

Monthly Report - NRRP and EC Priorities

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National Recovery and Resilience Plan

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

Priority 2: Defence & Security

Priority 3: Social rights

Priority 4: Life quality

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

MONTHLY REPORT ANNEX

National Recovery and Resilience Plan

C1. Water management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 6, M19 - WATER CADASTRE COMPLETED. The Ministry of Environment announced the completion of the “Water Cadastre” project, delivered under **NRRP Component C1, Investment I6, Milestone 19**. The project covers more than 236,000 km² and includes the registration of over 55,000 km of watercourses, around 70% of the targeted hydrographic network. The ministry states that the new database will support faster intervention in emergencies, the identification of vulnerable areas, the prioritisation of water infrastructure investments, and stronger prevention mechanisms. The project relied on LiDAR data, high-resolution aerial imagery, digital terrain models and a cloud-based geospatial platform for the management and analysis of hydrographic data, and was implemented in cooperation with ANCPI, the National Cartography Centre, AIGA and ROMATSA. In parallel, the Ministry has published a draft Government Decision to reapprove the substantiation note for the same investment, reflecting adjustments made during implementation. These include the change in the financing structure from reimbursable to non-reimbursable funds, the increase in VAT, and the

C2. Forests and biodiversity protection

Reforms

REFORM 1, M24 - ROMSILVA GOVERNANCE REFORM. The Government Decision updating the organisation and functioning of the National Forest Administration - RNP Romsilva, completing **NRRP Component C2, Reform R1, Milestone 24**, part of the broader forestry governance reform launched with the adoption of the Forest Code (Law No. 331/2024) was published in the Official Gazette. The decision introduces management contracts for Romsilva's leadership and for the heads of its territorial structures, with annual evaluations based on financial, non-financial and sector-specific performance indicators. It also clarifies the governance framework of the institution, strengthens oversight over management activity and establishes rules for the organisation and functioning of Romsilva's central and territorial structures. The decision was also published in the Official Gazette.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1.A, T49 - MANDATORY COLLECTION CENTRES. The legislative proposal, amending Law 211/2011 to require local authorities with over 5,000 residents to establish at least one voluntary collection centre (CAV) by end-2026 received a rejection report from the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies. The initiative, tabled by opposition MPs, was previously rejected by the Senate and is linked to **NRRP Component C3, Investment I1.a, Target 49** on setting up 565 CAVs nationwide, but faced criticism regarding enforceability and institutional overlaps. The proposal will next be debated and voted on in the Chamber of Deputies plenary.

INVESTMENT 3, T55 - NEW DEADLINE FOR NRRP-FUNDED COMPOST SYSTEMS IMPLEMENTATION. The Ministry of Environment has launched for public consultation a draft order amending Order No. 1612/2024, which approved the guidelines for Sub-investment I2.C - “Investments in compost production from manure and other compostable waste”, under **NRRP Component C3, Investment I2**. The measure contributes to **Target 55**, which requires the establishment and operationalisation of 254 integrated systems for managing compostable agricultural waste by Q2 2026. The draft order updates the implementation timeline of the scheme, extending the project implementation period and the eligibility of expenditures until 30 June 2026, including the deadline for the final acceptance of works

INVESTMENT I3a, T57 - PROCEDURE FOR USE OF DIGITAL CONTROL EQUIPMENT. The Ministry of Environment has published for public consultation a draft order establishing the procedure for the use of photo-audio-video equipment by the National Environmental Guard, contributing to the implementation of **NRRP Component C3, Investment I3.a, Target 57** on digital monitoring in control activities.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T75 - GOVERNMENT REVIEWS PROGRESS ON CLUJ–ORADEA RAILWAY PROJECT. Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan analysed the implementation status of the electrification and rehabilitation project of the Cluj-Napoca - Oradea - Episcopia Bihor railway line, financed under the **NRRP, Investment I1, contributing to Target 75** on modernised rail infrastructure. The project covers over 166 km, with a total value exceeding RON 7.6 billion (excluding VAT), and has reached an average physical progress of 42.72%. Authorities reviewed implementation bottlenecks and outlined next steps, including clarifying technical documentation, continuing discussions with contractors and accelerating expropriation procedures. The 2026 state budget includes the national co-financing, with the objective of reaching agreed milestones with the European Commission by August 2026 and completing all four sections by end-2027.

INVESTMENT 3, T84 - RISK OF DELAYS ON A7 MOTORWAY AND POTENTIAL LOSS OF EU FUNDS. The Association Pro Infrastructură warned of a significant risk that sections of the A7 Ploiești - Siret motorway will not be completed within the NRRP deadline, which could affect the absorption of up to EUR 2.17 billion in grants. According to the analysis, progress remains uneven despite parts of the corridor already opened to traffic, with several critical structures (bridges and viaducts) still at early stages. Meeting the August 2026 deadline would require substantial mobilisation of workforce and continuous execution, including night shifts. The project is part of **NRRP Component C4, Investment I3, contributing to Target 84.**

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

REFORM 1, T92 - UPDATED APPROVAL PROCEDURES FOR TOURISM URBAN PLANNING DOCUMENTATION. The decision which updates the approval methodology for urban planning and technical documentation in tourism, in line with GEO no. 31/2025, aiming to reduce permitting timelines under **Target 92 of NRRP Component C5, Reform R1**, was published in the Official Gazette. Documentation linked to NRRP-funded investments is prioritised, and approvals can now be issued at specific project design stages. The update also clarifies required documents and procedural steps, addressing delays caused by previously unclear and incomplete rules.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C6. Energy

Reforms

REFORM 1, M114 - GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO SECURE DECARBONISATION MILESTONE COMPLIANCE. The Government adopted the emergency ordinance intended to realign the decarbonisation framework with NRRP commitments, in the context of ongoing discussions with the European Commission, with the aim of safeguarding the irreversibility of **Milestone 114 and supporting the fulfilment of Targets 119 and 119a** on coal phase-out. The ordinance revises the timetable for decommissioning lignite and hard coal capacities, removes mechanisms introduced through GEO No. 88/2025 that were seen as creating risks of reversibility, and reinforces the ban on the development or extension of coal-based electricity generation. The draft bill approving the ordinance was then registered in the Senate and referred to the relevant committees, which are expected to issue their report by 07.04.2026.

REFORM 1, M114 - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ENERGY DECARBONISATION LAW. The legislative proposal amending GEO No. 108/2022, adopted under **NRRP Component C6, Reform R1, Milestone 114**, is advancing at committee level, where the Committee for Industries has issued a preliminary report introducing changes to the coal phase-out mechanism. The initiative, put forward mainly by PNL deputies, seeks to recalibrate decarbonisation targets based on energy and national security considerations. According to the preliminary position, the decommissioning of lignite and hard coal capacities would be conditioned on the commissioning of new electricity generation capacities, effectively linking coal phase-out to replacement capacity. The proposal maintains the general ban on coal-based generation, while preserving derogations for non-energy uses and exceptions justified by national security considerations. The final position will depend on the joint report with the Committee for Economic Policy.

