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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

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 2, T29 - DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR SIGNING FOREST NURSERY FUNDING CONTRACTS. The Ministry of Environment has published a new order extending until 16 February 2026 the deadline for signing financing contracts under the PNRR/2025/C2/S/I.2.B call, related to Investment I.2 “Development of modern capacities for producing forest reproductive material,” Component C2: Forests

and biodiversity protection. The extension applies to the call supporting **Target 29, Investment I2**, which aims at the establishment, development, or modernisation of 90 forest nurseries by 30 June 2026, and follows the adoption of the final version of the Specific Guideline. No changes are introduced to eligibility conditions, funding ceilings, or the overall budget of the scheme.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

REFORM 1, M59 - TOLLRO DEADLINES EXTENDED. The law approving the ordinance which postpones from 1 January 2026 to 1 July 2026 the deadlines set by Law no. 226/2023 on the application of road tariffs on the national road network in Romania was published in the Official gazette. Law 226/2023 fulfilled **NRRP Milestone 59 under Component C4, Reform R1**, by establishing a unified framework for applying both the vignette and the new distance-based toll (TollRo), in line with the “polluter pays” principle and environmental taxation.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T74 - BEI LOANS FOR RAILWAY MODERNISATION. The two laws approving the EUR 300 million financing contracts each with the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the Cluj-Napoca – Oradea - Episcopia Bihor and Caransebeș – Timișoara - Arad railway projects were published in the Official Gazette. 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.

INVESTMENT 2, T77 - FIFTH MODERNISED ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE DELIVERED. On 19 January 2026, the fifth electric locomotive modernised in Brașov under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan was handed over to CFR Călători. The EC 005 locomotive, upgraded by SCRL Brașov, successfully completed technical testing and has entered commercial operation after arriving at Bucharest North Station. The delivery forms part of **Component C4, Investment I2 and contributes to Target 77**, which requires 55 electric locomotives to be operational by Q2 2026. Under the ongoing contract, SCRL Brașov is set to deliver a total of 17 modernised electric locomotives, alongside 20 shunting locomotives converted to plug-in battery electric operation.

INVESTMENT 3, T84 - A1 MARGINA–HOLDEA MOTORWAY ADVANCES. CNAIR announced that the Margina-Holdea section of the A1 Lugoj–Deva motorway has reached 52% physical completion. The 9.13 km section, including the Margina–Holdea tunnels, is financed through the NRRP, **Component C4, Investment 3, Target 84**, and is scheduled for completion in 2026. The project covers the construction and commissioning of new TEN-T road infrastructure by Q2 2026. The A1 Margina–Holdea section contributes 9 km to the overall NRRP objective of 429 km of motorway to be delivered under the plan.

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 4, T112 - DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR TRAINING CALL ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS. Following the launch of the non-competitive funding call under **Component C5, Investment I4, Target 112 of the NRRP**, the Ministry of Culture adopted a new ministerial order approving an updated version of the applicant guide (Version 2.0). The order extends the deadline for submitting applications for professional training courses on the energy efficiency of historic buildings from 20 January to 27 February 2026, at 16:00. Applicants who submitted documentation prior to the approval of the amended guide will be requested to provide clarifications and updated annexes in line with the corrigendum. The measure continues to support the NRRP objective of training at least 200 professionals involved in energy efficiency interventions on heritage buildings, with a total allocation of approximately EUR 0.29 million.

C6. Energy

Reforms

REFORM 1, M116 - ENERGY MARKET RULES TRANSPOSITION. The Ministry of Energy republished, in revised form, the draft emergency ordinance amending Law no. 123/2012 on electricity and natural gas. The initiative primarily addresses the delayed transposition of Directive (EU) 2024/1711 and the modernisation of electricity market rules, with a supporting relevance for the NRRP. The draft is partially connected to **Milestones 116 and 128**, as it introduces complementary provisions that facilitate the implementation of investments and market models already established through earlier NRRP legislation. These include flexible grid connection arrangements, accelerated commissioning of new generation and storage capacities, and a strengthened legal framework for active customers and collective prosumers.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

REFORM 6, M215 – SPECIAL PENSIONS. The Constitutional Court postponed again for February 11 the debate on 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**. 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.

