

RRF

Main messages

- The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected every one of us and every economic sector in the European Union and the world. The EU has shown its determination to act together to face the current economic, social and health crisis by setting up the recovery instrument **NextGenerationEU**.
- NextGenerationEU and the **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)** at its core represents a historical increase in EU funding.
- The key objective of the RRF is not only to support Member States in overcoming the current crisis, but it also offers the opportunity to **re-build the economy in a resilient, sustainable and forward looking way**.
- As per the RRF Regulation, the main aim of the Facility is to **finance structural reforms** having long-lasting impact and support the green and digital transition of the economies. This will be done with an unprecedented **EUR 723.8 billion of loans and grants** of financial support to be disbursed in the crucial first years of the recovery.
- So far, the Commission has officially received 26 national recovery and resilience plans and 24 of them have been already approved by the Council.
- A year after the establishment of the Facility, major advancements have been made and implementation is firmly on its way. In 2021, **EUR 56.5 billion** have been disbursed in pre-financing to 21 Member States.
- **Payments** under the Recovery and Resilience Facility are **made against performance**. This means that the payment requests of Member States must be accompanied by evidence, demonstrating that a **specific set of milestones and targets** has been achieved.
- This, together with **strong monitoring and control**, will ensure effective delivery of the reforms and investments included in the approved plans.
- Five payment requests have been successfully processed (Spain, France, Greece, Italy and Portugal) and two are being assessed (Croatia and Slovakia). Spain has already submitted a second payment request. The Commission has so far disbursed EUR 43.16 billion.
- The Commission is committed to the implementation of the RRF being a shared **success for all Europeans**. To that end, the Commission will continue to do its utmost to involve all relevant stakeholders for a successful implementation of the plans.

Digital contribution

- So far, Member States not only met, but most of the time **exceeded the 20% digital target**. Considering the 24 Recovery and Resilience Plans adopted so far by the Council, about **26%** (i.e. about EUR 120 billion) is spent on digital.
- The reforms and investments related to digital often cover **digital public services, digital skills**, e.g. development of digital skills in education and vocational training and support measures for the **digitalisation of businesses**, especially for SMEs, play an important role in many plans. In addition, MS also invest in **Connectivity**, for example in very high-capacity broadband networks or in 5G deployment.
- Moreover, **several measures also target advanced technologies**, such as semiconductors, cloud, High Performance Computing and – an interesting element – many Member States have done so by promoting investment that go beyond their national boundaries, i.e. through **multi-country projects**.

- The two IPCEIs on microelectronics and cloud technologies are amongst the multi-country projects with the highest take-up in RRP, together with the European Digital Innovation Hubs and 5G corridors.
- Small and large firms alike will benefit from reforms improving the business environment and reducing red tape.
- These reforms are present in many national recovery and resilience plans and aim to simplify the procedures for starting up businesses, obtaining permits and licenses, or by introducing public administrations' one-stop shops and electronic registries.
- To **speed up the digital transformation** and **strengthen our resilience**, we need to build on our **strengths**, pool resources to create critical mass and **weight internationally**. We count on the **support of the Member States**, but as well the **industries**, to make the digital transformation happen. This is even more important in view of the Digital Decade Policy Programme, which provides an EU level framework to guide and accelerate Europe's digital transformation by 2030 and is an ambition that can only be reached with the cooperation of all Member States.

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