

July 2 - 9, 2026

Weekly Report - NRRP and EC Priorities

Report prepared by A.M. Anghel, E. Aignătoaei, E. Stamate, A. Ceașescu



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

No relevant updates.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C4. Sustainable transport

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

NRRP-FUNDED ROAD PASSAGE OPENED IN ORADEA. A new overpass on the Oradea ring road, at the intersection with the Oșorhei ring road, was completed and opened to traffic. The investment, worth RON 27.5 million, was financed through the NRRP and implemented in partnership with CNAIR and Oradea Municipality. The project aims to improve traffic flows on the Oradea ring road, reduce congestion and support mobility in the metropolitan area. The overpass allows through traffic on the Oradea-Cluj direction to circulate without stopping, while local traffic remains at ground level.

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

REFORM 5, M209 – OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT BANK. The Official Gazette published the law approving the emergency ordinance that aims to operationalize the Investment and Development Bank (BID) by the fourth quarter of 2024. The normative act establishes the powers that BID will take over from Exim Banca Românească S.A. in investments in sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture, energy, health, environmental protection and regional development, as well as the role that Exim Banca Românească S.A. will continue to have it in the export sector, supporting the expansion of Romanian companies on foreign markets. The law entered into force on July 5.

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

INVESTMENTS I.1.3 & I.1.4. – EXTENSION OF NRRP DEADLINES. An order that extends the implementation period of the NRRP projects for bicycle paths and electric vehicle recharging points from July 31 to **August 30, 2026** was published in the Official Gazette. The measure applies to beneficiaries whose projects are managed by MDLPA and approved for continuation, related to investments **I.1.3** and **I.1.4 (Component 10)**, and the contractors, designers, executors and suppliers involved may use the extended term to complete the works, deliveries, receptions and closing documentation, without changing the scope of the investments.

C11. Tourism and culture

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C12. Health

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

UPDATES ON NRRP HEALTH PROJECTS. Between **June 29 and July 3, 2026**, the Ministry of Health signed a total of **58 additional acts for the financing contracts from the NRRP**, aiming to postpone the completion deadlines (mostly in July - August 2026) and correct the budgets to ensure the absorption of European funds. Within **Component 12 (Health)**, 8 acts were concluded, including extensions of deadlines for outpatient healthcare units and integrated community centers, as well as measures for equipment intended to reduce the risk of nosocomial infections. **Component 7 (Digital Transformation)** summed up the other 50 additional acts, mainly targeting extensions and VAT increases necessary for the digitalization of public healthcare units and institutions subordinated to the ministry. In parallel, the institution maintains an accelerated pace of implementation of NRRP projects, **making payments of over RON 850 million in the last two months for the development of infrastructure, modernization, equipment and digitalization of the medical system.** During the same week, another RON 28.4 million were transferred to beneficiaries to improve conditions in hospitals and strengthen

community medicine. These funds directly support the endowment of 16 family doctor's offices, the financing of 8 integrated community centers in vulnerable areas, the acquisition of equipment to combat nosocomial infections, the development of smart hospitals and the equipping of neonatal intensive care units.

C13. Social reforms

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

REFORM 9, M439 - Corporate Governance Rules. The **law** approving GEO No. 108/2024 was published in the Official Gazette. It aligns Romania's corporate governance rules for state-owned enterprises with PNRR requirements (**Milestone 439, Reform 9**) by removing exemptions from the corporate governance framework, including for RA-APPS. The law also extends additional security screening requirements for board member selection to public enterprises managing state protocol assets and sets a clear process for replacing the leadership of AMEPIP, including interim appointments for up to six months while a permanent selection process is completed.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 - NEW NURSERIES BUILT. The Ministry of Development inaugurated new nurseries in Maramureş, Bacău, and Braşov through the government’s “Sfânta Ana” programme. We remind you that the program is financed through NRRP - Component 15, providing for the construction, operationalization and equipment of 110 nurseries to achieve **Target 457 (Investment 1)**. The new facilities provide modern, energy-efficient spaces for early childhood education and increase access to childcare services for families. With these additions, the programme has delivered over 80 nurseries nationwide, creating nearly 4,900 new childcare places and surpassing the NRRP target for capacity expansion.