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

R3, T360 - MEDICAL EDUCATIONAL POLE EAST (PEME). The "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Bucharest, with the support of the Ministry of Health and the contribution of the City Hall of Sector 3, opens the first stage of the development of the new **Medical Educational Pole East (PEME)** through the project **Center for the Development of Competencies for Personnel in the Public Health System (CDCS)**. The program benefits from a funding of **RON 63,014,779.09** through **NRRP - Component 12, Reform 3, Target 360**, for the achievement of which it is necessary to operationalize two such centers.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C13. Social reforms

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

REFORM 1, M452 – RECENT EDUCATION LAW UPDATES. This month, three new laws amending the Education Laws were published to implement **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)**. The **(1) first law** ensures free transport for final-year students, including during national exams even after classes end. The (2) **second law** enhances accessibility in higher education for students with disabilities

or special educational needs, providing adapted spaces, support services, hybrid participation, and access to mobility programs. The **(3) third law** increases the minimum share of university-provided internships from 50% to 75%, with half organized externally, starting with the 2029 - 2030 academic year.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 - NEW GOVERNMENT NURSERIES OPENED. This month, Development Minister Cseke Attila inaugurated two new nurseries under the “Saint Ana” Program, financed through **NRRP Component 15**, which aims to build, equip, and operate 110 nurseries to reach **Target 457 (Investment 1)**. The 48th nursery in Baciu (Cluj) and the 49th in Hârșova (Constanța) each have 40 places, modern facilities built to European standards, and energy-efficient features, including nZEB compliance, solar panels, and advanced ventilation and climate control systems.

C16. RepowerEU

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

General News

No relevant updates.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

ELECTRICITY RISK PREPAREDNESS PLAN. The Ministry of Energy published a draft Government Decision approving Romania's Electricity Risk Preparedness Plan, developed under Regulation (EU) 2019/941. The plan sets the national framework for preventing and managing crisis situations affecting electricity supply, in coordination with regional and European mechanisms. The plan clarifies institutional roles, crisis management measures such as controlled load shedding and system restoration, regional cooperation mechanisms, and periodic testing of operational readiness, including the use of alternative dispatch centres.

FINANCING AGREEMENT FOR A1 MOTORWAY APPROVAL. The law 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 was published in the Official Gazette. 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 law will be published in the Official Gazette.

INTEGRATED IT SYSTEM FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND ADMINISTRATION (SIIAFM). The Government adopted and published in the Official Gazette the Government Decision approving the substantiation note for the investment project "SIIAFM", financed through the 2021–2027 POCIDIF Programme. The project aims to digitalise all AFM. operations via a unified platform hosted in the Governmental Private Cloud, ensuring automated fund management, transparent project monitoring, and public access through a Transparency Portal. The total value is RON 144.8 million and the implementation period is 29 months.

Business & Economy

REFORM OF THE PERSONAL INSOLVENCY FRAMEWORK. The Government published for public debate a draft law that significantly reforms the personal insolvency framework by widening access to the procedure, strengthening protection for the family home, and clarifying the treatment of claims and procedural rules, in line with EU legislation. It raises the eligibility threshold, removes restrictive exclusions, including for debtors with liabilities arising from business activities, and reinforces the powers of insolvency administrators and insolvency commissions through enhanced control, information-gathering, and reporting obligations. The proposal also introduces stricter

rules for creditors regarding the disclosure of amounts received, clearer requirements for claims registration and repayment plans, tougher sanctions for lack of transparency, and a duty for credit institutions to inform overdue borrowers about the option of entering personal insolvency.

Commercial agreements

No relevant updates.

