

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002126/24
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(16 October 2024)**

Subject: Talent Booster Mechanism

The Commission has launched a number of pilot projects under the Talent Booster Mechanism, which aims to support European regions affected by a shrinking working population and demographic challenges such as the talent development trap.

In 2023, several regions were selected to receive technical assistance and support in developing tailor-made strategies for attracting, training and retaining talent. Pilot projects have been designed to help regions develop strategic frameworks that enable them to attract and retain a skilled workforce, thereby adjusting to demographic change.

1. What stage has been reached in these pilot projects?
2. When does the Commission estimate that a report evaluating the impact of the pilot projects will be published?

Submitted: 16.10.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(10 January 2025)**

The Commission has launched two pilot projects under the Talent Booster Mechanism as set out in the 2023 Communication ‘Harnessing talent in Europe’s regions’ ⁽¹⁾.

The first pilot project is supporting 11 regions in a ‘talent development trap’ ⁽²⁾, selected as a result of a call for expressions of interest in November 2023 while the second pilot project provides expert support to 10 regions at risk of falling into a talent development trap ⁽³⁾, selected as a result of a call for expression of interest in February 2024.

The work on both projects is ongoing and the intermediary results will be presented during the second high-level event of the Talent Booster Mechanism planned for the first semester of 2025.

As these pilot projects are part of a wider framework involving other forms of concrete support for regions and cities, exchanges of experience among peers and access to knowledge via the Harnessing talent platform ⁽⁴⁾ that are planned until end 2026, no impact evaluations are planned at this stage.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2023) 32 of 17.01.2023 available: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/communication/harnessing-talents/harnessing-talents-regions_en.pdf
⁽²⁾ More details on the selected regions and ongoing activities per region available https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/harnessing-talent-platform/support-on-the-ground_en#inline-nav-1
⁽³⁾ More details on the selected regions and ongoing activities per region available https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/harnessing-talent-platform/support-on-the-ground_en#inline-nav-20
⁽⁴⁾ Inforegion — Harnessing Talent Platform: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/harnessing-talent-platform_en