EN
E-005045/2025
Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.3.2026)

In Greece, a higher share of people than in the other EU countries forgo care due to distance to healthcare facilities. In 2023, 75% of the population lived within a 15-minute drive of a hospital in Greece, while this percentage varied a lot across Greek regions[1]. At the same time, Greece experiences shortages, notably of generalist medical practitioners and nursing professionals[2], while reporting the highest number of licensed doctors per capita across EU countries[3]. In 2020, 2022, 2023, Greece received country-specific recommendations to ensure adequate and equal access to healthcare.

For 2021-2027, Greece has earmarked EUR 250 million from the European Social Fund Plus for investments to improve accessibility and effectiveness of primary healthcare services. These include the operation of local healthcare units (TOMY) and mobile health units (KOMY), to address healthcare needs with a focus on remote areas such as small and very small islands. From the European Regional Development Fund 2021-2027 Greece earmarked EUR 362 million to upgrade healthcare facilities across regions, including the purchase of state-of-the-art medical equipment. Additional EUR 40 million target the digitalisation of the health system, including eHealth platforms and telemedicine applications, hence interconnecting health services in remote/insular areas, where access is limited by distance, transportation and workforce shortages.

Greece's Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) includes measures such as infrastructure renovations and constructions, digital transformation, reinforcing primary care, prevention and mental health actions, and broader organisational reforms to improve system efficiency. Under the RRP, the personal doctor reform aims to ensure coverage for Greece's whole population.

[1] TomTom Multinet 2022, Geostat population grid 2021, Eurostat-GISCO hospital locations 2023, as reported by Eurostat.
[2] https://www.ela.europa.eu/en/publications/labour-shortages-and-surpluses-europe-2024.
[3] https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a1f9c5fd-e785-4284-a727-1ff83e0d52cd_en?filename=SWD_2024_608_1_EN_Greece.pdf.