

April 30 - May 07, 2026

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 draft bill approving the emergency ordinance amending GEO No. 57/2007, under **NRRP Component C2, Investment I3, Milestone 34**, was registered for final debate and sent to the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies, to issue a report by 26.05.2026. The draft bill was previously adopted by the Senate with no

amendments. The act establishes the legal framework for Priority Biodiversity Zones (ZPB), including designation procedures and management regimes, creating the basis for future designation of strictly protected areas.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

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

INVESTMENT 2, T157 – DEROGATION FOR STS PURCHASES IN THE GOVERNMENT CLOUD. The ordinance that introduces a derogation for **allowing the Special Telecommunications Service (STS) to conclude framework agreements and subsequent contracts before concluding government agreements for the licensing of the necessary software products** was adopted by the Government and published in the Official Gazette. The measure targets operating system and database licenses necessary for the operation of IT systems belonging to cloud service users in the internal cloud and **supports the implementation of Target 157 of the NRRP (Component C7, Investment 2)**, regarding the migration of government applications to IaaS/PaaS solutions. The draft bill for its approval reached the Senate for a first debate.

INVESTMENT 4 – DIGITALIZATION OF NGOS. MIPE published an Order that extends, until **31.08.2026**, the period until which aid can be paid under **the "Digitalization of the Non-Governmental Organizations Sector" Scheme (NRRP, Component 7, Investment 4)**. We remind you that this scheme provides support to NGOs that want to digitize their activities by investing in digital infrastructure, to increase the digital skills of staff and volunteers in terms of providing remote services to beneficiaries, developing CRM (customer relationship management) platforms and solutions.

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

REFORM 6, M214 – ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION PERIODS. The Senate notified the Committee for Labour regarding the 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. Next, the proposal is expected to receive a report from the Committee for Labour by May 19.

REFORM 6, M214 – RECOGNITION OF SALARY RECORDS. The Senate rejected 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. Next, the legislative proposal is going to be registered at the Chamber of Deputies for the final debate.

REFORM 6, M214 – NIGHT WORK. The Senate rejected 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. Next, the legislative proposal is going to be registered at the Chamber of Deputies for the final debate.

REFORM 6, M214 – SALARY-PENSION ACCUMULATION. The Senate rejected 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. Next, the legislative proposal is going to be registered at the Chamber of Deputies for the final debate.

Investments

No relevant updates.

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

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 3 – DIGITALIZATION OF SMEs. MIPE published an order that extends, until **31.08.2026**, the period until which aid can be paid under the **Scheme "Digitization of SMEs - grant of up to EUR 100,000 per enterprise to support SMEs in adopting digital technologies"** (NRRP, Component 9, Investment 3). We remind you that this scheme provides assistance to SMEs making investments in Romania, by providing non-refundable financial support for their digitalization.

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

REFORM 9, T443 - STATE LISTINGS CLASH WITH NRRP GOALS. An admission report was given to the PSD-backed **legislative initiative** that **bans, until 31.12.2027, the sale of state-held shares in national companies, banks, and other state-owned enterprises.** This would effectively block **Target 443 of the NRRP (Reform 9, Component 14)**, which requires the listing of at least three public enterprises to improve governance and efficiency.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

REFORM 1, M452 – NEW LAW ON FREE SCHOOL MATERIALS. The **law** requiring the Ministry of Education to **provide free textbooks and teaching materials, both printed and digital, to all preparatory grade students** was published in the Official Gazette. 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. This law complements the pre-university Education Law no. 198/2023, which previously fulfilled **Milestone 452 (Reform 1, Component 15) of the NRRP**.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 - NATIONAL NURSERY EXPANSION. Last week, a new nursery was inaugurated in Suceava County a new nursery in Suceava, the 66th facility completed nationwide under the government’s “Saint Ana” programme. This is part of **NRRP Component 15**, contributing to **Target 457 (Investment 1)**. The facility includes dedicated spaces for children, medical and administrative areas, and modern energy-efficient features such as solar panels and advanced ventilation systems, with final utility connections to be completed by the local municipality