REFORM 6, M128 - DECARBONISATION OF THE HEATING AND COOLING SECTOR. The legislative proposal establishing a national framework for the decarbonisation of heating and cooling systems, under **NRRP Component C6, Reform 6, Milestone 128**, was tacitly adopted by the Chamber of Deputies and sent to the Senate as decisional chamber. The draft bill has been referred to the relevant committees, which are expected to issue their report by 21.04.2026. The proposal sets out a governance framework between the Ministry of Energy and local authorities, aimed at reducing the use of inefficient biomass and dependence on fossil fuels, and requires municipalities with more than 20,000 inhabitants to prepare local heating and cooling plans starting in 2026.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 11 - WHITE AREAS. The Order which amends the State Aid Scheme "Supporting the use of communications services through different types of instruments for beneficiaries, with an emphasis on white areas", extending the deadline for payment of aid to beneficiaries until June 30, 2026, being part of **Component 7, Investment 11**, was published in the Official Gazette. We remind you that the said scheme is intended to ensure coverage of high-speed internet access in areas where the market cannot provide these services on its own. The state aid is granted in the form of a non-refundable subsidy (grant), based on a financing contract, based on the most economically advantageous offer.

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

R6, M214 – ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION PERIODS. The Senate registered on March 24 a new legislative proposal aiming to amend and supplement Law No. 360/2023 on the public pension system, through which **Milestone 214 - Reform 6, Component 8 of the PNRR** was fulfilled, in order to **clarify the contributory nature and the mechanism for capitalizing in the calculation of the pension and of the contribution periods** related to activities carried out under special and exceptional working conditions. Thus, it is ensured that additional contribution periods recognized by law can produce real legal effects in determining pension rights, by capitalizing on them in the annual score and in granting stability points, explicit mentions introduced. The proposal is going to be soon sent to the committees for debate.

R6, M214 – PENSION FOR ENERGY WORKERS. The Committee for Labour of the Senate was notified regarding the legislative proposal which brings some changes to the Law No. 360/2023 on the public pension system, which fulfilled **Milestone 214, from Reform**

6 of Component 8 of the PNRR, and aims to extend and clarify the classification under special conditions for personnel in coal-fired power plants and coal mining units, including maintenance personnel, introducing the employer's obligation to expressly justify situations in which it only partially recognizes the activity under special conditions. It also provides for the cumulation of reductions in the standard retirement age up to a maximum of 13 years, the granting of an additional point for each month worked under special conditions for certain categories and the assimilation, as internship under special conditions, of periods prior to April 1, 2001 carried out in work groups I and II, in the cases provided for by law. The proposal is expected to receive a report from the Committee for Labour by April 15.

R6, M214 – NIGHT WORK. The Committee for Labour of the Senate was notified regarding the legislative proposal which brings some changes to the Law No. 360/2023 on the public pension system, which fulfilled **Milestone 214, from Reform 6 of Component 8 of the PNRR**, and proposes that the standard retirement age be reduced by one day for every 24 cumulative hours of night work actually performed, given that shifts are, as a general rule, 8 hours long. Therefore, for every 24 hours worked during the night, even if these are performed in separate shifts and on different days, the worker will benefit from the corresponding reduction of the retirement age by one day. It is also established that the minimum retirement age is 60 years, below which the reduction cannot operate. The proposal is expected to receive a report from the Committee for Labour by April 15.

R6, M214 – RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNSHIP IN MULTIPLE SYSTEMS. After the rejection of the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies registered the legislative proposal which aims to **resolve the existing inequities between persons who have completed contribution periods**, both in the public pension system and in systems not integrated with it, regarding the consideration of the contributory period regardless of the system in which the contribution was paid by amending Law No. 360/2023 on the public pension system, through which **Milestone 214, Reform 6 of Component 8 of the PNRR** was fulfilled. It also regulates the recognition and valorization of contribution periods completed both in the public pension system and in the own non-integrated social insurance systems (for example, those of special professional categories). The principle of mutual recognition of contribution periods, length of employment or length of service is enshrined, and the pension from the public system is established for the periods completed in any of these systems. The legislative proposal is expected to receive a report from the Committee for Labour by April 22.

REFORM 6, M214 – SALARY-PENSION ACCUMULATION. The Committee for Labour of the Senate was notified regarding the legislative proposal which brings some changes to the Law No. 360/2023 on the public pension system, which fulfilled **Milestone 214, from Reform 6 of Component 8 of the PNRR**, and establishes that the right to an old-age pension should not be conditional on the termination, suspension or non-existence of a public/private employment relationship. In other words, it explicitly allows the cumulation of salary with the old-age pension, if the pensioner's option is to continue his professional activity - the right to work and the right to an old-age pension are considered compatible. The proposal is expected to receive a report from the Committee for Labour by April 15.

R6, M214 – RECOGNITION OF SALARY RECORDS. The Committee for Budget and the Committee for Labour of the Senate were notified

regarding the legislative proposal which aims to amend Law no. 360/2023 on the public pension system which fulfilled **Milestone 214 – Reform 6 of Component 8 of the PNRR** and to resolve situations in which essential documents, such as payrolls, no longer exist or are no longer found in the archives, by recognizing the remuneration/salary records, drawn up nominally for each employee, as valid supporting documents. These acquire the same probative value, to the extent that they contain all the elements necessary to establish the monthly income achieved. The legislative proposal was supposed to receive by March 24 a joint report from the two committees.

Context - There are currently 6 legislative proposals in the Senate as the first chamber to amend the Pensions Law no. 360/2025, 5 of which are to be debated in committees. Another 17 proposals are in the Chamber of Deputies as the decision-making chamber, 5 of which were adopted by the Senate, and 12 were rejected.

R6, M215 – SPECIAL PENSIONS. After the Constitutional Court rejected the objection of unconstitutionality formulated by the High Court of Cassation and Justice, the President of Romania signed the law regulating the special pensions of magistrates and auxiliary personnel in the judiciary, in accordance with the need to fulfill **Milestone 215, Reform 6, Component 8 of the NRRP**, is constitutional in relation to the criticisms formulated. This law proposes to gradually increase the retirement age and introduce a minimum length of service of 35 years for judicial personnel, in line with the public pension system. At the same time, the method of calculating the pension is modified (55% of the average gross income of the last 60 months, with a ceiling of 70% of the net income) and assimilated seniority is gradually eliminated. The measures aim to standardize regulations and ensure fair treatment for all categories in the field of justice. The law was also published in the Official Gazette and entered into force on March 2.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C9. Support for the private sector, research, development, and innovation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C10. The local fund

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C11. Tourism and culture

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C12. Health

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C13. Social reforms

Reforms

R6, M398 - SOCIAL ECONOMY. The Committee for Labour issued an admission report for the draft bill approving the emergency ordinance which aims at completing **Milestone 398 of Reform 6, Component 13 of the PNRR**, already fulfilled by GD 876/2022. The draft bill aims to update the legislative framework on employment and unemployment insurance, through measures aimed at digitizing ANOFM services, expanding the categories of beneficiaries and vulnerable groups supported, stimulating employers in the social economy, introducing a stability bonus for NEET youth and simplifying administrative procedures. Next, the plenary of the Senate is expected to adopt the draft bill.

