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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(31.7.2026)

To tackle youth unemployment, full implementation of the Youth Guarantee by all Member States is key. In line with European Court of Auditors (ECA) findings, measures that could enhance the effectiveness of EU-funded initiatives under the European Social Fund + (ESF+), include the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation frameworks to ensure long-term labour market integration of young people. The Commission will also engage with Member States to exchange knowledge and best practices on how to design and implement effective youth employment measures targeting, *inter alia*, inactive young people. ESF+ funding could be used to support vocational training to address skills mismatches while expanding childcare and long-term care services to improve labour market participation¹.

To provide targeted assistance to Greece, where ESF+ allocations for youth unemployment amount to approximately EUR 700 million (2021-2027), the Commission is aligning ESF+ interventions with the country-specific recommendations, which highlight structural labour market weaknesses, including skills mismatches and precarious employment conditions. Enhanced collaboration with Greek authorities under the European Semester framework will prioritise quality job creation, particularly in sectors with growth potential, such as the green and digital transitions. The Just Transition Fund allocation of EUR 1.63 billion for Greece will further support regional employment initiatives in areas most affected by economic shifts. Technical support instruments could also be used to strengthen Greece's administrative capacity to absorb EU funds efficiently, ensuring compliance with ECA guidelines on sustainable youth integration.

¹ Particularly for women and vulnerable groups.