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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 3, M34 - PRIORITY BIODIVERSITY ZONES. The Ministry of Environment has published an updated draft Emergency Ordinance amending GEO no. 57/2007, as part of **NRRP Component C2, Investment I3, Milestone 34**. The revision introduces a dedicated chapter on priority biodiversity areas, detailing designation procedures, management regimes, and permitted activities, with a

clear distinction between non-intervention and active management zones. In parallel, the framework for geoparks is revised, separating them from the regime of protected natural areas and aligning their status with the UNESCO Geoparks Programme. The ordinance establishes a legislative basis, while concrete impacts will depend on subsequent secondary legislation defining methodologies, areas, and compensation mechanisms.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 2, T77 - 7TH BATTERY-ELECTRIC SHUNTING LOCOMOTIVE REACHES FINAL STAGE. SCRL Braşov has announced the start of finishing works on the 7th diesel locomotive converted to battery-electric traction, delivered under the contract with CFR Călători and financed through the NRRP. The locomotive is nearing the testing and delivery phase, following the completion of tests for the sixth unit in December 2025. The project targets the conversion of 20 diesel shunting locomotives for station and yard operations, contributing to **NRRP Component C4, Investment I2, Target 77**, which requires 55 electric locomotives to be operational by Q2 2026. The conversions are carried out at SCRL Braşov, using patented technology developed by Euroest Constanţa, with equipment supplied including by Inda Craiova.

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C6. Energy

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

R1, I1 – NAFA DIGITALIZATION. The National Agency for Fiscal Administration (ANAF) has launched a chatbot - an intelligent virtual assistant - designed to help taxpayers quickly obtain general information about their tax obligations. In a first stage, which is the testing phase, the ANA chatbot will be available only in users' SPV accounts, later being accessible directly from the institutional portal. The chatbot is part of the project "Development of current remote services (electronic or telephone), through new functionalities and/or creation of new services - ANAF e-Services", part of the **National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Component C8 - Fiscal reform and pension system reform, Reform 1 - Reform of the National Agency for Fiscal Administration (ANAF) through digitalization, Investment 1 - Increasing voluntary compliance of taxpayers through the development of digital services.** The launch of the chatbot marks a new concrete stage in the modernization of tax administration, and through this project, ANAF aims to improve the way it offers remote services and reduce taxpayers' effort to fulfill tax obligations.

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

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

REFORM 1, M452 - TEACHER TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION. Last week, the Romanian Government adopted an emergency ordinance amending Education Laws No. 198/2023 and 199/2023, to adjust the legal framework for **teacher training and the functioning of education institutions**. The ordinance, which will be published in the Official Gazette and sent to Parliament for approval, delays the phase-out of the teaching master’s programme until the 2027 – 2028 academic year. It also simplifies accreditation for pedagogy programmes, allows smaller vocational and dual-system high schools to operate, grants automatic provisional authorisation for some qualifications, and expands accreditation for pedagogical schools to new specializations. We remind you that the Education Laws amended through this ordinance had previously implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15)**.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 – NEW NURSERY BUILT IN VRANCEA. Odobești inaugurated its first modern nursery under the national government “Sfânta Ana” program, marking the 50th such facility built nationwide, financed through NRRP Component 15. Under **NRRP Target 457 (Investment 1)**, the Executive aims to build, equip, and operate 110 nurseries. The new nursery, with a capacity of 70 children, features seven bedrooms, four playrooms, a multifunctional educational area, a medical office, dining space, sanitary facilities, and a landscaped outdoor play area, and is certified as a near-Zero Energy Building using renewable energy. Funded with RON 12.7 million by the Ministry of Development, the facility makes Odobești the first city in Vrancea County to offer safe, sustainable, and modern early childhood education infrastructure, supporting young families.

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

DEROGATIONS FOR SIBIU - PITEȘTI MOTORWAY IN PROTECTED AREAS. The Ministry of Transport has published a draft Emergency Ordinance introducing targeted derogations from GEO no. 57/2007 to allow the continuation of works on the Sibiu–Pitești Motorway, a strategic TEN-T project. The measure is justified by terrain instability identified during execution works within the sustainable conservation area of Cozia National Park. The draft allows limited construction works, land occupation, and temporary or permanent removal of land from the forest fund and agricultural circuit, strictly for this investment. Environmental impact assessment procedures and the obligation to obtain an environmental permit remain fully applicable.

Business & Economy

COMMON RULES TO PROMOTE THE REPAIR OF GOODS - DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/1799. The Authority for Consumer Protection published for public debate a draft bill which transpose into national law Directive (EU) 2024/1799, which establishes common rules strengthening the provisions on the repair of goods, with the aim of contributing to the proper functioning of the internal market, while ensuring a high level of consumer and environmental protection. The draft bill will most likely be approved in a future Government meeting and then sent to the Parliament for its adoption.

TRANSPOSITION OF DAC9 AND AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE OF TAX INFORMATION. The Ministry of Finance published for public debate a draft ordinance which transposes into national legislation the provisions of Directive (EU) 2025/872 - DAC9, which introduces an EU system for filing and exchanging tax information for multinational enterprises, establishing at national level rules for the automatic exchange of information on the Additional Tax Information Declaration and the necessary framework for the application of the declaration obligations provided for by DAC9. The draft ordinance will most likely be approved in a future Government meeting.