R2, T383 – PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES. The Senate tacitly adopted the draft bill approving GEO 90/2025

that introduces significant measures to achieve **Target 383 of the NRRP (Component 13, Reform 2)** and aims to deinstitutionalize adults with disabilities and significantly reduce their numbers in institutions by **June 30, 2026**. It also clarifies the role of the **professional personal assistant** as a certified individual providing care and expands the definition of protection measures to include a broad spectrum of social services, such as home care, mobile teams, and sheltered housing. A central feature is, furthermore, the introduction of a new social service: **assisted living in the community for independent living**, which empowers individuals with disabilities to exercise choice and control over their lives within a community setting. The draft bill was also registered with the Chamber of Deputies which is decisional chamber and sent to the Committee for Public Administration, the Committee for Labour and the Committee for Health which had to issue a report by March 25.

R4, M387 - REGULATION OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE DOMESTIC PROVIDER. The Chamber of Deputies adopted the law which approves the emergency ordinance revising the legislation on the regulation of the activity of the domestic provider, in the sense of **clarifying the operation of the payment and record system** established by the Law 111/2022 which met the **Milestone 387 of Reform 4 of Component C13 of the NRRP**. The normative act aims to expand the scope of activities specific to the domestic provider, establishes the payment of the activity by agreement between the parties, details the payment of the domestic provider and regulates the functionalities of the Electronic Platform for the Record of Domestic Activities. Next, the law is going to be signed by the President of Romania and published in the Official Gazette.

R2, T383 - DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. The Ministry of Labor published this month in decisional transparency two draft orders aimed at contributing to achieving the objective related to **Target 383, Reform 2 of Component 13 of the PNRR**, allowing people with disabilities to leave residential centers in the process of deinstitutionalization and prevention of institutionalization in safe conditions and in accordance with their freedom of choice.

The first draft order approves the minimum quality standards applicable to all types of social services intended for adult people with disabilities, including residential, day, home and community services. It establishes the structure of the standards, the evaluation criteria for licensing and the obligation of providers to comply with these standards throughout the duration of the services. At the same time, transitional rules are provided for existing services and the extension of the application of the standards, including for beneficiaries from conflict areas.

The second draft order regulates the procedure for granting and paying from the state budget the cost standard for adults with disabilities leaving residential centers, in order to support deinstitutionalization. It establishes the beneficiaries, the conditions for granting, the duration of the financial support and the payment methods, including to service providers or directly to the beneficiaries or their representatives. The draft order also details the responsibilities of the institutions involved, the necessary documents, as well as the situations of suspension or termination of payments.

A third normative act that contributes to the same goal is the draft decision updated and republished by the Ministry of Labor that regulates the granting of two types of financial support for deinstitutionalized persons: the housing benefit, granted monthly for maintenance expenses, and the transition benefit, intended to cover initial costs and crisis situations after leaving institutions. The granting procedures, the necessary documents, the deadlines and the responsibilities of the institutions involved, as well as the rules regarding the suspension, modification or termination of rights, are established. The granting of benefits is based on the assessment of individual needs and the independent living plan, within the case management process carried out by DGASPC.

Investments

I2, T396 – DAY CENTERS FOR DISABLED. The Government has adopted a Memorandum proposing the continuation of funding under financing contract no. 4434/08.10.2024 corresponding to the project "Day Center for People with Disabilities in Urzica Commune, Olt County" implemented by Urzica Commune, Olt County as Beneficiary, project part of **Target 396, from Investment 2 of Component 13 of the PNRR**. The decision comes as a result of the reevaluation of the PNRR in the event of delays or blockages in implementation.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

REFORM 1, M402, T403 - UPDATE OF INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC PLANS. A working meeting to **begin the annual update of Institutional Strategic Plans (PSI)** took place in March at Victoria Palace. The session outlined key steps and deadlines in the process, contributing to the achievement of **Milestone 402** and **Target 403** under Romania's NRRP (**Reform 1**, Component 14) reform agenda. PSI documents serve as the main management tool for ministries, aligning national and sectoral strategies with budget planning and implementation. Ministries are now responsible for annually updating and publishing Institutional Strategic Plans (PSI) and uploading them to SGG's monitoring platform.

REFORM 3, M418-419 – PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM. Last month, the Ombudsman filed a constitutional challenge at the Constitutional Court against Emergency Ordinance 7/2026, which introduces **measures to streamline public**

administration and optimize spending, supporting **NRRP Milestones 418 and 419 (Component 14, Reform 3)**. Responding to the challenge, Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan stated that the government will submit arguments defending the four contested measures. However, the Senate has tacitly passed the **bill** approving the Ordinance, which is now in the debate of the deputies, with the report deadline set on April 28.

REFORM 6, M430 – JUDGES TO GAIN WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION. USR lawmakers have submitted a **new bill** to the Senate explicitly **including magistrates (judges and prosecutors) among protected public interest whistleblowers**. The proposal clarifies their legal status and provides safeguards when reporting legal violations within the judiciary, amending **Milestone 430 of the NRRP (Component 14 – Reform 6)**, already addressed by Law 361/2022.

Context – There are currently 3 initiatives in Parliament that amend Milestone 430, 2 with low chances of passing the vote of the deputies, and 1 with high chances.

REFORM 9, M440 – PUBLIC COMPANY GOVERNANCE REFORM. The Chamber of Deputies has passed the **law** approving Emergency Ordinance 22/2025, aimed at **overhauling corporate governance in public enterprises** to meet at least three **NRRP** milestones, including **Milestone 440 (Component 14, Reform 9)**, and prevent the loss of €500 million linked to payment request 3. The legislation clarifies the roles of supervisory authorities, limits AMEPIP’s oversight to large enterprises, sets transparent procedures for selecting board members, imposes educational requirements for leadership, enforces conflict-of-interest rules, links variable remuneration to performance, and promotes gender diversity. Now, the law shall soon be signed by the President of Romania and published in the Official Gazette.

Context – There are currently 2 initiatives in Parliament that contribute to the implementation of Milestone 440, both with low chances of passing the vote of the deputies.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

REFORM 1, M452 – EDUCATION LAW UPDATES ADOPTED. In March, Romania’s Chamber of Deputies adopted the law approving **Emergency Ordinance 1/2026**, which introduces amendments to the 2023 Education Laws to better **align teacher training and school operations with current system needs**. We remind you that the Education Laws implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)** back in 2023. Key measures of this ordinance include simplifying the evaluation process for primary education pedagogy programs, postponing the closure of the teaching master’s program until the 2027–2028 academic year, and allowing certain high schools to operate with fewer students while maintaining legal status. Next, the law shall soon be signed by the President, followed by its publication in the Official Gazette.

REFORM 1, M452 – NEW LAW ON FREE SCHOOL MATERIALS. The Chamber of Deputies, as the decision-making body, has adopted a law requiring the Ministry of Education to **provide free textbooks and teaching materials, both printed and digital, to all preparatory grade students in state, private, and accredited confessional schools**. This complements the pre-university Education Law no. 198/2023, which previously fulfilled **Milestone 452, Reform 1** – Component 15 of the **NRRP**. Within 90 days of the law’s entry into force, the Ministry of Education will establish the list of materials to be provided for free; the law now awaits promulgation by the President of Romania and publication in the Official Gazette.

