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Answer given by Ms Zaharieva
on behalf of the European Commission
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Horizon Europe¹, the European Regional Development Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the Recovery and Resilience Facility, provide research and innovation (R&I) investment opportunities for boosting innovation. In order to make the most of these opportunities, Member States are encouraged to boost their R&I potential through enhanced capacities linked to investments and reforms. The Greek R&I system has shown improvements in recent years. Greece is a ‘moderate innovator’ according to the European Innovation Scoreboard², and R&D intensity has been steadily increasing over the last decade³. Notwithstanding this progress, Greece still faces challenges to boost its innovative ecosystem, and it would benefit from a long-term strategy for R&I investments to ensure stability of funding and enhance its R&I potential.

Organisational arrangements and institutional structures for R&I can follow different pathways in Member States. R&I policy, by its very cross-cutting nature and role in several policies should adopt a ‘whole of government approach’ where actions are in close synergy and mutually beneficial with other sectoral policies, notably education policies, and therefore a close collaboration is encouraged.

The Technical Support Instrument or the Horizon Policy Support Facility (PSF)⁴ give Member States practical support to design, implement and evaluate reforms that enhance the quality of R&I investments, and policies. Greece used the PSF to review the R&I policy framework for the national research infrastructures and assess how they were progressing. The analysis provided clear recommendations⁵ and showed that these infrastructures deserve recognition, but also further efforts and investment.

¹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

² Greece is at 77.5% of the EU average. 2024 (EIS) European Innovation Scoreboard: provides a comparative analysis of innovation performance for EU countries, including the relative strengths and weaknesses of their national innovation systems. See: https://ec.europa.eu/assets/rtd/eis/2024/ec_rtd_eis-country-profile-el.pdf.

³ (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/rd_e_gerdfund_custom_14033923/default/table?lang=en). Greece: 0.72% in 2012 and 1.49% in 2023. Research and development (R&D) intensity is defined as gross domestic expenditure on R&D as a percentage of gross domestic product. EU average is 2.24% in 2023.

⁴ See: <https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/statistics/policy-support-facility>.

⁵ EC 2023: <https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/statistics/policy-support-facility/psf-open/support-greece-implementation-psf-country-recommendations>.