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Answer given by Mr Serafin

on behalf of the European Commission

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The proposals for the next EU budget tabled by the Commission on 16 July and 3 September 2025¹ reaffirm the EU's strong commitment to a place-based investment and multi-level governance. National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs)² will help tailor the budget to local needs for more impactful actions, while strengthening synergies between policies, ensuring a faster and more flexible support, simplifying current rules and reducing administrative burden. Moreover, one of the specific objectives of the NRPPs is for Member States to support strategies for the integrated development of urban and rural areas, including support for territorial services and infrastructure. The partnership principle will remain at the core of this approach, with the Plans prepared and implemented with the involvement of regional and local authorities³ who will continue to play a key role in the design, management and implementation of supported measures throughout the whole process.

Enhancing the capacity of public authorities, including at local level, is one of the specific objectives of the NRPPs – their needs are to be considered as part of the process of designing and during the implementation of the Plans – and corresponding investments and reforms are encouraged. Local authorities will be able to benefit from the technical assistance provided under the NRPPs with each payment from the Commission to the Member States. In addition, urban authorities will be able to benefit from technical support under the EU Facility to develop innovative projects, strengthen capacities of cities and a knowledge environment to share know-how on sustainable urban development⁴.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.

² Proposal COM(2025) 565 final (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0565>).

³ See Articles 6(1)(a) and 21(2) of the proposal COM(2025) 565 final in particular.

⁴ See Title IV and Annex XV, point 1(a), of proposal COM(2025) 565 final.