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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.1.2025)

The progress report on the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities (SRPD) is planned for 2025. A continuous monitoring tool on implementation of the Strategy is available online¹.

The Commission supports Member States in providing the best education and training for their citizens. However, by virtue of Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the organisation of education systems, including the measures to address students' diversity, remains within the exclusive competence of the Member States. The EU contributes to the development of quality education by encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, by supporting and supplementing their actions. This includes support through EU-funded programmes (such as Cohesion Policy funds², the Recovery and Resilience Facility³ and Erasmus⁴).

The Commission works with the Member States, including Italy, towards creating a European education area⁵, a genuine European space of learning, which benefits all learners, teachers and institutions. It has focussed on pupils with disabilities in 2023-2024 in the context of mutual learning activities within the Working Group Pathways to School Success, linked to the implementation of the relevant Council Recommendation⁶ and in line with the SRPD.

Developments in the Member States are monitored through country reports prepared for the Commission by the European Disability Expertise⁷. The European agency for special needs and inclusive education also publishes country-level information in this respect⁸.

Since decisions on educational provision for children with special educational needs pertain to the organisation of education systems, the EU cannot impose rules or review the national authorities' decisions.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1552&langId=en>

² https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/2021-2027_en

³ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en

⁴ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>

⁵ <https://education.ec.europa.eu/>

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022H1209%2801%29>

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1532&langId=en>

⁸ <https://www.european-agency.org/country-information>