment applications to the Commission;
  - Draw up the accounts referred to in point (a) of Article 59(5) of the Financial Regulation;
  - Certify the completeness, accuracy and veracity of the accounts and that the expenditure entered in the accounts complies with applicable law and has been incurred in respect of operations selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the cooperation programme and complying with applicable law;
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# Functions of The Certifying Authority

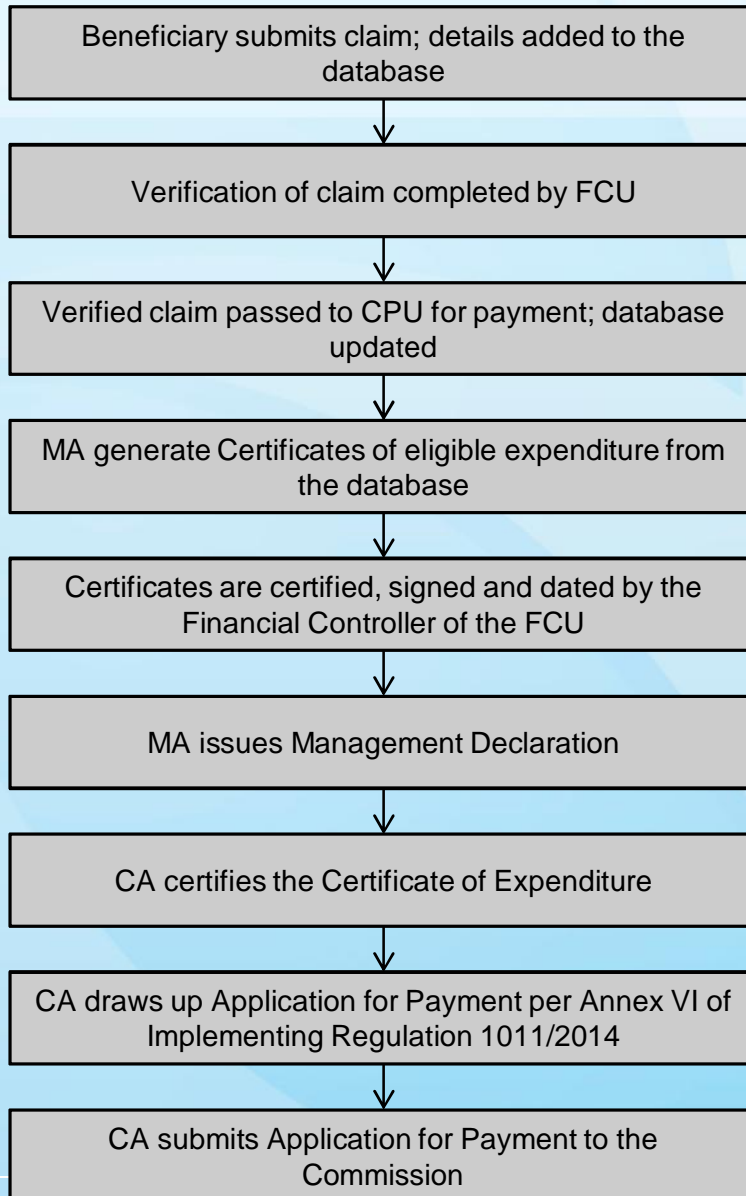
- Ensure there is a computerised system which records and stores accounting records for each operation, and supports all the data required for drawing up payment applications and accounts, including records of amounts recoverable, amounts recovered and amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation or cooperation programme;
  - Ensure, for the purposes of drawing up and submitting payment applications, that it has received adequate information from the Managing Authority on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure;
  - Take account when drawing up and submitting payment applications of the results of all audits carried out by, or under the responsibility of, the Audit Authority;
  - Maintain, in computerised form, accounting records of expenditure declared to the Commission and of the corresponding public contribution paid to Beneficiaries;
  - Keep an account of amounts recoverable and of amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation.
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# Process of Reimbursement of Payment Applications





# Payment Application Process



**KEY:**

FCU = Financial Control Unit  
CPU = Central Payments Unit  
MA = Managing Authority  
CA = Certifying Authority

# Managing Authority Checks and Controls

The Managing Authority will perform 2 types of verifications:

- **Administrative Verifications**

All claims for reimbursement received from Lead Partners on behalf of itself and its project partners are subject to an administrative verification by the Financial Control Unit (FCU) prior to the expenditure being paid by the SEUPB, and then certified to the EU Commission. The administrative verification examines the claim itself and the relevant supporting documentation.

- **On the Spot Verifications**

On the spot verifications will be undertaken when a project is well under way both in terms of physical and financial progress and FCU has completed a minimum of 2 administrative verifications. On the spot verifications will be carried out by the FCU on a sample basis.

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# Certifying Authority Checks and Controls

The Certifying Authority will perform at a minimum the following checks and controls:

- **Numerical & administrative certification of Expenditure Certificates;**
  - **Review of all Audit Activity;**
    - Immediate Impact – take any relevant action re: significant findings which may affect the expenditure in the current EU Claim (i.e. exclusion processing);
    - Ongoing Impact – follow up that any action points/recommendations have been applied, and how they have been applied.
  - **Review of Control Activity;**
    - Review of all processes and procedures issued by the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat, including any changes implemented since the last EU Claim.
  - **Spot Checks on Verifications.**
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# Any Questions?



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