

Weekly 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

National Recovery and Resilience Plan

C1. Water management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C2. Forests and biodiversity protection

Reforms

REFORM 1, M24 - AMENDMENT OF THE FORESTRY FRAMEWORK. The draft bill approving the ordinance which updates and streamlines the forestry framework under **NRRP Component C2, Reform 1, Milestone 24** was adopted by the Senate. The ordinance updates the framework for reorganising Romsilva and modernising forest governance in order to avoid the estimated EUR 770 million penalty. The ordinance introduces competitive selection for management positions, annual performance-based evaluation, changes to the rules on forest management plans, and new digital tools for operational oversight. Next, the draft bill will be sent for final debate and vote to the Chamber of Deputies.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T26 - INCREASED PREMIUM FOR FOREST CARBON SEQUESTRATION. The law approving the ordinance that advances the implementation of **Target 26 under Component C2, Investment 1 of the NRRP** was published in the Official Gazette. The ordinance increases the annual forest carbon sequestration premium from EUR 456 to EUR 640 per hectare, granted for 20 years and subject to annual verification by the Forest Guard. The measure supports the afforestation or reforestation of 26,760 hectares by Q2 2026.

INVESTMENT 1, T26 - AMENDING PRIVATIZATION LAW FOR REFORESTATIONS WITH EU FUNDS. The law on the approval of the ordinance which proposes amendments to Law no. 268/2001 regarding the privatization of companies managing state-owned agricultural land was signed into law by the President. The ordinance aims to efficiently implement **Investment 1, Target 26**. Next, the law will be published in the Official Gazette.

INVESTMENT 2, T29 - GUIDELINES FOR FOREST NURSERY INVESTMENTS. The Ministry of Environment published the order approving the final version of the Specific Guideline for the PNRR/2025/C2/S/I.2.B call and repealing the October 2025 version. The call supports the achievement of **Target 29, Investment I2, Component C2**, aiming at the establishment, development, or modernisation of 90 forest nurseries by 30 June 2026, through a non competitive procedure with a total budget of EUR 2.956 million. Eligible projects may receive up to EUR 200,000 in non repayable funding, covering nursery infrastructure, equipment, seed conditioning and forest seed orchards, with advance payments capped at 13 %.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

BUDGET RECTIFICATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FUND. The Ministry of Environment published this week a new draft decision approving the revised 2025 budgets of the Environment Fund (FM) and the Environment Fund Administration (AFM), with adjustments focused on NRRP financed investments, mainly under Component C3, and on the alignment of cash flows linked to Component C1. The proposal reduces AFM revenues from the NRRP loan component from RON 76.8 million to RON 34.6 million and lowers commitment and payment appropriations for ongoing NRRP investments, reflecting the updated implementation pace. The adjustments mainly affect waste management projects under Component C3, without changing their scope, and recalibrate the overall financing needs for 2025, while allowing the continuation of projects already under implementation in line with GEO 72/2025.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T74 - BEI LOANS FOR RAILWAY MODERNISATION. The two draft bills approving the EUR 300 million financing contracts each with the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the Cluj-Napoca – Oradea - Episcopia Bihor and Caransebeş – Timișoara - Arad railway projects received admission reports from the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies. Both loans are part of the national co-financing mechanism for NRRP railway investments under **Component C4, Investment I1, and support the implementation of Target 74**, which requires the completion of at least 50% of works by Q2 2026. The loans cover up to half of project costs, with maturities of up to 25 years, and will secure the financial flow needed to maintain construction schedules. Next, Both draft bills will be debated and put to a final vote in the Chamber of Deputies plenary.