C16. REPowerEU

Reforms

REFORM 1, M509 - LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR RENEWABLE ACCELERATION ZONES. The Government adopted the emergency ordinance amending Law No. 268/2001 to allow the use of state-owned land administered by the Agency for State Domains (ADS) as RES acceleration areas for renewable energy projects, contributing to the implementation of NRRP **Component C16, Reform 1, Milestone 509**. Compared to the initial draft, the adopted version introduces several additional measures, including a digital one-stop-shop mechanism (PCUEL) for permitting procedures, the possibility of tacit approval when authorities fail to respond within legal deadlines, and a simplified environmental assessment procedure for projects located in acceleration areas. The ordinance also explicitly excludes Natura 2000 sites, protected areas and migration routes from eligible land categories and sets a maximum 6-month deadline for issuing permits under the accelerated procedure. The framework also establishes a national register of eligible state-owned land, introduces detailed rules for

public concession auctions, including financial guarantees and eligibility conditions, and maintains the application of the accelerated permitting regime. Next, the ordinance will be published in the Official Gazette.

Investments

No relevant updates.

General News

NRRP LOANS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES. The ordinance which establishes a **RON 10 billion** financing mechanism providing local authorities with **interest-free, short-term loans** to bridge liquidity gaps in NRRP project implementation was adopted by the Government and published in the Official Gazette. Aimed at ensuring all milestones are met by the **August 2026 deadline**, the measure allows municipalities to bypass standard debt limits provided their projects are at least **60% complete**. These loans must be fully repaid by **November 15, 2026**; failure to do so triggers late interest and the potential suspension of state budget transfers. The draft bill for its approval reached the Senate for a first debate.

NRRP FUNDING IN ANAR 2026 BUDGET. The Decision for the approval of the 2026 revenue and expenditure budget of the National Administration “Apele Române” (ANAR), including allocations from both the grant and loan components of the NRRP was published in the Official Gazette, having entered into force on May 4. The total allocation reaches around RON 293 million. **Component C1** remains the core funding source, covering flood risk reduction, hydrotechnical infrastructure and monitoring capacity. Allocations target **Investment I4.2** (including Leșu and Sălard accumulations), **Investment I5** for equipment and emergency preparedness, and **Investment I6** on the water cadastre. Additional, smaller allocations are included under **Component C5 for building renovation and Component C11 for cycling infrastructure**.

MAP OF ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTMENTS NRRP. The Ministry of Environment launched **an Interactive Map of Environmental Investments financed through the NRRP, a public GIS platform that allows the monitoring of 2,232 investments, with a cumulative value of over RON 10.5 billion**. The platform includes 1,781 projects in the active NRRP portfolio, of which 1,770 are local and 11 are national strategic, as well as 451 projects transferred last year to AFM funding for continued implementation. The map allows filtering projects by counties, financing components and value, as well as consulting individual files with information about the beneficiary, the

population served, the implementation calendar and the contracted value. The investments cover areas such as water and sewage infrastructure, biodiversity, waste management, environmental digitalization, SUMAL and the endowment of the National Environmental Guard.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

REPAIRABILITY INDEX FOR ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT. A new legislative proposal registered in the Senate would introduce a mandatory repairability index from 1 to 10 for electrical and electronic equipment, including products such as household appliances, TVs, refrigerators and air conditioning units. The index would be calculated by producers or importers for each product model and displayed on the product, packaging and at the point of sale, including online, next to the price. Producers would also have to provide the index and calculation parameters to distributors and sellers. The proposal introduces fines between RON 5,000 and RON 50,000 for failure to display, transmit or correctly calculate the index.

