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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.12.2025)

1. Under shared management, the selection of individual European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)¹ operations is the responsibility of the Managing Authority. The Commission's role is to ensure that operations comply with the programme's objectives and applicable regulations. The project, which has been in operation since 2009, fully met its objectives and remains economically viable to this date.

2. Since its creation, the project has attracted around 2 million visitors (between 100 000 and 140 000 annually) and generated some EUR 100 million in additional tourism revenues for the region. In addition, during the same period, several new accommodation and gastronomy establishments were opened, thereby contributing to job creation in the establishments themselves and among the services and good providers. The ERDF-funded project therefore successfully contributed to promoting tourism and economic development in the region.

3. Applicable rules require that ERDF-funded projects are selected based on clear selection criteria and have clear objectives contributing to the programme's objectives, proportionate budgets and verifiable outputs and, where applicable, measurable results. Managing authorities perform administrative and on-the-spot checks while the Commission ensures programme monitoring and carries out audits. Where verifications reveal that activities are not implemented as approved, the Commission may request corrective measures, including financial corrections.

¹ European Regional Development Fund https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/erdf_en.