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C6. Energy

Reforms

REFORM 1, M114 - ADJUSTMENT OF COAL PHASE-OUT CALENDAR. The draft bill submitted by AUR parliamentarians to amend GEO 108/2022 and delay intermediate coal phase out deadlines received a rejection report this month from the responsible committees of the Senate. The proposal sought to extend the operation of certain lignite and coal units beyond the timelines assumed under the NRRP. As stated before, Energy Minister Bogdan Ivan has reiterated that all five coal fired units of Complexul Energetic Oltenia will remain operational during the 2025 to 2026 winter season, based on discussions with the European Commission on adjusting the implementation calendar of **Reform 1 under Component C6, Milestone 114.**

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

M214, R6 - PENSIONS FOR SPECIAL WORKING CONDITIONS. The Committee for Labour of the Senate issued an admission report for the legislative proposal that aims to amend Law no. 360/2023 on the public pension system, which fulfilled **Milestone 214, Reform 6 of Component 8 of the NRRP**, in the sense that the activities carried out at workplaces provided for by law are considered under special working conditions only if they are carried out under these conditions during normal working hours and not during the entire normal working hours as currently provided by law, given that at least one working day per month or perhaps several days per month, professional training, instruction, maintenance and/or upkeep activities are carried out, activities that cannot be considered special working conditions. Next, the legislative proposal is expected to be adopted by the Senate and registered with the Chamber of Deputies for the final debate.

M205, M207, M237 - TAX REFORM. The President of Romania signed this week the law from the 2nd Package of fiscal-budgetary measures introducing extensive amendments to the Fiscal Code, the Fiscal Procedure Code and other normative acts, aiming at strengthening financial discipline and modernizing the administration, which is correlated with the commitments in the **NRRP, namely Milestone 205 (analysis of the fiscal system), Milestone 207 (amendments to the Fiscal Code for the simplification and expansion of ecological taxation) and Milestone 237 (information system for automatic property valuation)**. Among the measures are the taxation of large assets, stricter rules for companies (share capital, insolvency, dividends), the digitalization of fiscal procedures and the expansion of electronic payments. The law was also published in the Official Gazette and entered into force on December 18.

Investments

No relevant updates.

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

Reforms

R1, T245 - LEGISLATIVE ACTS/AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SMES TO WHICH THE TEST WAS APPLIED. GEO 75/2025 provides that the initiator of the regulatory act with an impact on small and medium-sized enterprises or on the business environment is obliged to request the opinion of the central public authority with responsibilities in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises or the business environment, i.e. the Ministry of Economy, Digitalization, Entrepreneurship and Tourism (MEDAT), prior to its adoption by the Government, thus contributing to the implementation **of Component 9, R1, Target 245 – "Legislative acts/amendments relating to SMEs to which the test was applied"**.

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

I2, T377 - THE CENTER FOR NEUROVASCULAR PATHOLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY IN CLUJ. The Minister of Health, Alexandru Rogobete, announced that in Cluj, the implementation of one of the most modern medical investments built through **the NRRP (Component 12, Investment 2), the Center for Neurovascular Pathology and Neurosurgery**, is nearing completion, thus contributing to

achieving **Target 377**. According to him, the investment is estimated at over RON 230 million, and the project has entered the essential stage, namely the endowment with medical equipment and the installation of technologies that will make the center fully functional. Also, the new medical infrastructure brings together, in one place, treatment capacities such as: 7 modular operating rooms, 79 neurosurgery beds, 26 ICU beds, complete imaging: CT, MRI, angiography, emergency room and multifunctional hybrid room.

Also, Rogobete, stated that, at **the Cardiovascular Surgical Center of the Emergency Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases and Transplantation in Târgu Mureș**, the works are progressing at a sustained pace, and the deadline assumed by **the NRRP – the end of June 2026** – is a realistic one. We recall that the endowment and/or construction of 25 new medical units/public hospitals are necessary to meet **Target 377, Component 12, Investment 2**.

C13. Social reforms

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

REFORM 1, M405 - NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC SECTOR INNOVATION. Adopted by the Government, the decision on

the **National Strategy for Public Sector Innovation (2026-2030)** was published in the Official Gazette. In line with the OECD Declaration on Public Sector Innovation, the strategy was adopted under the NRRP framework (**Component 14, Milestone 405 – Reform 1**). It aims to accelerate and strengthen the public administration’s capacity to implement innovative working methods, delivering efficient, user-centered public services.