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

ROMANIA SECURES MAJOR EU SAFE FINANCING FOR DEFENCE AND DUAL-USE INFRASTRUCTURE. Romania has obtained the second-largest allocation under the EU SAFE programme, through long-term loans supporting defence capabilities and dual-use infrastructure, following the approval of its National Investment Plan in November 2025. The financing covers EUR 9.53 billion for projects of the Ministry of National Defence, including 21 programmes across land, air, naval, cyber and mobility domains, EUR 4.2 billion for dual-use transport infrastructure managed by the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, notably the Paşcani–Ungheni and Paşcani–Siret sections of the A7 Motorway, and EUR 2.8 billion for the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other national security structures, including civil protection. The SAFE loans benefit from AAA-level interest conditions, with a 45-year maturity and a 10-year grace period, and are intended to support defence capability development alongside industrial cooperation and local production.

ROMANIA HOSTS NATO DYNAMIC FRONT 26 EXERCISE ON EASTERN FLANK DETERRENCE. Romania is hosting DYNAMIC FRONT 26, the largest U.S. Army artillery interoperability exercise conducted in Europe, taking place between 26 January and 13 February 2026, with the participation of NATO allies and partners. The exercise operationalises the Eastern Flank Deterrence Line and focuses on testing NATO's regional defence plans through integrated land, air, maritime, cyber and space operations. Live-fire training is conducted across several allied states, with Romania playing a central role through activities at the Cincu Training Area, supporting allied interoperability and NATO's deterrence posture on the Eastern Flank.

ROMANIA HANDS OVER COMMAND OF EUFOR ALTHEA IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA. Romania has formally transferred command of the EU military operation EUFOR ALTHEA to Italy, following 12 months of leadership of the European Union's largest multinational mission in the Western Balkans. The handover ceremony took place on 21 January 2026 at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, with command passing from Major General Florin Marian Barbu to Major General Maurizio Fronda. During its mandate, Romania strengthened its role as a key contributor to regional stability, including by commanding a rapid reaction multinational battalion and holding senior operational roles. From May 2026, Romania will continue its engagement by providing the EUFOR Chief of Staff, confirming its sustained commitment to security in the Western Balkans and to the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy.

Borders and migration

No relevant updates.

Security & crisis management

MPs ADVANCE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES AGAINST FEMICIDE. This week, a legislative initiative signed by **273 MPs**, aimed at combating femicide, received a favourable report with amendments from Senate committees. The amendments clarify the guiding principles of the law, including the **prevention and combat of all forms of violence against women, prompt intervention by authorities, and protection and support for victims**. They also provide a **new legal definition of femicide** as the intentional killing of a woman or her death resulting from violent acts or other criminal offences, whether committed by a family member or a third party, and task the Ministry of Education with identifying funding for educational and awareness projects on gender equality and non-violence. The **original proposal** had already defined femicide for the first time in Romanian law and set out measures for **preventing, investigating, and reporting such crimes, as well as strengthening protection for women in situations of violence**. In the upcoming weeks, we expect the Senate to adopt this bill and send it to the deputies for a final debate.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

81 PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS IN FEBRUARY 2026. The **National Employment Agency (ANOFM)** will organize 81 professional training programs in February 2026 for **1,349 participants**, providing free training services through county employment agencies and Bucharest. Programs with the most places include security agent (165), commercial worker (151), data entry/operator (112), kitchen assistant (109), HR clerk (101), digital skills and cybersecurity (98), hairdresser (67), cook (65), occupational safety inspector (28), and plumbing/gas installer (28). The highest number of courses will take place in **Braşov (150 participants), Dâmboviţa (103), and Cluj (84)**. Interested participants can contact their local employment agency or view the full course list at www.anofm.ro

Young people & equality

No relevant updates.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

No relevant updates.

Climate change

No relevant updates.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

No relevant updates.

Rule of law

LAW FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION IN CROSS-BORDER CIVIL CASES. The Romanian Government has adopted a new bill allowing parties and their representatives in **cross-border civil proceedings** to participate in hearings via **audiovisual communication tools**, in line with **EU Regulation 2023/2844**. The law ensures **identity verification, security, confidentiality, and compliance with personal data rules**, while giving courts discretion to consider the availability and suitability of the technology and the parties' consent. Notifications will include technical access instructions and approximate hearing times, and lawyers, translators, or interpreters may also join remotely. The measure aims to **facilitate digitalization of the judiciary and improve access to justice** for cases involving participants in other EU member states. Next, the bill shall soon reach the Parliament for approval.

Civil society

SENATE TO REJECT NATIONAL TRANSPARENCY REGISTRY FOR NGOS. The Senate's Legal Committee has rejected a legislative initiative that would have created a **National Registry of Funding and Transparency for Associations and Foundations**, managed by the Ministry of Justice in collaboration with ANAF. Under the proposal, associations and foundations would have been required to submit annual data by **March 31** on total income, public and private funding over 10,000 lei, public or EU funds, and activity or audit reports. The Ministry would then publish the registry online by **April 30**, with non-compliance potentially leading to warnings, suspension of public funding, or suspension of operations. The law was scheduled to take effect **January 1, 2026**, with implementing rules to be issued within 90 days. We now expect the plenary session of the Senate to reject this proposal before sending it to the Chamber of Deputies for final debate.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

ROMANIA-EGYPT MILITARY COOPERATION. The Ministry of Defense has issued a draft bill in public transparency 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.

A new economic foreign policy

No relevant updates.

Reforming the international system

No relevant updates.