ACCELERATED FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS PROJECTS. The Senate rejected the legislative proposal complementing GEO No. 61/2025, which implemented Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 on critical raw materials at institutional level. The initiative sought to introduce procedural and property-related measures for strategic mining projects recognised by the European Commission, including simplified authorisation procedures, binding deadlines, land access mechanisms and a special litigation regime. The proposal will now be sent to the Chamber of Deputies, which is the decision-making chamber, for final debate.

FUEL PRICE STABILISATION MEASURES. The draft bill approving GEO no. 24/2026 which introduces measures to stabilise diesel prices was registered for final debate and sent to the responsible committee of the Chamber of Deputies, to issue a report by 26.05.2026. The act provides for a temporary reduction of the excise duty on diesel by RON 0.3/litre for the duration of the crisis situation declared under GEO No. 19/2026. It also introduces a solidarity contribution on revenues from crude oil extracted in Romania, applicable only when the monthly average Brent price exceeds USD 70/barrel, with differentiated calculation mechanisms for crude sales and refined products.

Business & Economy

No relevant updates.

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

STATE INTERVENTION IN STRATEGIC DEFENCE INDUSTRY. The Government adopted the emergency ordinance expanding the expropriation framework and introducing mechanisms allowing the state to acquire shares or take over functional assets of companies declared of strategic interest in the defence industry. The measure aims to accelerate investments in critical defence capacities in the context of increased security risks and NATO/EU obligations. Next, the ordinance will be published in the Official Gazette.

SAFE LOAN AGREEMENT. The Government approved the signing of the loan agreement with the European Commission under the SAFE instrument, allowing Romania to access up to EUR 16.68 billion for defence-related investments, including an initial 15% pre-financing of around EUR 2.5 billion. The loan will be available until 31 December 2030, with disbursements linked to the fulfilment of milestones included in Romania's national defence investment plan. The financing has a 45-year maturity and a 10-year grace period, with funds borrowed at the European Commission's financing costs. Implementation will be coordinated by the Prime Minister's Chancellery, while allocations to the institutions involved will be approved by Government Decision and detailed through subsidiary agreements.

SAFE IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK. The draft bill approving the emergency ordinance amending GEO No. 62/2025 for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2025/1106 - SAFE was registered for final debate and sent to the responsible committees of the Senate, to issue a report by 26.05.2026. 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.

Borders and migration

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS FOR FOREIGNERS. The Senate notified the Committee for Labour regarding draft bill approving the 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 bill is expected to receive a report by May 12.

BRIDGEforEU IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK. The Ministry of Development has published a draft Government Decision establishing Romania's institutional framework for implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/925 on BRIDGEforEU, the EU instrument aimed at addressing administrative and legal obstacles in cross-border regions. The draft designates the Ministry of Development, through the Directorate-General for European Territorial Cooperation, as the national authority responsible for handling cross-border obstacles reported by public or private entities. Romanian authorities will have to respond within 30 calendar days, while the Ministry will coordinate with neighbouring Member States and report identified obstacles and adopted measures to the European Commission.

Security & crisis management

RESERVIST SYSTEM REFORM PROPOSED. The Ministry of National Defence (MApN) has proposed a **draft ordinance** to **reform the voluntary reservist system** by introducing mandatory selection procedures, fixed-term contracts of 3 to 10 years, and expanded obligations for training and mission participation. Under the proposal, selected citizens would be subject to compulsory MApN evaluation, while reservists would be required to attend periodic training and missions, with non-compliance considered a disciplinary breach. The shortage of military personnel and the reduced efficiency of the voluntary reservist system determine the modification of the legal framework. Current procedures limit the recruitment and use of reservists, and the regional security context requires a rapid increase in mobilization capacity.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

No relevant updates.

Young people & equality

No relevant updates.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

2026 BUDGET FOR GREENHOUSE VEGETABLE AID SCHEME. The Government adopted last week the Government Decision to supplement GD No. 325/2025 by introducing the budget allocation for 2026 under the de minimis aid scheme supporting vegetable production in protected spaces. The decision allocates RON 275 million for 2026, financed from the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and channelled through the county agricultural directorates. The measure allows the scheme to continue in 2026 without changing the existing eligibility rules or payment mechanism.