REFORM 9, T443 – GOV UPDATES LIST OF STATE COMPANIES FOR REFORM. Last week, the Romanian government approved a memorandum **updating the list of central public enterprises to be evaluated by the interministerial committee** under **Reform 9, Component 14 of the NRRP**, contributing to **Target 443** – restructuring at least three state-owned companies. The initial 17 enterprises preselected include key energy, transport, and railway companies, such as Electrocentrale Grup SA, CFR Marfă, Metrorex, and TAROM, with PETROTRANS SA also proposed for review due to its bankruptcy. The list was expanded this week to include CNCAF MINVEST S.A., ROMAERO S.A., CNMPN REMIN S.A., and Avioane Craiova S.A. under MEDAT.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

REFORM 1, M452 – 4 NEW LAWS AMENDING EDUCATION FRAMEWORK. This week, the Official Gazette published a new law **extending doctoral programs for parents or guardians on childcare or adaptation leave**. The law applies to children up to 2 years old (3 for children with disabilities), allowing each leave period to pause and extend doctoral studies accordingly. It clarifies eligibility for mothers, adoptive parents, guardians, and those with children in foster care, and requires the Ministry of Education to update the continuous training methodology for pre-university staff within 90 days. This law amends the Education Laws (109/2023 and 199/2023), which previously implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)**.

Meanwhile, Parliament adopted three new laws modifying the Education Laws under **NRRP Milestone 452**. The (1) first law **expands the**

scope of institutions where teachers and auxiliary staff can be seconded, including DJIP/DMBIP and the Ministry of Education. The (2) **second law** enhances **accessibility for students with disabilities or special educational needs**, providing adapted spaces, support services, hybrid participation, and access to mobility programs; the Ministry must update accessibility norms within 90 days. And finally, the (3) **third law increases the minimum practical training quota at universities from 50% to 75%**, with half of these placements outside the universities, effective from the 2029-2030 academic year.

REFORM 1, M452 – CHANGES TO SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY RULES. AUR MPs have submitted a new **legislative initiative** in the Senate that would **prevent schools and universities from being reorganized or closed solely based on student numbers, including in isolated or disadvantaged areas**, requiring any such decision to follow a clear assessment of educational, social, and economic impacts. The proposal also extends university teaching hours, setting lectures at 2.5 hours for short-cycle and bachelor programs, and 3 hours for master’s and doctoral programs, while practical activities such as seminars, labs, projects, and internships will last 2 hours. The changes amend Education Laws 198/2023 and 199/2023, which previously implemented **NRRP Reform 1, Component 15 (Milestone 452)**.

REFORM 1, M452 – SCHOOL BOARD INCOMPATIBILITY RULES. Instead, USR lawmakers have submitted a **legislative proposal** to the Chamber of Deputies to **regulate incompatibility for members of pre-university school boards**, aiming to prevent conflicts of interest under the current legal framework. The draft amends Education Law 198/2023 (**NRRP Reform 1, Component 15, Milestone 452**) and stipulates that parents or guardians of students, local authority representatives, and school staff cannot serve on boards. It also bans teachers from holding local council positions and bars individuals with intentional criminal convictions or unresolved disciplinary sanctions. Those already in conflict must resign from the board within 15 working days of the law’s entry into force.

REFORM 1, M452 – EDUCATION UNION REFORM. USR MPs’ **proposal** to align education legislation with the Labor Code and Social Dialogue Law, **limiting union influence in schools**, received a negative report in the Senate. The bill clarifies that quality monitoring is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, inspectorates, and ARACIP, not union representatives. Paid union leaders cannot simultaneously work in schools, and their employment is automatically suspended during full-time union service, with optional participation in educational monitoring only if their contract is suspended. The proposal builds on **NRRP Milestone 452 (Component 15, Reform 1)**, which was implemented through Law 198/2023.

REFORM 1, M452 - CULTURAL VOUCHER EXPANSION FOR STUDENTS. A **legislative initiative** which **on the National “Cultural Vouchers for Students” program**, received a rejection report. The proposal, currently in the decision-making Chamber of Deputies, is expected to be definitively rejected soon. It aimed to expand the aforementioned program to preschoolers, extend the 75% discount on cultural events (theater, opera, museums) to them, and implement the program gradually over three school years to include all primary beneficiaries from 2025-2028. This proposal amends Law no. 198/2023, which previously implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)**.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 - NEW NURSERIES OPENED IN ALBA. Minister Cseke Attila **inaugurated the 43rd and 44th nurseries** under the government program “Sfânta Ana” in Aiud and Abrud, Alba County. Funded through **NRRP Component 15 (Target 457, Investment 1)**, the program aims to build, equip, and operationalize 110 nurseries. Each nursery accommodates four groups, with the total investment estimated at around RON 21 million.

