



INTERREG VA Programme Monitoring Committee
EU Programme for Cross-Border Cooperation (INTERREG VA)

Designation of Authorities

Articles 123 and 124 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 21 of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013

1. The designation procedure for the 2014-2020 programming period represents an evolution from the arrangements applicable for the 2007-2013 programming period in obtaining the necessary assurance regarding the set-up of the systems for management and control of the Funds. It has many similarities to the compliance assessment procedure used at the start of the 2007-2013 programming period.
2. The aim of the designation procedure is to ensure that the Managing Authority and Certifying Authority have the necessary and appropriate management and control systems set up from the start of the programming period to ensure that they can fulfil the responsibilities assigned to them under Articles 123 and 124 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 21 of the Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.
3. Specific guidance has been published by the Commission in EGESIF 14-0013-final dated 20/11/2014.
4. The process for designation includes the design and implementation of robust systems which are detailed in a document, the "Description of the Management and Control Systems". This document is submitted to the Audit Authority who will ensure compliance with the guidance and also test the systems and procedures contained therein.
5. The timeframe for submission of a description of systems and procedures to the Audit Authority is late September 2015. In order to ensure that this timeframe is met a

working group has been set up comprising the Managing Authority, Certifying Authority, Financial Control Unit, Joint Secretariat and Information Systems Unit. The Chair of the working group, the Director of the Managing Authority, has allocated the designing and drafting of procedures to specific staff members who report weekly on progress.

6. The designation process cannot be completed until such time as the database is fully operational, as the database is central feature in the management of the Programme. This aspect of designation cannot be completed until the first quarter of 2016.
7. It is anticipated that formal designation will take place by the second quarter of 2016. No interim claim for expenditure can be made to the EC until the designation process has been completed. It is therefore important that the designation process is completed as scheduled.

The Monitoring Committee is requested to note:

- (a) The requirements for the formal designation of the Managing Authority and Certifying Authority and related systems and procedures, including the database;
- (b) The process of designation will be completed by the Audit Authority;
- (c) The process must be completed before the submission of the first interim claim for expenditure, estimated to be the second quarter 2016.