REFORM 1, M452 – DIGITAL MEDIA EDUCATION. The Education Committee of the Chamber of Deputies rejected a legislative initiative proposed by PNL parliamentarians that would **introduce “Media and Digital Education” as a mandatory subject in middle and high schools starting in the 2027–2028 school year**. The proposal aimed to develop students’ media literacy, critical thinking, content analysis, responsible digital use, data protection, digital ethics, and content creation skills. This bill amends Law no. 198/2023, through which **Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)** of the **NRRP** was previously implemented. The proposal is set for debate and vote in the full Chamber.

REFORM 1, M452 – TEACHER RECRUITMENT REFORM. USR parliamentarians have submitted a new legislative proposal to the Senate introducing a **mandatory single county-level ranking list, based on performance tiers, for candidates applying for positions in pre-university education**. The proposal also clearly sets the validity of national exam results at three school years. This amendment modifies and supplements Law no. 198/2023, previously implementing **Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)** of the **NRRP**.

REFORM 1, M452 – TEACHING WORKLOAD ADJUSTMENT. The Chamber of Deputies has approved and sent to the Senate a legislative initiative proposed by PSD and minority parliamentarians, which **reduces the teaching load by 2 hours (instead of 4 hours under Law**

no. 141/2025) for teachers with over 25 years of experience and Grade I, or those with proven performance, while requiring 2 additional hours of complementary activities without affecting their salary rights. This amends the pre-university Education Law no. 198/2023, which previously implemented **Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)** of the **NRRP**.

REFORM 1, M452 – MINERIAD CURRICULUM PROPOSAL. Instead, the Senate, acting as the first chamber, has rejected a legislative initiative introduced by PNL deputy Florin-Claudiu Roman that sought to **include the 1990 Mineriad as part of the subject “History of Communism in Romania” in pre-university education** starting with the 2027–2028 school year. The proposal aimed to amend the pre-university education law (Law no. 198/2023), which has previously implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)**. The initiative has reached the Chamber of Deputies, where the committees shall issue a report by April 22.

REFORM 1, M452 - REDUCED TEACHING HOURS FOR SENIOR TEACHERS. In March, PSD MPs submitted a new bill to the Senate proposing that **teachers with over 25 years of experience and a grade I teaching qualification have two fewer weekly teaching hours**. The freed time would be dedicated to mentoring, educational projects, student support, or curriculum development. The initiative amends Law 198/2023, which previously implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)**, and aims to leverage the experience of senior teachers while enhancing student performance and support through redistributed educational activities.

Context – There are currently 59 initiatives in Parliament that amend Milestone 452, out of which only 3 have high chances of passing the vote.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 - NATIONAL NURSERY EXPANSION. In March, In recent months, Minister Cseke Attila inaugurated multiple new nurseries under the government’s “Saint Ana” program, part of **NRRP** Component 15, contributing to **Target 457 (Investment 1)**. The newly opened nurseries opened in March, include the one in Murfatlar (Constanța County) accommodating 40 children, additional units in Vânători (70 children, Mureș County) and Corund (40 children, Harghita County), as well as first-time nurseries in Alexandria (Teleorman County), Caracal (Olt County), Salonta (Bihor County), and Caransebeș (Caraș-Severin County), bringing the total to **57 operational nurseries** and over 3,600 new childcare places.

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 7, T529 - UPDATE TO THE HOUSEHOLD ENERGY EFFICIENCY VOUCHER SCHEME. The Directorate General for Regional Development, Innovation and Digitalisation published on 9 March 2026 Corrigendum No. 5 amending the guidelines for the call under **NRRP Component C16 , Investment 7, Target 529**, which supports energy efficiency renovations combined with photovoltaic installations for vulnerable households. The update allows exceptional installation of photovoltaic panels on adjacent land or auxiliary buildings and introduces the possibility to replace final beneficiaries in cases of death or withdrawal from the programme.

General News

AMENDMENTS TO EUROPEAN PROGRAMS AND NRRP. The draft bill which approves GEO no. 45/2025, amending and supplementing the national framework for the use of European funds, both from the 2021–2027 Cohesion Policy and from the PNRR, as well as measures aim to resume social vouchers for food/hot meals in 2025, supplement educational support, financial optimizations for financial instruments, received an admission report from the Chamber's of Deputies specialized committees (decisional chamber), as part of the review process. Thus, the draft law has great chances to be adopted.

AMENDMENTS TO THE NRRP REGARDING FINANCIAL CONTROL AND CORRECTIONS. The draft bill approving GO 3/2026, which amends and completes the framework applicable to the prevention, detection and sanctioning of irregularities in the use of funds allocated to Romania through the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, was registered Chamber of Deputies for final debate and vote.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

BAN ON PUBLIC INCENTIVES FOR FOSSIL FUEL BOILERS. The draft bill approving the ordinance transposing Article 17(15) of Directive (EU) 2024/1275 was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The act bans public financial incentives for new fossil fuel boilers, with limited exceptions for maintenance, automation systems, and gas boilers connected to networks transporting renewable gases. The Chamber of Deputies report also introduced a temporary two-year exception allowing public funding for standalone fossil fuel boilers in buildings connected to thermal points serving fewer than 50 final users. Next, the law will be sent to the President of Romania for promulgation.

NEW EIB FINANCING FOR A1 MOTORWAY COFINANCING. The draft bill approving the EUR 500 million financing contract signed in January 2026 between Romania and the European Investment Bank for the continued cofinancing of the Sibiu-Pitești section of the A1 Motorway, part of the TEN-T network, was adopted by the Senate and sent to the Chamber of Deputies. The draft has been referred to the relevant committees, which are expected to issue their report by 28.04.2026. This is the second EIB loan approved for the same project, following the financing ratified through Law No. 19/2026, and brings total EIB support for the objective to EUR 1 billion. Under the contract, the loan may cover up to 50% of eligible project costs, excluding VAT and expropriation expenses, and may be disbursed in up to 10 tranches over a period of 36 months.

BIOMETHANE LEGISLATION. The draft bill approving the emergency ordinance amending existing legislation to support biomethane production was tacitly adopted by the Senate and sent to the Chamber of Deputies after the deadline for debate expired. It has now been referred to the relevant committees, which are expected to issue their report by 28 April 2026. The measure aligns Romania's legal framework with Directive (EU) 2024/1788 on renewable and low-carbon gases, as well as with the objectives set out in the National Energy and Climate Plan 2025-2030 and the Energy Strategy 2025-2035. The ordinance updates the legal definitions of biogas, biomethane, natural gas, guarantees of origin and renewable gases, while also stating that biomethane may be injected into transmission and distribution networks.

DEROGATIONS FOR SIBIU - PITEȘTI MOTORWAY IN PROTECTED AREAS. The draft bill approving the Emergency Ordinance introducing targeted derogations from GEO No. 57/2007, in order to allow the continuation of works on the Sibiu-Pitești Motorway, was adopted by the Senate and sent to the Chamber of Deputies for final debate. The draft bill has also been referred to the relevant committees, which are expected to issue their report by 28.04.2026. The measure is justified by terrain instability identified during execution works within the sustainable conservation area of Cozia National Park. It allows limited construction works, land occupation, and the temporary or

permanent removal of certain areas from the forest fund and agricultural circuit, strictly for this investment. At the same time, environmental impact assessment procedures and the obligation to obtain the environmental permit remain fully applicable.