C16. RepowerEU

Reforms

REFORM 1, M509 - STATE LAND FOR RENEWABLE ACCELERATION ZONES. The Ministry of Agriculture published a new draft emergency ordinance amending Law no. 268/2001 to enable the use of state owned land managed by the State Domains Agency as renewable energy acceleration zones, in line with **Component 16, Reform 1, Milestone 509** of the NRRP. The proposal allows agricultural land of class IV and V, degraded or non productive land and other eligible state assets to be concessioned through public auction for renewable electricity projects, with accelerated permitting applied under GEO no. 163/2022. It also introduces specific rules on concession procedures, royalty payments and the creation of a national register of eligible state land, with implementation details to be set by ministerial order.

Investments

No relevant updates.

General News

THE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NRRP FUNDS. The Government adopted an emergency ordinance aims to ensure a coherent and operative legal framework for the efficient management and implementation of NRRP funds, in the context of fiscal risks and massive over contracting identified in public investment projects. Also, GEO 72/2025 was published in the Official Gazette.

AMENDMENTS TO EUROPEAN PROGRAMS AND PNRR. The law approving GEO no. 45/2025 , which amends and supplements the national framework for the use of European funds, both from the 2021–2027 Cohesion Policy and from the NRRP, and bings measures aim to resume social vouchers for food/hot meals in 2025, supplement educational support, financial optimizations for financial instruments, as well as unblocking some flows in the PNRR through simplified procedures at MIPE and specific extensions for RePowerEU projects, was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies. Next, the law to the President to be signed into law.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

FINANCING AGREEMENT FOR A1 MOTORWAY APPROVAL. The draft bill approving the EUR 500 million financing agreement between Romania and the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the co-financing of the A1 Sibiu - Pitești Motorway received an admission report from the responsible committees of the Senate. The project, part of the TEN-T Core Network, spans 122 km across five sections and is co-funded through the 2014–2020 Large Infrastructure Operational Programme (POIM) and the 2021–2027 Transport Programme, with total non-reimbursable EU support of around RON 9.27 billion. Next, the draft bill will be debated and voted in the plenary of the Senate.

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE EU BATTERIES REGULATION. The Ministry of Economy published this week a new draft Government Decision establishing the institutional framework and implementation measures for Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 on batteries and battery waste. The proposal designates competent authorities for conformity assessment, market surveillance, traceability, and extended producer responsibility, and sets obligations for producers, control mechanisms, and sanctions. It assigns roles to MMAP, ANMAP, AFM, and market surveillance bodies such as RAR, ANPC, and ISCIR, and introduces transitional arrangements, including new authorisation and reporting procedures to be adopted through secondary legislation within defined deadlines. The draft aims to ensure full national application of the EU Batteries Regulation and repeals the previous battery waste framework.

Business & Economy

Directive (EU) 2023/2864 - ESAP. The draft bill which **transposes into national legislation Directive (EU) 2023/2864 - ESAP on the establishment and operation of the European Single Access Point**, and amends a series of regulatory acts in the financial sector to introduce clear obligations for the publication and transmission of information to ESAP, was approved by the Government and will be sent to the Parliament for debate and vote.

Directive (EU) 2023/2226 - DAC8. The emergency ordinance which **transposes Directive (EU) 2023/2226 (DAC8)** into national law, by amending and supplementing the Fiscal Procedure Code, to **extend the automatic exchange of tax information and regulate the reporting of crypto-assets**, was adopted by the Government and will be sent to the Parliament for its approval.

