

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002685/24
to the Commission
Yannis Maniatis (S&D), Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D), Nikos Papandreou (S&D)
(27 November 2024)**

Subject: Funding for the Greek Network of Resilient Cities (ELDAP)

The resilience of Greek cities is key to tackling the effects of climate change but this resilience is facing major challenges. A survey carried out by the Greek Network of Resilient Cities (ELDAP) in 113 municipalities reveals a serious lack of equipment, technology and staff who can provide civil protection training. Of the municipalities that took part in the survey, 75% have been affected by disasters and are not sufficiently prepared for future extreme events.

To remedy this situation, ELDAP has put together an action plan with a total budget of EUR 204 326 300, which focuses on four strands:

1. Operational equipment and support instruments (EUR 120 199 800);
2. Smart prevention and response systems (EUR 68 691 500);
3. Staff upskilling (EUR 7 835 000);
4. Scientific studies (EUR 7 600 000).

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Which sources of EU funding, such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Horizon Europe, could support the implementation of ELDAP's action plan and boost the resilience of Greek cities?
2. How could ELDAP's actions be integrated into European initiatives that promote the creation of sustainable and resilient urban centres?
3. What initiatives could the Commission take to strengthen the role of local government in dealing with natural disasters and ensure the best possible protection for citizens?

Submitted: 27.11.2024

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

1. Cohesion Policy Funds provide over EUR 1.4 billion ⁽¹⁾ to Greece for the 2021-2027 period for risk prevention and disaster management through the 'Environment and Climate Change' and 'Civil Protection' programmes, as well as regional programmes. Integrated Territorial development actions in urban areas based on Sustainable Urban Development strategies are supported within the 13 regional programmes. Special attention is given to measures tackling environmental and climate challenges in these areas. The National Recovery and Resilience Plan 'Greece 2.0' ⁽²⁾ supports crisis management, ecosystem resilience, early warning systems, Smart Cities, and Science & Technology. Ongoing and planned initiatives could support the ELDAP's ⁽³⁾ action plan. The Horizon Europe ⁽⁴⁾ EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change ⁽⁵⁾ and the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities ⁽⁶⁾, both launched in 2021, offer opportunities for enhancing resilience to climate change in urban and rural areas. Partners from Greece are being supported.
2. ELDAP could also benefit from the capacity building activities of the European Urban Initiative ⁽⁷⁾, supported by Cohesion Policy funding, notably from the city-to-city exchanges and national events aimed at improving the quality of cohesion funds' investments on the ground and knowledge activities ⁽⁸⁾.
3. The European Union Civil Protection Mechanism ⁽⁹⁾ co-finances projects for disaster prevention and preparedness. The Knowledge for Action in Prevention and Preparedness ⁽¹⁰⁾ allows local entities to participate in disaster-related projects. The Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network ⁽¹¹⁾ connects disaster risk managers, scientists and decision-makers, matching needs of expertise and supporting exchange of best practices.

⁽¹⁾ Website of Partnership Agreement of Regional Development for Greece (ESPA): <https://www.espa.gr/el/pages/default.aspx>

⁽²⁾ Greece National Recovery and Resilience website: <https://greece20.gov.gr/en/>

⁽³⁾ Greek Network of Resilient Cities.

⁽⁴⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

⁽⁵⁾ The Horizon Europe EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change offers opportunities for addressing resilience to climate change in urban and rural areas: https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/funding/opportunities?size=n_10_n&filters%5B0%5D%5Bfield%5D=objectProvides&filters%5B0%5D%5Btype%5D=any&filters%5B0%5D%5Bvalues%5D%5B0%5D=Funding%20opportunity&filters%5B1%5D%5Bfield%5D=readingTime&filters%5B1%5D%5Btype%5D=any&filters%5B1%5D%5Bvalues%5D%5B0%5D%5Bname%5D=All&filters%5B1%5D%5Bvalues%5D%5B0%5D%5BrangeType%5D=fixed&filters%5B2%5D%5Bfield%5D=issued.date&filters%5B2%5D%5Btype%5D=any&filters%5B2%5D%5Bvalues%5D%5B0%5D=Last%205%20years&filters%5B3%5D%5Bfield%5D=language&filters%5B3%5D%5Btype%5D=any&filters%5B3%5D%5Bvalues%5D%5B0%5D=en&sort-field=title.index&sort-direction=asc

⁽⁶⁾ The EU Mission on Climate-neutral and smart cities addresses climate change mitigation objectives (climate neutrality) while accounting for the climate resilience dimension of the ecological transition in cities: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/climate-neutral-and-smart-cities_en#what-are-eu-missions

⁽⁷⁾ European Urban Initiative: <https://www.urban-initiative.eu/>

Under Cohesion policy, the European Urban Initiative supports innovation experimentation in cities and builds capacity and knowledge of cities of all sizes including in the topics of sustainable and resilient urban centres. The initiative has a budget of EUR 395 million from the European Regional Development Fund for the 2021-2027 programming period.

⁽⁸⁾ E.g. the knowledge platform Portico and its functionalities such as the community of members, knowledge resources, good practices, and the Urban Panorama tool, which aims at guiding users through EU urban initiatives, programmes and organisations.

⁽⁹⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en

⁽¹⁰⁾ The Knowledge for Action in Prevention and Preparedness (KAPP) allow the direct participation of local actors, including public and private entities, and provides project grants, *inter alia*, for actions on disaster prevention and preparedness: <https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/knowledge-action-prevention-preparedness-2024>

⁽¹¹⁾ <https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/>