FUEL MARKET CRISIS. The Government has adopted the emergency ordinance declaring a crisis situation on the oil and petroleum products market, but with several changes compared with the initial draft. The most important revision is that the commercial margin for gasoline and diesel in the refining, wholesale and retail segments, excluding exports and intra-EU deliveries, is now capped at no more than the annual average commercial margin applied for those products in 2025, replacing the stricter approach discussed in the earlier version. The ordinance also keeps the prior-approval system for certain exports and intra-EU deliveries, allows temporary derogations on biofuel content, and maintains reporting, monitoring and sanctioning mechanisms. The act also includes amendments to GEO No. 12/2026 on the gas market, clarifying institutional responsibilities and introducing a mechanism for allocating gas quantities and recalculating minimum storage levels in case of supply imbalances. The draft bill on the approval of the ordinance was also sent to the Parliament for approval. In parallel, the Government is discussing additional fuel-price measures, especially a possible excise reduction, but no such measure has been published so far. Public statements by Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan and Energy Minister Bogdan Ivan show that this option remains under consideration.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ALTERNATIVE FUELS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION. The draft bill on approving the emergency ordinance establishing the national institutional framework for implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1804 on alternative fuels infrastructure (AFIR) was tacitly adopted by the Senate and sent to the Chamber of Deputies for final debate. The draft bill has been referred to the relevant committees, which are expected to issue their report by 22.04.2026. The ordinance replaces the previous regime based on Directive 2014/94/EU and ensures compliance with EU obligations across all transport modes. The ordinance designates the Ministry of Energy as coordinating authority, in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and other relevant institutions, sets national targets for electric recharging, hydrogen, LNG and shore-side electricity infrastructure, particularly along TEN-T and in urban nodes, and introduces monitoring and reporting obligations to the European Commission.

LOCAL ENERGY SURPLUS FOR SOCIAL COMPENSATION. The legislative proposal allowing local authorities to use surplus renewable electricity to compensate energy bills for vulnerable households received a rejection report from the responsible committees of the Senate. The measure amends Law 123/2012 and establishes a local mechanism managed through council-approved regulations. The surplus will be calculated monthly by the distribution operator. Next, the legislative proposal will be debated in the plenary and is expected to be rejected.

BIOWASTE MANAGEMENT LAW. The legislative proposal regarding the management of biowaste was registered and sent to the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies to issue a report by 15.04.2026. The initiative replaces Law 181/2020 and sets a new framework for separate collection, composting, and anaerobic digestion. It aligns national rules with EU Regulation 2019/1009 and GEO

92/2021, reopening the internal compost market so producers can meet the same quality standards applied to fertilising products already circulating in the EU. The proposal was previously rejected by the Senate.

EXTENSION OF FAST-TRACK RULES TO GAS STORAGE PROJECTS. A new legislative proposal seeks to update the framework for projects of national importance in the gas sector by extending its scope to underground gas storage infrastructure, in the context of broader efforts to accelerate strategic energy investments. The proposal expands the application of Law No. 185/2016 to include storage facilities and associated infrastructure, such as compression stations, measurement and regulation stations, technological nodes and related electrical installations.

TAX INCENTIVES PROPOSED FOR NATURAL GAS-BASED CHEMICAL INDUSTRY. The legislative proposal which aims to stimulate higher-value processing of natural gas in Romania through fiscal incentives for investments in the gas-based chemical and petrochemical industry was sent to the responsible committees of the Senate to issue a report by 31.03.2026. Initiated by MPs from PNL, USR and PSD, the proposal amends the Fiscal Code to encourage the use of domestic gas production, including future output from projects such as Neptun Deep, for domestic industrial processing.

REOPENING OF CLOSED INDUSTRIAL WASTE LANDFILLS FOR CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS. A new legislative proposal registered in the Senate aims to amend OG No. 2/2021 on waste landfilling and GEO No. 61/2025 implementing the Critical Raw Materials Act (EU) 2024/1252. The initiative would allow the controlled reopening of definitively closed industrial waste landfills in order to recover critical raw materials or other valuable materials identified through historical data or preliminary analyses.

CONVERSION OF PETROLEUM EXPLOITATION AGREEMENTS INTO GAS STORAGE AGREEMENTS. A new legislative proposal registered in the Senate seeks to amend the Petroleum Law No. 238/2004 by introducing a mechanism allowing the conversion of existing petroleum exploitation agreements into agreements for underground natural gas storage. The proposal would allow the competent authority to approve the conversion at the request of the agreement holder, eliminating the need for abandonment procedures and a new public tender for a storage license.

Business & Economy

TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/1265 - ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE. The draft bill that supplements the Fiscal Responsibility Law in order to align it with the new economic governance framework of the European Union (Directive 2024/1265) and to comply with the new European requirements regarding budgetary discipline and fiscal transparency, was published in the Official Gazette.

TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVE (EU) 2023/2864 – ESAP. The draft law which **transposes into national legislation Directive (EU) 2023/2864 - ESAP**, on **the establishment and operation of the European Single Access Point**, by amending a series of regulatory acts in the financial sector to introduce clear obligations for the publication and transmission of information to ESAP, was adopted by the Senate. Next, the draft bill will be sent to the Chamber of Deputies for final debate.

TRANSPOSITION OF DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/2994 - CENTRAL COUNTERPARTIES (CCPS). The law which amends Law No. 236/2022 in order to align the national framework with the new European provisions on **concentration risk arising from exposures to central counterparties (CCPs)** and with the prudential supervision requirements provided for by **Directive (EU) 2024/2994**, was published in the Official Gazette.

Digital tech, research and innovation

THE NATIONAL PLATFORM OF PUBLIC DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE (PNIDP). The legislative initiative which proposes **the first unitary legal framework** for the recording, administration and security of public digital infrastructure, as well as the creation of **the National Platform of Public Digital Infrastructure (PNIDP)**, basically a single registry of all digital resources used by public institutions, registered with the Chamber of Deputies for final debate and sent to the specialized committees for report.

THE CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT RESPONSE CENTER IN ENERGY (CRISCE). The legislative proposal that provides for the establishment and operationalization **of the Cybersecurity Incident Response Center in Energy (CRISCE)**, as a specialized structure within the Ministry of Energy, registered with the Senate for debate, the first chamber. Next, the initiative will be sent to the specialized committees for report.

DIGITAL CONTRIBUTION FOR LARGE PLATFORMS. The legislative proposal which establishes the contribution on digital intermediation income generated in Romania by large digital platforms, regardless of their legal form of organization or fiscal residency was rejected by the Senate and sent to the Chamber of Deputies for a final debate.

MIFID II AND ESAP. The draft law which provides for the transposition of Directive (EU) 2024/790 amending MiFID II and Article 12 of Directive (EU) 2023/2864 on the European Single Access Point (ESAP), registered with the Chamber of Deputies (Decision-making Chamber) and sent for report to the specialized committees.

Health Union

No relevant updates.

Commercial agreements

No relevant updates.