C16. REPowerEU

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

General News

PARLIAMENTARY MOBILIZATION MANDATED FOR REMAINING NRRP REFORMS. Interim Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan announced that **accelerating the absorption of over EUR 4.5 billion in NRRP grants stands as the Government's top priority for July and August, requiring the immediate convocation of extraordinary parliamentary sessions in the second half of July to pass vital legislative reforms.** Because the Executive can no longer deploy emergency ordinances or assume responsibility procedures for these specific measures, a rapid legislative track is mandatory to unlock the funds. Following final consultations with the European Commission, the Government will dispatch the remaining draft laws to parliamentary groups and chamber leadership, targeting crucial pending milestones that include **the unitary salary law** (Milestone 420, Reform 4, Component 14), **the law on incompatibilities** (Milestone 418, Reform 8, Component 14), and **the law rewarding Ministry of Finance personnel for revenue collection growth** (Milestone 197, Reform 1, Component 8). Furthermore, the parliamentary push will target **the public service law, the long-stalled Urban Planning Code (CATUC)** under Milestone 315 (Reform 5, Component 10), and **the decarbonization law for the heating and cooling sector** under Milestone 128 (Reform 6, Component 6), ensuring that Romania avoids losing these massive financial allocations due to legislative delays.

SALARY INCREASES FOR DG IMPLEMENTATION PERSONNEL LINKED TO NRRP TARGETS. An order establishing a **monthly base salary increase of up to 40% for the personnel within the Directorate General for NRRP Implementation at the MDLPA**, valid until **August 31, 2026**, was published in the Official Gazette. It is strictly conditioned upon the full completion of planned activities and the submission of individual performance reports by the 5th of the following month. This measure directly drives the evaluation of 16 remaining milestones and targets due in the second quarter of 2026, covering energy renovations, charging points, smart transport, housing, and nurseries, while implicitly impacting project beneficiaries and economic operators across **Component 5 – Renovation Wave, Component 10 - Local Fund, Component 11 - Tourism and Culture, and Component 15 - Education.** To secure these indicators and protect fund integrity, the subsidized staff is tasked with the rigorous monitoring of financing contracts, the processing of transfer requests, the auditing of public procurement procedures, and the comprehensive verification of potential conflicts of interest, fraud risks, and financial irregularities.

EXTENSION OF NRRP DEADLINES MDLPA. Moreover, MDLPA also published this week an order that extends, from July 31, 2026 to **August 30, 2026**, the implementation period of NRRP projects managed by MDLPA, for beneficiaries with contracts, decisions or financing

orders related to **Components C5 — Renovation Wave, C10 — Local Fund and C15 — Education**. The Minister of Development added that **the current fund absorption rate stands at 86%, and the measure adopted today aims to bring the absorption of available NRRP funds for projects managed by the Ministry as close as possible to 100%.**

CNI DESIGNATED AS IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE FOR CRITICAL NRRP PROJECTS. The law that approves GEO no. 42/2024, establishing the **legal framework for the National Investment Company (CNI) to act as the official implementation structure for key public infrastructure projects across several components of the NRRP** was published in the Official Gazette. Specifically, under **Component 11** (Tourism and Culture, **Investment 2, Target 337**), CNI will manage the modernization and creation of museums, specifically the National Museum of Jewish History and the Holocaust in Bucharest and the Silence Prison in Râmnicu Sărat. For **Component 12** (Health), its responsibilities cover the development of public hospital infrastructure under **Investment 2 (Targets 375 and 377)** for the "Prof. Dr. C.C. Iliescu" Emergency Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases in Bucharest and the Regional Institute of Oncology in Timișoara, the extension of outpatient care units under **Investment 1.3** including a new MRI, SPA, and TIIP department, and the creation of two new competence development centers under **Reform 3**. Under **Component 14** (Good Governance, **Investment 1, Target 445**), CNI will oversee the green-standard construction of three new court buildings for the Buzău Local Court, Galați Local Court, and Alba County Court, while under **Component 15** (Education, **Investment 1, Target 457**), it will execute the "St. Mary Government Creche Construction Program" to build, operationalize, and equip 110 nurseries.

COHESION POLICY SUSPENSION AND NRRP AUDIT RISK REFORMS APPROVED. In the same vein, the law approving GEO no. 3/2026, **temporarily suspending the contracting procedures for projects funded under the 2021–2027 Cohesion Policy until the 2026 state budget is officially approved** was published in the Official Gazette. Currently, local public authorities who used self-funding for technical documentation are unable to finalize contracts due to their inability to secure required tax clearance certificates or clear budgetary commitments without an approved budget, a situation compounded by closed project calls that have already exceeded their financial allocations. To eliminate legal ambiguities during this freeze, the emergency ordinance introduces precise terminology by replacing the generic term "document" in the Applicant's Guide with "individual administrative act," and it establishes a maximum 30-day window for submitting outstanding paperwork once the budget passes. Furthermore, following consultations with the European Commission, the regulation introduces risk-analysis-based sample verifications for both public and private procurement procedures under the NRRP framework. **This methodology, established via instructions from reform or investment coordinators and approved by the national coordinator, clarifies institutional roles and customizes audits to focus administrative resources on high-risk transfer requests, thereby accelerating payments to beneficiaries and maximizing human resource efficiency without undermining the NRRP management and control system.**