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS 2014–2020. The Government adopted GEO 76/2025, which amends the legal framework applicable to the closure of the 2014–2020 operational programs and updates the rules on the management of unfinished, phased or non-functional projects, in order to avoid blockages and losses of European funds. The act also extends the deadlines and procedures for the distribution of electronic media intended for social support, ensuring the continuity of the measures until 2026.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL ON DIGITAL CONTRIBUTION FOR LARGE PLATFORMS. A new legislative proposal that 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 registered at the Parliament.

Commercial agreements

No relevant updates.

Digital tech, research and innovation

No relevant updates.

Health Union

No relevant updates.

Priority 2: Defence & Security

The European Defence Union

No relevant updates.

Borders and migration

No relevant updates.

Security & crisis management

NEW EMERGENCY CALL LOCATION ACCURACY MEASURES. The Romanian government has published in the Official Gazette the decision **clarifying the accuracy and reliability criteria for location information associated with emergency calls made from public mobile networks to the National Single System for Emergency Calls (SNUAU)**. Measures include allocating up to 45 million RON from the state budget via MEDAT to reimburse operators for implementing the technical solution, assigning MEDAT responsibility for fund management, revising reception procedures, conditioning reimbursements on meeting accuracy criteria verified by STS, and specifying detailed requirements for the technical project, including system architecture, functionalities, SNUAU interconnection, resilience mechanisms, and cost justification.

PARLIAMENT UPDATES LAW ON INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS. Instead, the Parliament has adopted and published in the Official Gazette a law **aligning national legislation with EU Directive 2024/1226**. The law redefines international sanctions, includes crypto assets as funds subject to restrictive measures, expands the interinstitutional council responsible for sanction implementation, and introduces enhanced powers for coordinating investigations and information exchange. It establishes a new chapter on criminal offenses with severe penalties for violations, defines DIICOT's competence for such investigations, extends extraterritorial applicability for Romanian citizens and entities, and mandates annual reporting to the European Commission with a triennial public summary.

MPs STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTIONS. The MPs have also adopted and published in the Official Gazette the **law enhancing protections for domestic violence victims and preventing recidivism**. Provisional protection orders issued by police will remain valid until a judge decides on a permanent order, with immediate notification to all parties. New protection orders can now be requested not only by the victim or prosecutor but also by relatives, local authorities, or accredited social service providers, with the victim's consent. Judges must carefully assess risks to the victim before modifying or canceling an order, especially when the offender is not under probation supervision.

PARLIAMENT ADOPTS GOV'S MILITARY SERVICE LAW. Another **law** adopted this week by the Parliament is the one proposed by the Government, which **updates the legislation on preparing the population for defense**. It aligns it with recent national defense and security legislation. Key measures include the creation of a voluntary active-duty category for Romanian citizens aged 18-35, legal provisions for training operational reserves during peacetime, rules for recruitment in case of reinstated mandatory service, and service obligations for new citizens or Romanians who served in NATO/EU armed forces. The law also defines call-up procedures, clarifies military status checks, establishes mobilization reserves, sets medical fitness criteria, and requires citizens to update their military records when changing residence. Noncompliance constitutes a contravention. Next steps include the law's promulgation and publication in the Official Gazette, after which the Government will issue implementing norms within 90 days.

MPs ADOPT SAFE IMPLEMENTATION LAW. At the same time, Romanian Parliament adopted the **law** approving GEO 62/2025, **establishing the national framework for implementing EU Regulation 2025/1106 on the SAFE instrument ("Action for Europe's Security")**. The law assigns coordination to the Prime Minister's Chancellery, clarifies the Ministry of Defense's role, and sets procedures for urgent or joint acquisitions with other member states. It introduces flexible delegation, competitive supplier selection, and parliamentary oversight, while allowing expedited procurement for national transport infrastructure projects. The law will next be promulgated and published in the Official Gazette.

