



European  
Commission

## EU SUPPORT FOR ITALY

MAY 2019



*«It is our duty as Europeans to stand by Italy and its citizens, who are showing extraordinary courage in times of difficulty, in order to help the effort to overcome as soon as possible the consequences of the earthquakes and to reconstruct fully the areas damaged. Reconstructing the beautiful Basilica of San Benedetto in Norcia with the help of EU funds will be a lasting symbol of EU solidarity and of the ability of the Italian people to bounce back.»*

**Jean-Claude Juncker**, President of the European Commission, 30 November 2016

Italy was hit hard by four successive earthquakes on 24 August, 26 October and 30 October 2016, and 18 January 2017. The EU has delivered on its promise to stand by the citizens in the affected regions of Umbria, Marche, Abruzzo and Lazio.



### EU SOLIDARITY FUND



**€1.2 billion**



RECONSTRUCTION



EMERGENCY



PROTECTION OF  
LANDMARKS



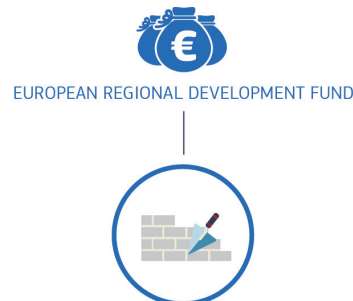
On 21 June 2017, the Commission proposed **€1.2 billion from the EU Solidarity Fund**. This is the **highest amount ever mobilised under this fund**. The money has been used to cover reconstruction, emergency and clean-up operations, and the protection of landmarks. Italy is already the largest beneficiary of the Solidarity Fund, having received €2.5 billion since the creation of the fund 17 years ago.



Immediately after the earthquakes, the Commission provided **short-term assistance via the Copernicus Emergency Management Services**, to monitor the situation and **provide damage assessment satellite maps**.



On 30 November 2016, **the Commission proposed to fully fund reconstruction operations after natural disasters with the European Regional Development Fund**. An amendment to the Cohesion Policy regulation now allows for an **exceptional co-financing rate of 95%**.



In December 2016, following the request by the Italian authorities, the **Commission released €30 million from the EU Solidarity Fund**, the highest amount that can be paid as an advance.



On 23 January 2017, the Commission announced an **exceptional frontloading under EU rural development programmes**, to support farming communities of Central Italy. It increased the level of advance payments for certain measures under rural development from 85 % to 100%.



**The Commission has granted flexibility to Italy for unusual events** in relation to the preventive investment plan to protect Italy against seismic risks. The Commission has also considered for 2017 as well as in previous years that **emergency and reconstruction costs related to recent earthquakes could be treated as one-off measures** and excluded from the assessment of compliance with the Stability and Growth Pact.

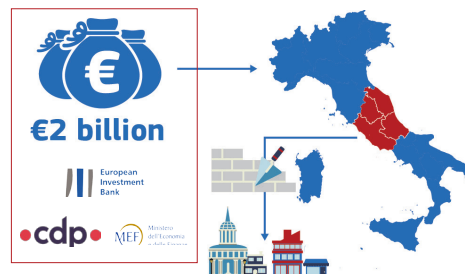


The first **European Solidarity Corps** members arrived in Norcia to **contribute to the reconstruction efforts and rebuild social services** to support the local community, in particular children and elderly people. In total, 230 European Solidarity Corps members will support Italian communities hit by the earthquakes until 2020.



In 2018 and 2019 the project continued to support inhabitants, including elderly people living in temporary houses and people with disabilities. 44 volunteers have been hosted to date in Norcia and another 16 are expected from mid-July to mid-September 2019.

The **European Investment Bank** is also lending its support in the form of **€2 billion in loans** to the Ministry of Economy and Finance **for reconstruction operations** in the affected regions. One billion is going towards the **reconstruction of public buildings** (schools, hospitals, administrative offices) and one billion, jointly with the Cassa depositi e prestiti, is going towards the **restructuring of SMEs and households**.



The Commission announced that **€400 million** from EU and national funds will support reconstruction efforts and revitalise the economy in the four regions hit by the earthquakes, including **€10 million for the reconstruction of the Basilica of San Benedetto in Norcia**.

The money came from the additional €1.6 billion of Cohesion Policy funds that Italy received as part of the midterm re-evaluation of all Cohesion Policy envelopes taking into account the impact of the crisis.