

EN
E-004642/2025
Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.1.2026)

The Commission is aware of the situation. In addition to swift solutions, structural measures are necessary to ensure that water demand matches water supply also in future climatic conditions.

The Water Resilience Strategy¹ stresses the importance of taking urgent action to protect and restore the water cycle, promoting water saving by reducing demand and distribution leakages and enhancing efficiency, in line with the water efficiency first principle. It puts forward actions to support Member States to tackle these challenges.

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)², the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)³ and the National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRP)⁴ support Member States and regions in improving water management systems and irrigation infrastructures. Under the Regional Programme Sicily ERDF 2021-2027, EUR 154 million of EU resources have been allocated to support sustainable water management, with priority for infrastructural interventions aimed at reducing losses in the water supply network⁵. Under the EAFRD 2014-2022 and the Italian NRRP, further EUR 58 million have been allocated to investments in irrigation infrastructures in Sicily. Under the EAFRD 2023-2027, Italian regions can activate interventions for investments in irrigation⁶.

Regional authorities have proposed⁷ to allocate to water resilience an additional amount of EUR 36.6 million of ERDF resources⁸.

As for the priorities and coordinated use of EU water resilience resources in Sicily, the operational choices related to the selection of projects are under the responsibility of national and regional authorities.

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)⁹ also supports water sector in Italy¹⁰.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy_en.

² https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/european-regional-development-fund-erdf_en.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/european-agricultural-fund-rural-development-eafnd_en.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en.

⁵ These investments concern new and upgraded water supply networks, improvements to reservoirs and the reuse of wastewater.

⁶ Under the specific conditions set in Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013, OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, pp. 1–186.

⁷ In the framework of the Mid-term Review of cohesion policy.

⁸ Which will cover – among other interventions – the search for new sources (springs and wells) and the enhancing of the existing ones.

⁹ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en.

¹⁰ With EUR 6 billion allocated to the sector. The selection of the projects for the investments in the water sector under component M2C4 of the Italian RRP, which include actions in Sicily, is responsibility of the Italian authorities.