UPDATED NRRP PAYMENTS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY. The Ministry of Energy presented the updated status of payments under NRRP-funded projects as of 3 July 2026. Payments made in 2026 exceeded EUR 130 million, while cumulative payments to beneficiaries

from the start of the programme reached approximately EUR 342.77 million. Between 29 June and 3 July, payments worth EUR 19.66 million were authorised for seven transfer requests and one technical assistance invoice. Transfer requests worth approximately EUR 133.85 million are currently being processed, while around EUR 278.27 million remains available for new payment requests. The Ministry also indicated that, since 80% of transfer requests are final requests and monitoring visits have been prioritized.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

RED II TRANSPOSITION LAW ADVANCES IN RE-EXAMINATION. The law approving GEO No. 163/2022, which transposes Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of energy from renewable sources, was published in the Official gazette. The law covers Romania's 2030 renewable energy objective, support schemes, permitting procedures, guarantees of origin, prosumers, renewable energy communities, renewable energy in heating and cooling, renewable energy in transport and sustainability criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels.

EU TRANSPOSITION ON OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT NOISE RULES. The Ministry of Economy has published a draft Government decision amending the national framework on noise emissions from equipment used outdoors. The draft transposes changes to Directive 2000/14/EC introduced by Directives (EU) 2024/2749 and 2024/2839, covering emergency conformity assessment procedures and the removal of certain reporting obligations. The proposal introduces special procedures only for equipment designated at EU level as crisis-relevant goods during an activated internal market emergency regime. In such cases, notified bodies would prioritise conformity assessment, while certain equipment could be placed on the market under EU-extended national authorisations, without CE marking, but with crisis-relevant labelling in Romanian. The draft also removes the obligation to send copies of EC declarations of conformity to authorities and the European Commission, and aligns national rules with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1208 on noise measurement methods.

Business & Economy

No relevant updates.

Commercial agreements

No relevant updates.

Digital tech, research and innovation

RD ACTIVITIES WITHIN RESEARCH CENTERS. After the President requested its reexamination, the legislative proposal that explicitly provides for the possibility for **research and development activity to be carried out in research centers established within institutions with responsibilities in the field of national security** was registered again at the Senate for a review. The act allows regulated access of research centers to certain national funding programs dedicated to research. Therefore, these nuclei represent research organizations that carry out their activity based on research and development projects approved by the management of institutions with responsibilities in the field of national security and which are financed from funds allocated to them from the state budget or from other legally established sources.

CYBERSECURITY COMMITTEE AND GOOD-FAITH VULNERABILITY REPORTING ESTABLISHED. The law backed by a broad political coalition consisting of PSD, PNL, USR, and UDMR, which **establishes a new inter-institutional committee coordinated by the National Cybersecurity Directorate (DNSC) to foster communication, analysis, and structured cooperation among public authorities** was published in the Official Gazette. In tandem with these organizational updates, the act amends the Criminal Code to **clarify the legal framework surrounding information and communications technology (ICT) security research, explicitly stipulating that good-faith identification and reporting of system vulnerabilities shall not constitute a criminal offense**. Under these new provisions, specific technical actions otherwise classified under Article 360 (illegal access to a computer system), Article 361 (illegal interception of data transmissions), and Article 364 (unauthorized data transfer) are decriminalized for individuals or legal entities, provided that strict, cumulative security criteria are met. To benefit from this protection, researchers must act without causing financial or operational damage, refrain from unauthorized data exploitation, maintain absolute confidentiality, and formally report any discovered flaws to the designated authorities within 48 hours of discovery.

