

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001829/26
to the Commission
Georgios Aftias (PPE)
(5 May 2026)**

Subject: Funding for model communities of children with disabilities and their parents

Thousands of parents of children with disabilities in Europe and Greece are anxious about their children's future once they themselves are gone. They seek solutions to the trauma and sense of abandonment which their children will feel.

Trusting in your sensitivity, the parents of individuals with disabilities request the following:

1. Funding for model community centres. Model projects have already been presented to EU governments. Parent and child grow old together with the child participating in the parent's life right up until the end. Parents sacrifice themselves for their children and the centre guarantees continuity of care.
2. Funding for the creation of model education centres for parents of children with disabilities.
3. The introduction of personal assistants for people with disabilities within living centres, Europe-wide, providing the relevant financial support.
4. Funding for the creation of European villages for children with disabilities, where parents do not just drop their children at the gate but can actually live there with them, as workers, volunteers and/or carers.
5. The establishment of 14 May as the Europe-wide day celebrating mothers of children with disabilities.

Given the above, can the Commission say:

1. Will it provide financial support for this profoundly human endeavour?
2. Will it give the green light for Member States to fund this social need with European funding?

Submitted: 5.5.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(20 July 2026)**

The Commission acknowledges the concerns of parents of children with disabilities regarding continuity of care and inclusion in the community.

The EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 ⁽¹⁾, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, supports the right of persons with disabilities, including children, to live independently, grow up in a family, and access community-based support, including personal assistance.

Member States and regions can use EU funding, including under cohesion policy, in line with EU, national, and sub-national priorities and applicable rules.

Investments for the inclusion of persons with disabilities supported with EU funding should apply the approach reflected in the Commission Guidance on independent living ⁽²⁾.

The European Social Fund Plus 2021-2027 co-finances social inclusion measures, including personal assistance, caregiver support, inclusive education and community-based services for persons with disabilities.

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) may complement with infrastructure and equipment for accessible and community-based facilities, housing and education.

During the 2021-2027 period, the ERDF supports in Greece targeted interventions to strengthen community-based care, including projects promoting the integration of children with disabilities.

These investments must be part of the national deinstitutionalisation strategy and the national strategy for Persons with Disabilities and comply with the principle of non-segregation ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/3e1e2228-7c97-11eb-9ac9-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

⁽²⁾ Commission Notice Guidance on independent living and inclusion in the community of persons with disabilities in the context of EU funding, C(2024) 7897 final.

⁽³⁾ In full respect of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

Under the Commission proposal for National and Regional Partnership Plans for 2028-2034, Member States and regions can continue supporting family- and community-based services ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽⁴⁾ Commission proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Fisheries Policy, to the European Ocean Pact and of the Union's maritime and aquaculture policy as part of the National and Regional Partnership Fund set out in Regulation (EU) [...] [NRP Fund] for the period from 2028 to 2034 (COM) (2025) 565 final.