ROMANIA HAS A NEW LAW AGAINST ANTISEMITISM AND XENOPHOBIA. The Chamber of Deputies (decisional forum) approved the **law on combating antisemitism and xenophobia**, which now awaits promulgation. The law, initiated by Silviu Vexler, President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, was first adopted by Parliament in June. After the first adoption, the law faced constitutional challenges from the Opposition and from President Nicușor Dan, both of which were dismissed by the Constitutional Court. Afterwards, the President requested a review of the law, as he considered that the current form of the normative act could lead to "amplification of tensions", but Parliament rejected the proposed changes and confirmed the law in its original form. It introduces harsher penalties for creating, supporting, or joining fascist, legionary, racist, or xenophobic organizations, with prison sentences ranging from 3 to 10 years and restrictions on certain rights. Distribution of fascist, racist, or xenophobic materials is criminalized, with higher penalties if done via digital systems. It also criminalizes public promotion of Holocaust perpetrators or extremist ideologies and prohibits naming streets, public spaces, or organizations after such individuals, while allowing exceptions for art, science, research, education, or public debate.

PARLIAMENT PROPOSES NATIONAL SECURITY DATA LAW. MPs from both the Governing Coalition and Opposition submitted a new initiative to the Chamber of Deputies **establishing a legal framework for intelligence services and other authorities to create and use databases and IT systems for national security missions.** The proposal balances operational efficiency with strong safeguards for fundamental rights and freedoms, including privacy, personal integrity, and reputation. It also strengthens parliamentary oversight and grants affected individuals access to administrative courts. The law sets strict rules on personal data: collection limited to national security purposes, accuracy and updates required, deletion of irrelevant data after five years, and controlled data transfer and sharing.

CSAT REPORT HIGHLIGHTS RUSSIAN INFLUENCE AND TIKTOK BIAS IN 2024 ELECTIONS. The **Supreme Council for National Defense (CSAT)** presented its 2024 activity report to Parliament, including findings on the annulled presidential elections. The report notes that **cyberattacks targeting electoral IT infrastructure** aimed to influence election integrity, **identifying Russia as a key actor** seeking to affect Romania's public agenda and social cohesion. CSAT also highlighted that **candidate Călin Georgescu received disproportionate visibility on TikTok** due to preferential algorithmic treatment, which violated legal electoral norms and reduced exposure for other candidates. Following its November 28, 2024 session, CSAT requested urgent action from national security agencies, electoral authorities, and law enforcement to clarify these issues. Some documents were declassified by the Presidency on December 4, 2024, with the Constitutional Court annulling the elections on December 6, 2024.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

GOV PROPOSES THREE NEW LABOR LAW REFORMS. Last week, the Government adopted three draft laws modifying labor regulations, all now registered in the Senate for approval. The (1) **first law** imposes **new obligations on employers to prevent workplace violence and harassment**, including adopting internal policies with confidential reporting systems, establishing clear prevention rules in internal regulations, identifying risks with employee representatives, and providing accessible training and information. Violations will incur fines of RON 3,500–7,000, effective 90 days after publication in the Official Gazette.

The (2) **second law** amends the Labor Code by **defining violence and harassment, extending employee protection to various workplaces and situations, including remote work, business trips, social events, and employer-provided accommodations**. Employers must protect victims and whistleblowers from any abuse or pressure, with fines ranging from RON 30,000–50,000 for non-compliance. The law also clarifies that the Labor Inspectorate monitors enforcement, including specialized bodies within the National Defense, Public Order, and Social Security System, with their organization set by institution heads.

The (3) **third law expands labor inspectors' powers regarding harassment investigations related to occupational health and safety**. Inspectors may verify complaints directly at the workplace, and with the complainant's consent, are not required to maintain confidentiality about the reporter's identity, ensuring effective follow-up on harassment claims.

SENATE APPROVES UPDATES TO SECTORAL COMMITTEES LAW. The Senate has approved a **proposal** amending Law 132/1999 and **updating the legal framework for sectoral and multisectoral committees and setting rules for their formation, powers, financing, and dissolution**. Key changes allow representative social partners to form multisectoral committees, require approval from the National Tripartite Council for Social Dialogue, and limit each collective bargaining sector to a single committee. Committees must submit membership intentions within 30 days, report statutory changes and annual activity and financial reports to the Ministry of Education, and reorganize within six months after sector changes or face automatic dissolution. Funding sources include the state budget, service revenues, donations, sponsorships, and structural programs. The proposal now moves to the Chamber of Deputies for final debate.