Priority 2: Defence & Security

The European Defence Union

SAFE IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK. The emergency ordinance amending GEO No. 62/2025 for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2025/1106 - SAFE was adopted by the Government last week and has been submitted to Parliament for approval. The draft bill on the approval of the ordinance was registered with the Chamber of Deputies as first notified chamber and referred to the responsible committees to issue a report by 15.04.2026. The ordinance introduces a more detailed institutional and financial framework for the rapid operationalisation of the SAFE Plan, in the context of the 30 May 2026 deadline for signing eligible contracts. It clarifies the roles of institutions involved in coordination and fund management, strengthens the role of the Prime Minister's Chancellery in overseeing implementation and negotiations with the European Commission, and details the responsibilities of the Ministry of Finance in managing the loan.

SUCEAVA-SIRET EXPRESSWAY APPROVED FOR SAFE FINANCING. The Government approved the technical and economic indicators for the Suceava-Siret Expressway, confirming that the project will be financed through reimbursable external funds under the SAFE instrument, alongside state budget resources through the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. The total investment amounts to RON 7.423 billion including VAT, of which RON 6.422 billion is allocated to construction and installation works, with an execution period of 24 months. In practical terms, SAFE funding gives the project a stronger strategic profile, linking it to border connectivity and the wider European security logic, in addition to its transport infrastructure role.

UPDATED MILITARY PRODUCTS CONTROL LIST. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has published a draft Government Decision approving the updated list of military products subject to export, import, and other operational controls. The act fully transposes Delegated Directive (EU) 2026/325 and aligns the national list with the updated EU Common Military List of 24 February 2025. Upon entry into force, it will repeal Government Decision No. 524/2025, which currently regulates the same list. The draft provides that the new decision will enter into force on 5 June 2026.

Borders and migration

COMBATING CROSS-BORDER CRIME. The Committee for Defence from the Senate was notified regarding the legislative proposal who

aims to **strengthen the Romanian state's capacity to prevent and combat cross-border crime** through measures such as operational risk analysis at strategic entry points, institutional cooperation and secure exchange of information. It provides for the formation of joint operational teams, permanent collaboration with Europol and the rapid application of measures on high-risk transports, without affecting economic operators. At the same time, a minimal annual reporting mechanism on the implementation of the law is established. The proposal should receive soon a report from the committee.

NATIONAL STRATEGY ON IMMIGRATION. The Ministry of Internal Affairs published for consultation a draft decision which approves the National Strategy on Immigration 2026–2030, establishing the strategic framework for the management of migration, asylum and integration of foreigners, in line with European policies. It aims to reduce illegal migration, strengthen the asylum system, manage borders efficiently and develop legal migration to cover the labor shortage. It also promotes the social integration of foreigners, institutional cooperation and the provision of the necessary resources for the implementation and monitoring of the measures. After the period of public consultation, the decision is expected to be adopted by the Government.

HEALTH SERVICES FOR FOREIGNERS. The Ministry of Internal Affairs republished and updated last week the draft bill which transposes EU directives and regulations in the field of migration and asylum, establishing the framework for **screening centres, strengthening the protection of foreigners' rights and aligning national legislation with European rules on asylum, return and border control**. Measures are introduced on medical checks, independent monitoring, access to legal aid and services, as well as clearer rules for return and crisis situations. At the same time, the **protection of asylum seekers is strengthened**, their integration is facilitated and authorities are given access to relevant European systems.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS FOR FOREIGNERS. The Government published a new draft emergency ordinance which establishes the legal framework for the employment of foreigners in Romania, regulating the authorization and operation of placement agencies, the obligations of employers and the conditions under which they can directly employ foreign workers, including the establishment of financial guarantees and sanctions. The act introduces a new digital mechanism for the admission of foreigners through the WorkinRomania.gov.ro platform, replacing the current system of employment permits, and brings changes to the long-stay visa regime, including new types of visas, clarification of the conditions for granting and the collection of biometric data. At the same time, transitional rules are provided for the implementation of the new system, deadlines for the adoption of subsequent acts and the relevant previous provisions are repealed, in order to ensure the transition to the new legislative framework. Next, the draft ordinance is expected to be adopted by the Government.

Security & crisis management

ROMANIA DEFINES FEMICIDE IN LAW. In an unusual cross-party alliance, Romania's Parliament has adopted a landmark law signed by 273 MPs **that, for the first time, defines “femicide” in national legislation and introduces comprehensive measures to prevent, investigate, and report such crimes** while strengthening protections for women facing violence. The law classifies femicide into intimate, non-intimate, and indirect forms and treats it as qualified murder, covering both direct killings and violent acts leading to death, amid rising concerns as statistics show a man attempts to kill a woman every three days and nearly 50 femicide cases were recorded in the first 10 months of 2025. Now, the law will soon be signed by the President and published in the Official Gazette.

SENATE REJECTS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL. Already rejected by the Senate, the bill aimed at **clarifying police powers and strengthening protections in domestic violence cases** received a rejection report from the Chamber's committees. The deputies from the committees consider that the proposal might violate the right to privacy and personal autonomy and recommended a complete reanalysis of the project. Now, the deputies must debate the provisions and give a final vote in one of the upcoming plenary sessions.

SENATE REJECTS HARSHER PENALTIES FOR SELLING DRUGS TO MINORS. The Senate has rejected a legislative initiative proposed by PNL deputies that aimed to **impose stricter punishments for selling drugs to minors**. The initiative would have established prison terms of 5-15 years for general drugs and 10-20 years for high-risk substances, along with the suspension of certain rights. Even so, the proposal now moves to the deputies for a final debate, where the committees shall issue a report by April 22.

PARLIAMENT APPROVES U.S. MILITARY DEPLOYMENT IN ROMANIA. The Romanian Parliament, in a joint session in March, approved the U.S. request to deploy forces and equipment on Romanian territory, in the context of the war in Middle East. Following the CSAT meeting, President Nicușor Dan clarified that the deployment involves air refueling planes and satellite communication equipment, strictly defensive in nature. The vote sparked protests from the opposition, with AUR leader George Simion and POT representatives refusing to support the measure, claiming Romania is being dragged into a war.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

MINIMUM WAGE SET TO INCREASE FROM JULY 2026. In early March, the Government approved an increase of the **national gross minimum wage** from **4,050 RON to 4,325 RON per month**, effective **1 July 2026**. This raises the hourly rate to 25.949 RON based on a standard 166.667-hour work month. The increase represents a **6.8% rise**, or 275 RON gross per month, resulting in a net wage of **2,699 RON** for eligible employees. The Decision was already published in the Official Gazette.

ROMANIA TO TRANSPOSE PAY TRANSPARENCY LAW. At the end of March, the Romanian Ministry of Labor published a draft bill implementing **EU Directive 2023/970 on pay transparency**, establishing **measures to ensure transparent remuneration and enforce equal pay between women and men**. The law applies to all public and private employers, as well as job candidates, and includes obligations for defining pay concepts, evaluating and comparing work value, and maintaining gender-neutral compensation structures. Employers must provide clear information on pay levels during recruitment, disclose criteria and salary grids, and allow employees to access individual and average pay data broken down by gender. Companies with 50+ employees must inform staff of pay-setting policies, while those with 100+ workers must report gender pay gaps to ANES. The law also strengthens social dialogue, protects employees from pay discrimination, and introduces fines ranging from 10,000 to 30,000 RON for noncompliance. Currently, the draft bill is in public debate and shall soon be adopted by the Executive.

