

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001092/25
to the Commission
Maria Guzenina (S&D)
(13 March 2025)**

Subject: EU innovation funding for an ageing Europe

Europe's rapidly ageing population is a major societal challenge for all Member States. This demographic shift, including the rise of age-related diseases such as Alzheimer's, is increasing the pressure on healthcare and social care systems, highlighting the importance of developing and deploying innovative solutions to improve care services.

Previously, the social care sector has not been a key focus of EU innovation funding. However, innovations in social and elderly care hold great potential to enhance efficiency across the EU, as well as improve elderly citizens' quality of life.

Therefore:

1. How does the Commission intend to ensure that the next multiannual financial framework provides adequate support for introducing innovative technologies and methods in social and elderly care, given their crucial role in addressing ageing-related challenges?
2. With the shift from programme-based to policy-based funding, what specific measures does the Commission envisage to boost investment in the social care sector, which has traditionally received less attention in private and public innovation funding?
3. How will the Commission monitor and evaluate the impact of these measures to improve both accessibility and the quality of care for Europe's older population, ensuring that EU funding effectively addresses demographic challenges and delivers better outcomes for citizens?

Submitted: 13.3.2025

**Answer given by Mr Serafin on behalf of the European Commission
(28 May 2025)**

The next multiannual financial framework is an opportunity to better focus EU spending on the EU's shared priorities. Addressing demographic change is one of these shared priorities. In general, as per the Commission's political guidelines⁽¹⁾, the EU will also step up its work on preventive health, in particular for mental health and cardiovascular diseases, as well as on treatments for degenerative illnesses.

As recalled in the recent Commission's communication on 'The road to the next multiannual financial framework'⁽²⁾, financing the social transition will require maximising public investment and leveraging private capital.

There is scope for increasing additionality to ensure that the EU budget focuses on investments which would not have materialised otherwise.

Reinforcing the link between overall policy coordination and the EU budget will also be key to ensure better alignment with EU priorities and inform decisions on investments and reforms at EU and national level, including in the social care sector.

In line with the 'better regulation' principles⁽³⁾, the Commission intends to use evidence-based policymaking supported by thorough impact assessments and stakeholder consultations to ensure future initiatives address actual needs.

In addition, a comprehensive performance framework will support the monitoring and reporting of the progress toward the defined objectives, using appropriate performance indicators.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0046>.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/d0bbd77f-bee5-4ee5-b5c4-6110c7605476_en?filename=swd2021_305_en.pdf.