Young people & equality

USR PROPOSES BROADER DEFINITION OF DISABILITY FOR EMPLOYMENT. USR deputies have submitted a new legislative initiative to the Senate **proposing that the term “person with a disability” also include individuals classified with disability grades I or II for employment purposes.** Currently, only individuals with grade III disability are recognized as people with disabilities for employment.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

No relevant updates.

Climate change

No relevant updates.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

USR TO VALIDATE NEW MINISTERIAL NOMINATIONS. USR President Dominic Fritz has convened the party's Political Committee on December 19, 2025, at 12:00 to approve ministerial proposals. **Current Economy Minister Radu Miruță is nominated for Defense and Vice Premier**, while **Senator Irineu Darău is proposed for the Ministry of Economy, Digitalization, Entrepreneurship, and Tourism**. USR emphasizes that the nominations aim to strengthen defense, modernize production, ensure continuity of economic projects, and advance public service digitalization.

SENATE REJECTS DIGITAL CIVIC EDUCATION BILL. The Romanian Senate has definitively rejected a legislative initiative by POT lawmakers that aimed to **introduce a mandatory “Digital Civic Education” subject in middle and high schools**. The proposed curriculum focused on digital rights and responsibilities, online safety, ethics, critical thinking, and combating misinformation, with practical projects, civic simulations, and partnerships with public institutions and NGOs. Teacher training and student protection protocols were also included.

Rule of law

SENATE REJECTS USR JUVENILE JUSTICE BILL. The Senate has rejected a USR-backed initiative that sought to **extend the duration of non-custodial educational measures for minors over 14 who commit criminal acts**, aiming at their social reintegration. Proposed changes included civic training of up to 6 months, supervision for 4-12 months, weekend detention for 8-24 weeks, and daily assistance for 6-12 months, while provisions on individualization, monitoring, modification, and extension of measures would have remained unchanged. The initiative will now proceed to the Chamber of Deputies for final debate.

NEW LAW EXPANDS COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENT VICTIMS. Instead, the MPs has adopted a law, now published in the Official Gazette, **allowing individuals injured or whose health is affected to claim compensation not only for their direct suffering but also for the impact on their family and social life**. Close relatives of the victim can also receive damages for indirect suffering caused by the accident or injury. Courts will consider the severity and permanence of the injury, as well as the closeness of the relationship between the victim and the claimant, when determining compensation.

NEW HATE CRIME PROVISION PROPOSED IN PENAL CODE. The Ministry of Justice has opened a public consultation on a **draft bill** introducing a new provision in the Penal Code, **classifying the killing of a person motivated by race, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, gender, sexual orientation, opinion or political affiliation, wealth, social origin, age, disability, chronic non-contagious disease, HIV/AIDS infection, or similar circumstances as aggravated murder**. The draft establishes penalties of life imprisonment or, alternatively, 15 to 25 years in prison for such crimes. After public consultation, the bill will be adopted by the Executive.

USR PROPOSES MAJOR JUDICIAL REFORMS TO FIGHT CORRUPTION. Following the public scandal on the corruption from within the justice system (as seen in the Recorder documentary and explained in our latest report), USR has unveiled a **comprehensive set of proposals to reform the Justice Laws**. Key measures include restoring DNA's authority to investigate judicial corruption, reforming the CSM to increase transparency and accountability, ensuring continuity of judicial panels, allowing magistrates to act as integrity whistleblowers, and introducing merit-based promotions and competitive appointments for court leadership positions. The proposals also aim to limit excessive delegation and discretionary powers, strengthen judicial inspections and audits, prevent statute-of-limitations abuse, and curb the excessive authority of chief prosecutors. USR urges coalition parties to support the reforms to restore public trust and integrity in the justice system.

Civil society

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP NEW RULES, WITHDRAWN. This week, the initiators withdrew a **legislative proposal** that **would have reduced the Economic and Social Council from 45 to 15 members**. The Council's plenary would have consisted of 5 members appointed by national employer confederations, 5 members appointed by national trade union confederations, and 5 members representing civil society, selected by the Prime Minister on the Labor Minister's recommendation from consumer protection, academic, agricultural, pensioner, family, and disability organizations.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

No relevant updates.

A new economic foreign policy

No relevant updates.

Reforming the international system

No relevant updates.