Digital tech, research and innovation

AFM INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIIAFM). The Government adopted a decision that approves the Substantiation Note for the implementation of the investment "Integrated Information System of the Environmental Fund Administration (SIIAFM)", an initiative to digitize the AFM, fully financed by the European Regional Development Fund through POCIDIF 2021–2027. The aim is to increase the efficiency of environmental protection fund management processes and improve the services offered to citizens, the business environment and public institutions. The decision was also published in the Official Gezette.

Health Union

INCREASED BIRTH RATE OF INFERTILE COUPLES. The Ministry of Labor published for public debate a draft Government Decision on the approval of the Social Program of National Interest to Support Couples and Single People, to Increase the Birth Rate. The beneficiaries of the Program are infertile couples, married or unmarried, and infertile single women, who have a recommendation from a specialist doctor for specialized medical procedures that will result in an increase in the birth rate. Next, the draft will be most likely adopted in a future Government meeting.

Priority 2: Defence & Security

The European Defence Union

No relevant updates.

Borders and migration

No relevant updates.

Security & crisis management

ROMANIA RATIFIES OCCAR FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT. Romania has **ratified the framework agreement with OCCAR**, establishing the legal basis for participation in defense equipment programs, such as the European Patrol Corvette, without creating immediate financial obligations. The **law** was already published in the Official Gazette. Implementation is managed by the Ministry of National Defense, with program-specific participation approved individually. The agreement sets administrative limits pending separate rules on privileges and immunities, and any budgetary contributions will be determined later for each program, linking Romania's involvement to projects funded by the European Defence Fund.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN BUCHAREST ADVANCES SOCIAL SERVICES REFORM. This week, Bucharest hosted a three-day regional conference (19 – 21 January 2026) where ministers, World Bank experts, and social policy professionals discussed concrete ways to strengthen social services. Participants analyzed the **implementation of recent reforms in pensions, minimum inclusion income, and community services**, emphasizing integrated approaches that combine cash benefits with locally adapted support services. Key measures discussed included **hybrid financial and service solutions for vulnerable groups, improving access to care in marginalized communities, and testing innovative practices to increase efficiency and impact**. The conference served as a “laboratory of solutions,” focusing on real-life results rather than theory, with Romania aiming to pilot and scale reforms in line with European and World Bank guidance.

Young people & equality

No relevant updates.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

EMERGENCY STATE AID FOR ORCHARD SECTOR. The General Secretariat of the Government published a [draft Government Decision](#) establishing an emergency financial support scheme for orchard producers affected by the late spring frost in April-May 2025. The measure implements the exceptional EU support mechanism set out in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2061 and provides partial compensation for climate-related losses, within the limits established at EU level. The draft decision introduces a nationwide grant scheme of up to EUR 2,000 per hectare for producers with orchards affected by at least 30%, financed from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund with a total budget of EUR 11.5 million. Payments will be administered by APIA, with disbursement deadlines set for 30 April 2026. The scheme excludes cumulation with other state aid for the same costs and includes safeguards for recovery of undue amounts.

Climate change

No relevant updates.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

PARLIAMENT ADVISORY ROLE ON EU APPOINTMENTS. A new law, published last week in the Official Gazette, **requires Parliament to provide a consultative opinion on candidates proposed by the Government for positions in EU institutions**, particularly for European Commission membership. The specialized committees of both Chambers must transmit their opinion to the Government within 10 days.

Rule of law

No relevant updates.

Civil society

No relevant updates.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

No relevant updates.

A new economic foreign policy

No relevant updates.

Reforming the international system

THE “PEACE COUNCIL,” CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP. US President Donald Trump launched a new international body in Davos, called the Peace Council, which would aim to ensure peace in the Gaza Strip. President Trump would be the chair of the Council and would have the power to invite members, decide the frequency of meetings, and break voting ties. In this pseudo-UN, created precisely to replace the UN, it appears that EU countries, with the exception of Hungary and Bulgaria, have chosen to stay away or reject Donald Trump's offer. Romania is among these countries, although for now President Nicușor Dan has stated that Romania will analyze US President Donald Trump's invitation to join a new international body in the Supreme Council for National Defense.