

**Question for written answer E-002947/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)

Subject: Underfunding of research and excellence in Greece

According to reports¹², the Greek State Scholarships Foundation (IKY) has been subject to severe budget cuts, with its resources dwindling from EUR 21.5 million to a mere EUR 3.5 million. Despite longstanding support from European and national funds, significant difficulties have been reported in funding new scholarship programmes, as well as post-doctoral research. Greek academic institutions have expressed strong concerns about this situation, which undermines efforts to stem the brain drain and severely limits opportunities for young researchers.

Bearing in mind that the EU has made it a strategic priority to strengthen the European Research Area (ERA), attract and retain scientists, reduce regional disparities in research and strengthen competitiveness through the production and development of knowledge and innovation, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How does it assess the impact of the government's policy choices regarding the IKY on achieving the objectives of the ERA, research excellence and on attracting and retaining scientists in the EU?
2. Does it believe that Greece is making sufficient use of the possibilities offered by EU programmes and financial instruments to support scholarships, post-doctoral research and young researchers?
3. Does it intend to examine, in the context of the European Semester, whether Greece's investment in the human capital of research and innovation is in line with the EU's priorities and needs?

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¹ <https://www.in.gr/2026/06/23/greece/i-epistimoniki-ereyna-ston-pago-oi-ereynites-stin-endeia-pagomenes-oi-ypotrofies-tou-iky>.

² https://www.alfavita.gr/ekpaideysi/551000_iky-dramatiki-meiosi-kondylion-kai-pagoma-stis-metadidaktorikes-ypotrofies.