TEMPORARY STATE AID SCHEME FOR BEEKEEPERS. The draft bill which introduces a state aid scheme for 2026- 2028 to support beekeepers was registered for final debate and sent to the responsible committees of the Chamber of Deputies, to issue a report by 26.05.2026. The initiative addresses gaps not covered under the National Strategic Plan and is subject to prior authorisation by the European Commission. Eligible beneficiaries include registered individual beekeepers and legal entities holding officially recorded and veterinary-authorized bee colonies. The aid amounts to EUR 12 per bee family per year, for three years, within a total ceiling of RON 93.5 million, financed from the state budget through the Ministry of Agriculture. The scheme may be cumulated with other support measures and is protected from seizure in enforcement proceedings.

Climate change

No relevant updates.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT COLLAPSES. Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan's government was dismissed by a no-confidence vote backed by PSD together with the far-right parties AUR and PACE. The collapse of the coalition has triggered a severe parliamentary blockage, with **no viable majority currently in sight**. PNL and USR have both ruled out any future governing alliance with PSD, accusing the Social Democrats of engineering the crisis alongside AUR, while UDMR has rejected any arrangement dependent on extremist support. At the same time, PSD says it remains open to "all options" except a formal coalition with AUR, despite having voted together to remove the government. President Nicușor Dan has insisted that **Romania will ultimately have a pro-Western government** and has publicly dismissed the possibility of cooperation dependent on AUR votes.

Against this backdrop, **snap parliamentary elections are increasingly emerging as the only realistic way to break the impasse**, even though President Dan has so far rejected the scenario. The political risks are substantial, as recent polling suggests a major reshuffling of voter preferences compared with the 2024 elections: AUR has continued to grow, PSD has declined sharply, while both PNL and USR have gained support and are now polling above the Social Democrats in the most recent survey.

Rule of law

BILL ADOPTED ON EU ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE FRAMEWORK. The Government has adopted a new **bill transposing EU Directive 1544/2023**, establishing a **legal framework for digital and electronic communications providers** to designate legal representatives or registered offices in order to receive and execute European orders for electronic evidence in criminal proceedings. The measure clarifies compliance obligations for telecom and digital service operators, assigns ANCOM as the central coordinating authority, and introduces a sanctions regime for non-compliance, with fines ranging from RON 10,000 to up to 2% of global turnover. The bill will now reach the Parliament for approval.

CROSS-BORDER REMOTE CIVIL PROCEEDINGS LAW ADOPTED. The Senate, as the decisional forum, has adopted a **law regulating the use of audiovisual means in cross-border civil proceedings**, allowing parties and their representatives to participate remotely with court approval, in line with **EU Regulation 2023/2844**. The framework introduces safeguards for identity verification, security, confidentiality, and

personal data protection, while giving courts discretion to assess technological suitability and party consent. The measure aims to support judicial digitalization and improve access to justice in cases involving participants from other EU Member States.

Civil society

MULTI-ANNUAL FUNDING FRAMEWORK FOR NGOS APPROVED. The Budget Committee of the decisional chamber has issued a favourable report on a **draft bill** introducing **multi-annual financing for non-profit projects**, establishing framework agreements, simplified selection procedures, and annual reporting requirements. The measure allows funding agreements of up to four years, with a single selection process, while funds are allocated annually based on approved contracts and performance reports submitted each year by 31 January. It also introduces a unified eligibility declaration valid throughout the agreement period, aiming to **reduce administrative burdens for NGOs** and improve the efficiency and predictability of public funding allocation for social impact projects. The bill shall soon be adopted by the Chamber of Deputies.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

No relevant updates.

A new foreign economic policy

No relevant updates.

Reforming the international system

No relevant updates.