

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.1.2026)

1. Greece has allocated EUR 1.46 billion from Cohesion Policy¹ to support integrated territorial strategies (ITIs), including for remote and small areas. These locally designed strategies prioritise, among other², the promotion of the areas as tourist destinations.

In addition, the 2023-2027 common agricultural policy (CAP) Strategic Plan for Greece also includes ‘Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l’Économie Rurale’ (LEADER) links between activities for the development of rural economy, local development, support to investments and rural business start-ups, cooperation and technical assistance³.

Finally, the Creative Europe Programme offers opportunities for cultural heritage which can be a driver for social and economic development, especially in rural areas⁴⁵.

2. Greece has recently adopted its Administrative Capacity Building Roadmap under the ‘Technical Assistance’ programme, to strengthen small municipalities in preparing and implementing co-financed projects, within their approved ITIs.

The proposal for the 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework, foresees a budget increase and higher technical assistance rates for Interreg⁶. Interreg will continue to support territorial approaches, including smaller municipalities, and tourism.

Furthermore, technical assistance is available to the Member States under the CAP Strategic Plan.

3. Under Cohesion Policy, Member States must ensure equal access to all beneficiaries. Tools such as Project Advisory Support Service Agreement and Technical Assistance and Information Exchange⁷ support administrative capacity, while the Commission shares best practices, including through the CAP Network⁸⁹, and provides advice in the Monitoring Committee on implementation and selection criteria.

¹ Under the 13 regional programmes.

² ITIs also promote accessibility and connectivity, circular and blue economy, energy and digital transition, local entrepreneurship, social infrastructure.

³ Including networking-particularly relevant for traditional rural infrastructure and soft tourism.

⁴ Actions such as the European Heritage Awards have been highlighting outstanding achievements in the field of cultural heritage from rural regions on a European level, thus providing best practise examples for communities facing similar challenges in Greece and beyond. Moreover, the European Heritage Label provides supports to the heritage sector through networking, capacity building and some direct funding opportunities.

⁵ No funding of infrastructure works.

⁶ Greece participates in five 2021-2027 Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes with its neighbours with whom it shares land or maritime border (Italy, Cyprus, Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Albania). Cross-border programmes covering NUTS3 regions support small-scale operations which may include beneficiaries such as smaller municipalities who would like to work with their counterparts on the other side of the border.

⁷ PASSA and TAIEX.

⁸ Technical assistance in the CAP Strategic Plan is managed in a shared mode in line with Articles 94 and 125 of Regulation 2021/2115.

⁹ https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/index_en.