

EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.12.2025)

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)¹ supports Member States and regions in improving water management systems and infrastructure. Under the Regional Programme Sicily ERDF 2021-2027, EUR 154 million have been allocated to support sustainable water management². Data transmitted by the managing authority to the Commission indicate that³ around 84% of the resources were allocated to 17 projects, and the expenditure at the level of beneficiaries reached 68% of the allocation.

The Mid-term Review of cohesion policy includes water resilience among its priorities⁴.

The Italian Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) includes four investments in the water sector in component M2C4. The Commission does not decide on the allocation of projects across regions⁵, but assesses the implementation of measures based on the Annex to the Council Implementing Decision on the Italian RRP⁶. The final targets for those investments are due by the second quarter of 2026 and will be assessed in the context of the tenth payment request.

The Commission adopted a report⁷ on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive⁸ and the Floods Directive⁹, which is accompanied by country-specific staff working documents for each Member State, including Italy¹⁰. The Commission identified some challenges and gaps and established country-specific recommendations to ensure all necessary efforts are taken to ensure compliance. As outlined in the Water Resilience Strategy¹¹ and building on these findings and recommendations the Commission will engage in ‘Structured Dialogues’ with each Member State to work jointly towards enhancing implementation of the EU legislation by overcoming the root causes of the implementation deficits.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/european-regional-development-fund-erdf_en.

² These investments concern new and upgraded water supply networks, improvements to reservoirs and the reuse of wastewater.

³ At the end of August 2025.

⁴ This includes the possibility to step up investments in water, including in water reuse for non-agricultural purposes, blue biotechnology, infrastructure for addressing water stress and drought prevention, the deployment of nature-based solutions, the ecological restoration of freshwater ecosystems, and the improvement of wastewater treatment. Further information are available at: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information-sources/publications/communications/2025/a-modernised-cohesion-policy-the-mid-term-review_en.

⁵ Which falls under the remit of the Member State.

⁶ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/10d790a3-f955-4377-aa97-b3f74d3d179d_en?filename=COM_2025_285_1_EN_annexe_proposition_cp_part1_v3.pdf.

⁷ On 4 February 2025, COM/2025/2 final.

⁸ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1–73, as amended by Commission Directive 2014/101/EU of 30 October 2014, OJ L 311, 31.10.2014, p. 32–35.

⁹ Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks, OJ L 288, 6.11.2007, pp. 27–34.

¹⁰ SWD(2025) 18 final.

¹¹ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy_en.