

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003393/25
to the Commission
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)
(3 September 2025)**

Subject: Risk of loss of funding for early childhood intervention in Greece

In January 2023, Greece's Early Childhood Intervention project was included in the RRF. With its total funding amounting to EUR 35 062 820, EUR 34 million thereof is being covered by the fund. This is a project of enormous social value: thanks to the support it provides for disabled infants and children up to the age of six and their families, it can significantly alleviate the impact of disability.

While implementation is due to be completed in the second half of 2025 (which we already find ourselves in), fundamental shortcomings remain with the deadline only five months away: organisations have not been trained, the group of trainers has not even been officially set up, there is no register of providers, nor have organisations been invited to express interest in the provision of early child intervention services. Moreover, no recruitment has taken place to promote the implementation of the project, beneficiary families have not been informed about basic issues regarding substance and procedure, and there is no functioning computerised system for registering and managing requests as required.

In view of the above, there is a clear risk of funding being lost or misused in a highly sensitive area of social and family policy. Accordingly, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is it aware of the complete stagnation in the project's progress? What steps has it taken to prevent the project from being scrapped and the funding from being lost?
2. Does it have an early intervention system for when the implementation of EU-funded projects is delayed, and has it been activated in this particular case?

Submitted: 3.9.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(29 October 2025)**

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is a performance-based instrument and the Commission verifies fulfillment of milestones and targets only in the context of the assessment of payment requests submitted by Member States.

The Early Childhood Intervention is included in the measure 16904 of the Greek Recovery and Resilience Plan. The completion of the project will be assessed by the Commission in the context of milestone 174a, part of the 9th payment request, due by 31 August 2026.

The Commission has frequent exchanges with the Greek authorities aiming at the full and timely delivery of projects. However, the implementation of all the measures and projects in the national plans falls under the responsibility of the Member State.

For additional details on the RRF implementation, the Commission invites the Honourable Member to consult the recovery and resilience scoreboard, which gives an overview of how the implementation of the national recovery and resilience plans is progressing in all Member States, including Greece.

In addition, the European Social Fund Plus supports the development and provision of early childhood education, care services and after-school services/centres for vulnerable children, including children with disabilities, with an estimated investment of approximately EUR 162 million for the period 2025 — 2029.