PUBLIC DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK. Furthermore, Proposed by USR lawmakers, the law establishing **the first unified legal framework for the accounting, management, and protection of public digital infrastructure through the creation of the National Public Digital Infrastructure Platform (PNIDP)** was published in the Official Gazette. This is a **central registry for all publicly funded digital resources including domains, applications, software licenses, and IT equipment**. To align Romania with the EU NIS2 Directive (Directive 2022/2555) and ensure technical compatibility with European governance regulations, the platform will be managed by the Authority for the Digitalization of Romania (ADR), utilizing technical infrastructure from the STS and cybersecurity standards from the DNSC. Under this law, public entities must appoint a digital manager and register all digital assets within six months of its entry into force to receive a persistent unique identification code, as failure to comply will result in usage bans, funding suspensions, or fines up to RON 15,000. Furthermore, the regulation defines three data access levels across seven specialized registries, mandates strict minimum technical compliance standards, such as multi-factor authentication, data encryption, and the utilization of the Government

Cloud, and facilitates interoperability while permitting the redistribution of unused software licenses and the reuse of publicly funded digital assets.

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

ROMANIA STRENGTHENS NATO DEFENCE COMMITMENTS. Romania will **allocate a combined 3.7% of its GDP to defence** and security this year and has joined the **NATO Drone Edge** initiative, which enables Allied countries to jointly procure drones. Announced by Nicușor Dan at the NATO Summit, these steps reflect Romania's commitment to strengthening its defence capabilities, supporting collective security, and enhancing regional stability, particularly in the Black Sea region and on NATO's Eastern Flank.

BLACK SEA SECURITY COOPERATION EXPANDED. Romania, Bulgaria, and Turkey have signed an amendment **expanding the mission of the MCM Black Sea task group to include the protection of critical underwater infrastructure in the Black Sea**, alongside its existing mine countermeasure operations. Announced by Radu Miruță, the agreement aims to strengthen the security of submarine energy and communication infrastructure, while supporting safe navigation and regional stability. Romania will also contribute to the initiative through the deployment of the minehunter Căpitan CONSTANTIN Dumitrescu during upcoming multinational operations.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

No relevant updates.

Young people & equality

No relevant updates.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

NATURA 2000 NETWORK EXPANSION CONTINUES. The Government Decision amending GD No. 685/2022 to designate an additional 19 sites of Community importance as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) was published in the Official Gazette, marking the third such update after the changes introduced through GD No. 984/2025 and GD No. 139/2026. The measure continues the phased completion of the Natura 2000 network, apparently by splitting the designation process into successive steps, and again targets sites for which management plans and conservation measures have already been approved.

Climate change

REDISTRIBUTION OF EU ETS REVENUES. The law approving GEO No. 55/2025 on the management of revenues from the auctioning of EU ETS allowances was published in the Official Gazette. The ordinance aligns the national framework with the EU rules applicable from 2025, including the unified auctioning framework for stationary installations and aviation.

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

ANCOM TO ENFORCE EU DATA ACT. The Government issued a new **draft bill** designating **ANCOM as the national authority responsible for enforcing the EU Data Act**. The proposal sets new obligations for manufacturers of connected products, cloud service providers, data holders, and other businesses handling connected-device data, including requirements on data access, portability, and contract transparency. It also grants ANCOM broad supervisory and enforcement powers, while introducing administrative fines and penalties for non-compliance, with sanctions ranging from fixed fines to a percentage of EU turnover for serious or repeated breaches.

CONSULTATIVE BODY ESTABLISHED FOR E-GOVERNMENT REFORM. A **decision** issued by interim Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan establishes **a new consultative consortium to support the Committee for E-Government and Bureaucracy Reduction**, bringing together representatives from business and professional associations. Members will be selected by the General Secretariat of the Government, and the consortium will adopt its own rules of organization and operation. The committee, which coordinates Romania's digitalization and administrative simplification efforts under the leadership of the Prime Minister, will now benefit from structured input from the private sector and civil society.

STRATEGIC DIALOGUE PLATFORM FOR BUSINESS CONSULTATION. An **order** published in the Official Gazette by the Ministry of Economy establishes a **Strategic Dialogue Platform for a Competitive and Resilient Economy**, creating a permanent framework for consultation with businesses, industry associations, trade unions, NGOs, chambers of commerce, clusters, and academia. The new mechanism introduces a formal application and selection process for participation in seven sectoral working groups, giving eligible organizations a structured role in shaping economic, industrial, digitalization, and deregulation policies through an official and transparent consultation process.

Rule of law

STRICTER PENALTIES FOR CHILD ENDANGERMENT. A **law** published in the Official Gazette **increases prison sentences for parents or caregivers who seriously endanger a child's physical, psychological, intellectual, or moral development** through harmful actions or treatment. The law raises the penalty to 5-10 years in prison, with harsher sentences of 7-12 years if the offender was under the influence

of drugs or psychoactive substances when committing the offence.

Civil society

No relevant updates.

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.