MINIMUM WAGE REFERENCE, IN FINAL DEBATE. The Senate rejected and sent to the Chamber of Deputies a legislative initiative from the governing coalition (PSD-PNL-USR-UDMR) proposing **the use of the minimum consumption basket for a decent living as a reference for setting the national gross minimum wage**. The bill also aimed to update the legal framework for calculating this basket, enabling the National Institute of Statistics (INS) to use it effectively by completing missing chapters and data in the annex of Emergency Ordinance 217/2000, last amended in 2020. Now, the bill reached the deputies for a final debate (report deadline: 28.04.2026)

SENATE REJECTS BURNOUT PREVENTION LAW. Last month, Romania's Senate rejected a USR-proposed law aimed at **preventing professional** burnout through organizational and psychosocial measures in the workplace, without requiring medical diagnosis. The legislation would have obliged employers to annually inform employees about burnout risks, integrate psychosocial hazards into general risk assessments, and, for firms with over 50 employees, conduct specific evaluations. It also proposed annual prevention plans, confidential reporting mechanisms, optional paid recovery days, and support for voluntary psycho-emotional counselling. The initiative is now in the final debate of the deputies, with the deadline for the committees' report set on April 22.

SENATE APPROVES NEW HOUSING BILL. In March, the Senate has passed and sent to the Chamber of Deputies for final debate a PNL-backed **bill** amending Law 114/1996 on housing to **optimize the use of public housing**. The bill introduces new concepts and mechanisms, including eligibility criteria for social housing based on income (below the national net average salary) and legal conditions, with local councils allowed to set additional transparent prioritization rules. For now, the bill is under the debate of the deputies, which should have issued a report by April 1.

SENATE APPROVES BILL STRENGTHENING WORKER PROTECTION. The Senators have also adopted and sent to the Chamber of Deputies for final debate the **bill** approving GEO 6/2026, introducing **measures to protect employees of strategic economic operators** and to align legislation with current economic realities. The bill reached the deputies, with the committees having to issue a report by April 8.

SENATE APPROVES CHANGES TO SICK LEAVE AND PRIMARY CARE. Subsequently, the senators have approved and sent to the Chamber of Deputies the **bill** approving GEO 91/2025, which introduces **changes to medical leave, outpatient doctor organization, and primary healthcare funding**. Key provisions include unpaid first day of sick leave from February 1, 2026, to December 31, 2027 (excluding maternity, maternal risk, cancer care, and hospitalization cases), with employers covering days 2–6 and the state from day 7 onward. The deputies had until March 25 to issue a report, which is now still being in pending.

Young people & equality

MINISTRY OF LABOR ISSUES NEW SUPPORT MEASURES FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS. The Ministry of Labor issued a new **emergency ordinance** introducing **support measures for low-income families, families with children with disabilities, and pensioners**. Aimed at protecting vulnerable groups (especially families with children and pensioners earning $\leq 3,000$ RON), these measures address declining purchasing power caused by previous fiscal policies and rising prices, helping prevent poverty and social exclusion. Key provisions include increasing family support within the minimum inclusion income by 17 - 31%, raising social benefits for children with disabilities (18.4% for severe, 71% for pronounced, and 14.8% for moderate disabilities), doubling the educational incentive from 133 to 265 lei, and providing financial aid to pensioners with incomes $\leq 3,000$ RON. After public debate, the ordinance is expected to be adopted by the Government in early April.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

TRANSFER OF UNFINISHED PNDR PROJECTS TO THE CAP STRATEGIC PLAN. The draft bill approving the ordinance on establishing the legal framework for transferring unfinished projects and ongoing commitments from PNDR 2014-2020 to the CAP Strategic Plan 2023–2027 received a joint admission report from the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies. The measure aims to ensure continuity of implementation and avoid FEADR decommitment, setting rules on eligibility, guarantees for advances, the treatment of state aid and de minimis schemes, and transitional provisions subject to European Commission approval. Next, the draft bill will next be debated and voted on in the Chamber of Deputies plenary.

NATURA 2000 NETWORK EXPANSION. The Government approved and published in the Official Gazette the Government Decision amending GD 685/2022 to designate an additional 27 Sites of Community Importance as Special Areas of Conservation. The measure continues the process launched earlier this month through GD 984/2025, which designated 19 new sites.

DRAFT NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2030. The Ministry of Environment has published the draft National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation 2030, setting Romania's policy directions for ecosystem protection and restoration, in line with EU targets. The document outlines two main pillars, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and the integration of biodiversity into sectoral policies, including energy, transport and agriculture. The strategy is accompanied by an action plan and monitoring framework, defining institutional responsibilities, performance indicators and implementation mechanisms.

Climate change

AIR QUALITY FORECASTING SYSTEM PROPOSED. A legislative proposal submitted by AUR parliamentarians has entered Parliament to amend the legal framework on ambient air quality and national emissions reduction, by introducing a National Air Quality Forecasting and Warning System. The initiative would create the basis for short-term forecasts over 24, 48 and 72 hours, daily public bulletins, and pollution alerts to be issued when exceedance risks are identified, with local authorities required to inform the population and apply temporary response measures. The initiative is politically atypical for AUR and reads more as a punctual visibility move on a sensitive public issue than as part of a broader environmental policy line. Substantively, it regulates warning and response tools, not the underlying pollution sources,

and leaves the financing framework unresolved.

REDISTRIBUTION OF EU ETS REVENUES. The draft bill approving the ordinance on the management of revenues from the auctioning of EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) allowances was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. The ordinance updates the national framework to align with the new EU rules applicable from 2025, including unified auctioning for stationary installations and aviation under Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2830. The law will next be sent to the President of Romania to be signed.

ETS2 - PROCEDURE FOR GHG EMISSIONS AUTHORISATION PUBLISHED FOR CONSULTATION. The Ministry of Environment has published a draft order establishing the procedure for issuing and revising greenhouse gas emissions authorisations for entities placing excise fuels on the market, operationalising GD No. 907/2025 and the implementation of ETS2. The procedure applies to upstream operators, such as fuel suppliers, importers and warehouse keepers, which become responsible for monitoring and reporting emissions associated with fuels placed in consumption.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

LAW ON MEDIA LITERACY CAMPAIGN, PUBLISHED. The new law initiated by governing coalition MPs, that aims to **improve citizens' media literacy**, has been published in the Official Gazette. It allows radio and TV stations to broadcast monthly campaigns aimed at identifying and recognizing false news, promoting critical thinking, verifying information from multiple sources, and encouraging the use of official sources and responsible media outlets. The law also empowers the National Audiovisual Council to organize and promote these campaigns and sets rules for their implementation and associated costs for participating broadcasters.

NEW LAW ON LOCAL COUNCIL PROCEDURES. A second law initiated by coalition MPs and published in the Official Gazette introduces **changes to local council operations and the validation of substitute mandates**. It allows council meeting notices to specify both the physical location and any electronic platforms used for hybrid sessions.

