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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.9.2025)

Over the last decade, Greece has received EU funding for both upgrading existing infrastructure and building new school facilities, including those for special education such as the construction of the special needs schools and kindergartens in Zakynthos[1] and Korydallos[2].

Promoting equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure constitutes a priority for 2021-2027 cohesion policy funding[3], which is also reflected in the Greek Partnership Agreement 2021-2027[4]. Through Greece's 13 Regional Programmes, the EU has made around EUR 372 million available to Greece for upgrading and expanding infrastructure at all levels of education (early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational education/training), investments that should promote inclusion and be prioritised according to a detailed mapping of needs.

As per the Common Provisions Regulation[5], cohesion policy investments benefitting persons with disabilities shall comply with United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' (UNCRPD) obligations and should not contribute to any form of segregation or exclusion, including ensuring infrastructure accessibility.

Under the principle of shared management, selection and implementation of projects, including on special education infrastructure, is the responsibility of the Member State and the respective managing authorities. However, the Commission monitors closely the programmes' implementation and works closely with the national authorities to ensure effective absorption of funds, in line with EU regulation and programme priorities.

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/Europe/new-special-needs-school-built-in-zakynthos-greece?utm_source=chatgpt.com.
[2] https://www.ktyp.gr/projects/1o-eidiko-dimotiko-scholeio-1o-eidiko-ni-2/.
[3] Art. 3, REGULATION (EU) 2021/1058 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund.
[4] https://commission.europa.eu/publications/partnership-agreement-greece-2021-2027_en.
[5] Recital 6, REGULATION (EU) 2021/1058 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund.