

**Question for written answer E-004209/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Loss of human capital and sustainability of research infrastructure financed by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan in Italy

Under Mission 4 of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), Italy used resources from the Next Generation EU (NGEU) recovery instrument to strengthen infrastructure and research activities, making extensive use of fixed-term researchers and technologists.

On 30 April 2026, many projects came to a close, which meant that the job contracts of highly qualified workers who helped bring these projects to life, ended. Public research bodies have also reported cases where infrastructure that was given a boost using NRRP resources is now operating at reduced capacity or is not fully operational due to a lack of staff needed to run it.

In view of the risk of undermining the lasting impact of European investment and of losing the expertise developed partly thanks to Union resources, can the Commission answer the following:

1. How many researchers and technologists working on NRRP projects in Italian public research bodies are still employed in these bodies after 30 April 2026 and how many contracts have ended?
2. Has it checked how many projects and how much infrastructure funded by the NRRP currently have the necessary staff to ensure that they remain fully operational and sustainable once the funding has stopped?
3. What structural and verifiable measures has Italy communicated to the Commission to ensure the continuity of human capital employed under the NRRP and, in the absence of appropriate measures, does the Commission intend to request a national job continuity plan, including through pathways to permanent employment in public research bodies?

Submitted: 15.10.2026