

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000161/25
to the Commission
João Oliveira (The Left)
(15 January 2025)**

Subject: NRRP and other EU instruments supporting the construction of student halls of residence

In its answer to Question E-002214/2024 ⁽¹⁾ on speculation-driven rent hikes and the need to increase the number of student halls of residence, the Commission writes that it ‘supports investment in student housing as a priority under the InvestEU Fund and provides substantial support through the NextGeneration EU’s Recovery and Resilience Facility, which allocates EUR 447 million in loans for the construction or rehabilitation of buildings and the modernisation and expansion of existing residences for higher education students, notably in areas where housing pressure is most acute’. It goes on to add: ‘This is complementary to the Portuguese national plan for housing in higher education adopted in 2019. From 2021 to 2026, a 78% increase in capacity of housing for higher education students is expected in Portugal.’

In light of this:

1. Can the Commission name the specific projects which have been financed using the above-mentioned instruments to date, and state the amounts involved and the scheduled completion date in each case?
2. What proportion of the planned 78% capacity increase has been achieved? How much is still expected to be achieved in the stated period?
3. Aside from the loans, are there any NRRP grants earmarked for this purpose which are at risk of going to waste due to a failure to use them in time?

Submitted: 15.1.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(14 March 2025)**

The Portuguese Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) envisages the investment of EUR 516million ⁽¹⁾ in loans for the construction or renovation of existing residences for higher education students, notably in areas where housing pressure is most acute.

It plans to make available 18 000 new and renovated higher education students’ accommodation places at affordable prices (11 699 new beds and 6 444 renovated existing beds) by 2026 in the frame of the national plan for housing in higher education 2022-2026 (PNAES) ⁽²⁾. The PNAES website provides detailed information of the financed projects.

Currently, there are around 15 000 students’ beds in public residences. According to the 2022-2026 PNAES, it is expected that the 11 699 new beds will represent a 78% increase in capacity by 2026. The public network of students’ accommodations will then integrate the total of 26 772 beds available at affordable prices.

As mentioned above, investments for student housing under the Portuguese RRP are provided through loan support to the Member State, and therefore no grants are earmarked for this purpose.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-002214-ASW_EN.html

⁽¹⁾ After the revision of the Recovery and Resilience Plan, in September 2023 (incorporating additional loan support), budget has been increased to EUR 516 million from 447 million.

⁽²⁾ <https://pnaes.pt/>