

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002417/26
to the Commission**

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(11 June 2026)

Subject: EU funding for institutional care — data and safeguards

The EU and its Member States are bound by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), notably Article 19, as well as the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Disability Strategy 2021-2030, promoting the transition to community-based care. In its 2025 concluding observations, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern about the continued use of EU funds for investments not fully aligned with the Convention, including those that may support institutionalisation.

1. How many ESF+ and ERDF-funded projects in the 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods involve residential or institutional care settings and what is the total EU funding allocated to these projects? Please provide a breakdown by Member State.
2. How does the Commission respond to complaints that EU funding contributes to institutionalisation, including through measures to prevent or discontinue such funding?
3. How will the Commission minimise the risk of EU funding contributing to institutionalisation in the next multiannual financial framework while ensuring continued investment in independent living and person-centred support, including personal assistance, personal budgets and centres for independent living?

Submitted: 11.6.2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(5 October 2026)

The 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy framework has provisions to ensure independent living arrangements and foster family and community-based care.

Member States must comply with the horizontal enabling conditions on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Thematic enabling conditions require them to put in place measures to promote deinstitutionalisation ⁽¹⁾.

Cohesion Policy supports family and community-based solutions. 2656 European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) operations are supporting the delivery of family and community-based care services.

In total, 12 Member States ⁽²⁾ have selected ESF+ projects for over EUR 2.3 billion ⁽³⁾. The European Regional Development Fund complements this through infrastructure investments.

The data requested in the question is not available, as the monitoring framework does not provide for a specific classification of operations involving residential or institutional care settings.

The Commission is committed to ensuring that the EU budget is spent in accordance with sound financial management principles and relevant EU rules.

It monitors the implementation through various channels, including monitoring committees, bilateral exchanges, direct engagement with stakeholders, audits and by addressing complaints. If there is substantiated evidence of non-compliance, the Commission takes appropriate measures.

The Multiannual Financial Framework proposal ⁽⁴⁾ includes safeguards ensuring that EU funding respects the Charter of Fundamental Rights as a horizontal principle ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Article 15 and Annexes III and IV of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1060/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain.

⁽³⁾ Of which EUR 1.7 billion is EU contribution.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2025) 565 final — Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0565>.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2025) 565 final — Article 8.

It obliges Member States to take appropriate steps to prevent discrimination and makes clear that EU funding should not support actions contributing to any form of segregation ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2025) 565 final — Article 7 — Recital 26.