

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000821/25
to the Commission**

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(24 February 2025)

Subject: Impact of the law capping suitable candidates on the administrative capacity of local authorities and the implementation of EU funds in Italy

The ‘Southern Cohesion’ RIPAM competition⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ to recruit 2 200 public servants aims to strengthen the public administration so that it has the capacity to implement the NRRP and 2021-2027 structural funds.

A law introducing a ‘suitable candidates cap’⁽³⁾ places a 20% ceiling on the number of suitable candidates that can be hired in addition to the successful candidates, thereby reducing the recruitment pool for local authorities⁽⁴⁾. In the case of this particular competition, the cap risks undermining the management and accountability of EU funds, leading to delays and inefficiencies.

The Commission has often reiterated the need to boost administrative capacity in less-developed regions to enable the efficient management of EU funds.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of the impact of the law capping suitable candidates on the administrative capacity of local authorities and the implementation of EU funds?
2. Does it believe that this limit could compromise the efficiency of the spending of EU funds and the achievement of territorial cohesion objectives?
3. Will it keep an eye on the application of this law and call on the Italian Government to consider a revision in the event of adverse effects?

Supporter⁽⁵⁾

Submitted: 24.2.2025

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

The Commission is closely monitoring the implementation of Italy’s Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), including its measures to strengthen administrative capacity.

The Commission acknowledges the importance of an effective and well-resourced public administration to ensure the timely and efficient management of EU funds, particularly in less-developed regions.

The Commission is aware of the discussions surrounding the ‘suitable candidates cap’.

The recruitment and management of public servants fall under the responsibility of national authorities. While it is for the Italian authorities to assess and adapt their recruitment policies in line with national and EU objectives, the Commission stands ready to engage with the Italian authorities if needed and will continue to follow this matter in the broader context of RRP implementation and effective fund management.

¹ <https://www.politichecoesione.governo.it/it/finanziamenti-avvisi-e-bandi/assunzioni-per-la-politica-di-coesione/concorso-pubblico-su-base-territoriale-per-esami-per-il-reclutamento-a-tempo-indeterminato-di-2200-unita-di-personale-non-dirigenziale/>.

² <https://portale.inpa.gov.it/api/media/b9e97d18-7ae4-4e2f-a401-2d515333d76a>.

³ <https://def.finanze.it/DocTribFrontend/getAttoNormativoDetail.do?ACTION=getSommario&id={A0D514B9-756A-40D1-9554-CFC8815EE7A0}>.

⁴ https://www.anci.it/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/ANCI_6VSG_Lettera-ministro-Zangrillo-idonei-coesione.pdf.

⁵ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Gaetano Pedulla’ (The Left)