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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.12.2025)

In full respect of the Member States' responsibility for organising and delivering health services¹ including prioritising public health infrastructure projects on cancer care and screening, Cohesion Policy and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) funding support Member States in improving equal access to healthcare and strengthening the resilience of health systems. EU-wide, EUR 7.3 billion from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Interreg, and some EUR 3.8 billion from the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)², as well as about EUR 42 billion from the RRF, are channelled to health-related investments, including measures to enhance access to specialist healthcare services³.

For the 2021-2027 period, Greece has earmarked EUR 362 million from the ERDF and EUR 250 million from the ESF+ in public funding for investments aimed at improving the accessibility and effectiveness of its healthcare services including the purchase of state-of-the-art medical equipment.

The EU supports health reforms and investments under the Greek recovery and resilience plan, such as the renovation of 156 primary healthcare units and 80 hospitals, the creation of 312 chronic disease management units across the country, as well as the 'Implementation of the National Public Health Prevention Program Spiros Doxiadis', providing breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening as well as cardiovascular disease screening to the Greek population⁴.

Finally, the EU provides funding to support cancer care and screening, under Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, through the EU4Health Programme. The Joint Action EUCanScreen⁵, with EUR 31 million, also serves to support the implementation of the 2022 Council Recommendation on cancer screening^{6,7}.

¹ Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

² Financing measures to support digitalisation in health care, delivery of family and community-based care services and improving accessibility, effectiveness & resilience of health systems.

³ Horizontal initiatives, such as the Talent Booster Mechanism Working Group on Health also contribute by drafting recommendations to address talent challenges in the healthcare sector.

⁴ The completion of the RRF measures will be assessed by the Commission in the context of the upcoming payment requests, with the last one due by 31 August 2026.

⁵ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/cancer/europes-beating-cancer-plan-eu4health-financed-projects/projects/eucanscreen_en.

⁶ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2022.473.01.0001.01.ENG.

⁷ It includes a recommendation to ensure access to cancer screening services for people living in rural or remote areas.