SENATE REJECTS BAN ON PROMOTING COMMUNIST FIGURES. Romania's Senate has rejected a USR legislative initiative that sought to **prohibit organizations, symbols, actions, and promotion of the cult of communist personalities**, as well as individuals guilty of crimes against humanity or violations of fundamental human rights. The law aimed to prevent the spread of ideas and principles that caused historical trauma and threatened democratic society. The bill will now move to the Chamber of Deputies (decisional forum), with the committees having until April 22 to issue a report.

SENATE APPROVES MANDATORY DIGITAL IDENTITY INTEGRATION. adopted a bipartisan bill (backed by USR, PSD, and PNL), **requiring the national digital identity system, ROeID, to be used across all public administration digital platforms**, standardizing electronic authentication nationwide. Currently, public platforms rely on multiple, uncoordinated identification methods, causing administrative fragmentation, unnecessary budget costs, and access difficulties for citizens and businesses. The bill has been registered in the Chamber of Deputies for a final debate, with the committees having until April 8 to issue a report on the matter.

Rule of law

DEPUTIES ADOPT LAW EXPANDING ASSET DECLARATIONS. In the absence of a debate within the legal deadline, the Chamber of

Deputies has tacitly adopted a **legislative proposal** requiring that **asset declarations for public officials to include the rights and obligations of a declarant's spouse and dependent children**, to the extent the declarant can be aware of them. Failure to disclose such information carries criminal or contraventional liability. The senators had already received the proposal for its final debate, with the deadline for report set on April 21.

SENATE PASSES CRIMINAL PROCEDURE REFORM BILL. The Senate (first chamber) has adopted a **legislative initiative** signed by AUR MPs aimed at **improving criminal proceedings and strengthening protections for victims, particularly minors**. The bill shifts jurisdiction for child sexual abuse cases to tribunals for greater specialisation, expands victims' rights, including easier access to information and online complaints, and allows faster communication of legal documents via email. It also streamlines preliminary procedures to reduce delays, clarifies rules on digital searches and preventive measures, and introduces new provisions for victim protection during and after trials. Now the bill has been registered in the Chamber of Deputies for a final debate, with the report deadline set on April 15.

USR PROPOSES JUDICIAL REFORM MEASURES. Parliamentarians from USR have submitted a series of legislative proposals to the Chamber of Deputies in **response to issues highlighted by the Recorder documentary "Captured Justice"** (Justiție capturată), addressing concerns over judicial independence, political influence, and interest groups within the judiciary. The proposals also **align with recommendations from the Venice Commission, GRECO, and the European Commission**.

1. Inspectorate leadership reform: The **first proposal** introduces a three-stage appointment procedure for the Chief and Deputy Chief Inspectors of the Judicial Inspection, sets 4-year non-renewable mandates, limits intervention in individual cases, and expands transparency obligations, including annual activity reports.

2. Limiting prosecutorial overruling: The **second proposal** removes the ability of high-ranking prosecutors to directly overturn decisions of lower-level prosecutors to prevent abuse of centralized authority.

3. External audit of case allocation: The **third proposal** strengthens independent auditing of randomized case distribution, covering both technical and procedural aspects, human interventions, and mandates public reporting of any legal violations.

4. Delegation and secondment of judges and prosecutors: The **fourth proposal** limits delegations to 6 months and secondments to 3 years, ensures they are only to vacant positions, and prohibits bypassing competitive recruitment to protect judicial independence.

5. Investigation of judicial offenses: The **fifth proposal** reassigns responsibility for investigating crimes by judges and prosecutors based on the nature of the offense, granting DNA jurisdiction over corruption, DIICOT over organized crime and terrorism, and returning other cases to ordinary prosecutor offices; transitional rules govern ongoing cases.

6. Public Prosecutor leadership reform: The sixth proposal restricts political involvement in appointing/removing the Prosecutor General, DNA Chief Prosecutor, and DIICOT Chief Prosecutor, sets 5-year non-renewable terms, and clarifies hierarchical control over prosecutorial decisions, including in DNA and DIICOT.

USR PROPOSES EXTENDING CRIMINAL LIABILITY PRESCRIPTION. Additionally, USR lawmakers have submitted a new bill to the Senate proposing to **extend the special statute of limitations for criminal liability** from “the same as the general term” to **“one and a half times the general term.”** The measure aims to give authorities more time to complete investigations and hold offenders accountable, particularly in complex cases.

CROSS-BORDER DIGITAL HEARINGS. The Chamber of Deputies, as the first chamber, adopted a draft bill regulating participation in cross-border civil proceedings via audiovisual means, in line with **EU Regulation 2023/2844**. The law ensures identity verification, security, confidentiality, and compliance with personal data rules, while granting courts discretion to assess technological adequacy and obtain party consent. Notifications include technical access instructions and approximate hearing times, and lawyers, translators, or interpreters may join remotely. The measure aims to advance judicial digitalization and improve access to justice for cases involving participants from other EU member states. Now the bill moves to the Senate for a final debate.

Civil society

SENATE APPROVES ONLINE PLATFORM FOR ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION NAMES. The Senate has adopted a bill establishing a **national electronic platform for verifying and reserving names for associations, foundations, and federations**, accessible online and **free of charge** via the Ministry of Justice website. Proof of name availability is issued electronically with a qualified Ministry of Justice signature and is valid for 90 days. Now, the bill is with the deputies, who must debate it and issue a report by April 8.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

MUTUAL HELP AGREEMENT RO-UKR. The President of Romania signed the law ratifying the agreement signed on October 18, 2024 by **Romania and Ukraine on mutual assistance in the event of the imminence or occurrence of an emergency the effects of which could not be eliminated by the efforts** and means of the state whose territory is threatened or affected. The assistance may be provided by making available to the Requesting Party aid teams, equipment, assistance and information, as well as any kind of response actions, expertise, search and rescue operations, which aim to save human lives, protect public health, limit material damage and cultural values, as well as secondary effects, recognized by the Parties, in the event of the imminence/occurrence of an emergency situation. The law was also published in the Official Gazette and entered into force on March 14.

ROMANIA-EGYPT MILITARY COOPERATION. The Government adopted this month a draft bill **ratifying the Memorandum of Understanding on military cooperation between the Government of Romania**, represented by the Ministry of National Defense, **and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt**, represented by the Ministry of Defense, signed in Cairo on November 2, 2025. The memorandum contains **provisions regarding purpose, definitions, areas of cooperation, forms of cooperation, implementation, the joint military committee, financial aspects, visits, protection of exchanged classified military information, jurisdiction, dispute settlement** and final provisions. The Committee for Defence from the Chamber of Deputies already issued an admission report for the draft bill which is expected to be soon adopted by the plenary.

A new economic foreign policy

No relevant updates.

Reforming the international system

ACCESSION TO THE TREATY OF AMITY AND COOPERATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (TAC). The law which approves Romania's accession

to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and the protocols that amended it, in order to deepen relations with ASEAN member states and strengthen cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, was published in the Official Gazette.

MONTHLY REPORT ANNEX

From a total of 7 normative acts adopted this month aiming at modifying or implementing reforms or investments within the NRRP, 1 GEOs, 2 Decisions and 1 Order were adopted by the Government and its related ministries. 4 Laws were adopted by the Parliament.