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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

NRRP-FUNDED LEȘU DAM REHABILITATION COMPLETED. The Ministry of Environment announced the completion of rehabilitation works at Leșu Dam in Bihor County, an **NRRP-funded investment under Component C1**. The reservoir is now undergoing controlled refilling, which started in May 2026, after almost 12 years in which it did not operate under normal conditions. The investment, worth more than RON 113 million, aimed to increase operational safety and included structural works on the dam, sealing and drainage interventions, modernisation of hydromechanical equipment, access and intervention infrastructure, and digital monitoring and alarm systems. The project also includes environmental measures, such as a fish passage, floating biodiversity islands and systems for intercepting waste and floating material. The Ministry also indicated that the Sălard polder, another NRRP-funded flood-risk reduction investment in Bihor County, has been completed.

C2. Forests and biodiversity protection

Reforms

REFORM 2, M31 - BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY. Romania's National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for 2026-2030,

linked to **NRRP Component C2, Reform 2, Milestone 31**, was adopted by Parliament and is now awaiting promulgation. The legislative route followed the earlier dispute over the Government's adoption of the same strategy while acting in an interim capacity, after which the strategy was moved through Parliament as a legislative proposal. The final parliamentary form significantly tempers the legal effects of the strategy. It reduces the protected-area targets to 25% of national territory and 5% under strict protection, clarifies that the strategy and action plan cannot directly impose obligations, bans or restrictions, and provides that measures affecting property, land use or economic activities will require separate legislation, impact assessments and, where applicable, compensation. After adoption, AUR and SOS parliamentarians filed a constitutional challenge, but the Constitutional Court rejected the objection and confirmed the law as constitutional. The file can now proceed to promulgation by the President.

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 PASSAGES OPENED IN ORADEA. Two new road passages on Calea Aradului, in the area of the Oradea ring road and Oradea Airport, were opened to traffic. The investments, worth approximately RON 75 million, were financed through the NRRP, under **Component C4**, Transport, together with the state budget and the local budget. The projects include an underground passage at the intersection between Calea Aradului and the Oradea ring road, with a total length of 406 metres, and an overground passage near Oradea Airport, with a total length of 535 metres. According to interim Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan, the works are part of a broader network of six passages developed at Oradea's main exits to reduce congestion and improve traffic flows in the metropolitan area.

C5. The Renovation Wave

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C6. Energy

Reforms

REFORM 1, M116 - OFFSHORE WIND SECONDARY RULES. The Ministry of Energy published two draft Government decisions advancing the secondary implementation of Law No. 121/2024 on offshore wind energy, adopted under **NRRP Component C6, Reform 1, Milestone 116**. One draft sets the concession procedure for offshore wind perimeters in the Romanian Black Sea sector, while the other establishes the reception procedure for offshore wind power plants, including related onshore works. The concession rules would allow the Ministry of Energy to organise competitive procedures for the perimeters approved separately by the Government, covering prequalification, technical and financial evaluation, concession award, royalties, fees, guarantees and decommissioning obligations. The draft also clarifies that grid connection information provided to bidders is only indicative and does not reserve network capacity. The reception procedure applies at a later project stage, before trial operation. Developers would need to prove that offshore and onshore works have been completed and are compliant, based on as-built documentation, the OVI certificate, the final assessment report, the trial operation programme and the emergency plan. Reception may be granted, granted with conditions or refused. Separately, the Government agenda includes a memorandum on the possible future creation of a national centre for advanced studies and research in offshore wind energy. The memorandum does not establish the centre or create immediate obligations, but records the analysis of possible legislative, institutional, financial and human-resource measures needed for such a structure.

REFORM 4, M126 - HYDROGEN CODE. ANRE published the draft Hydrogen Code, setting the general regulatory framework for activities across the hydrogen value chain. The measure supports **NRRP Component C6, Reform 4, Milestone 126**, within ANRE's regulatory remit, while other elements of the milestone, including safety, permitting and support mechanisms, remain dependent on other authorities. The draft clarifies the existing authorisation, licensing and endorsement regimes applicable to hydrogen production, design, operation, storage, transport, distribution, trading and use. It does not create dedicated licences, tariffs or access rules for hydrogen networks, which will require further regulation after the transposition of Directive (EU) 2024/1788. For companies, the Code mainly provides procedural clarity rather than a full business model. Operators will need to identify the applicable authorisation or licensing regime for each activity and comply with existing rules on safety, technical standards, interoperability, gas-network injection, guarantees of origin and the qualification of renewable or low-carbon hydrogen.

REFORM 6, M128 - HEATING REPLACEMENT SUPPORT METHODOLOGY PROPOSED. The ministries responsible for investments, energy, development and environment published a draft joint order setting the methodological framework for support programmes under Law No. 168/2026 on the decarbonisation of heating and cooling. The measure operationalises **NRRP Component C6, Reform 6, Milestone 128**, by defining the eligibility criteria, feasibility test and financing mechanism for replacing old or inefficient heating systems. The programmes will target heating units using forest biomass or solid fossil fuels that are more than 10 years old or have an efficiency

below 65%, including systems used by households and social buildings owned by local authorities. Support will depend on a technical and economic feasibility assessment, comparing eligible alternatives over a 15-year cost horizon. The draft excludes stand-alone fossil fuel boilers from financing, while vulnerable households and households affected by energy poverty may receive higher support, including up to 100% of eligible costs under programmes financed through the Social Climate Fund. The measure is relevant for heating equipment producers, distributors, installers, district heating operators and companies involved in connection works.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 2, T157 – MIGRATION OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT CLOUD. The Authority for the Digitalization of Romania announced that **the process of migrating IT systems to the Government Private Cloud is in full swing, but less than half of the priority institutions have completed this stage.** A first priority package in this regard includes 85 central public authorities and institutions whose critical systems need to be migrated. To date, over 40 institutions have completed the migration of applications, with the project's final deadline assumed in the NRRP being **August 31, 2026.** The migration of public institution applications to the Government Private Cloud is related to **the Target 157 – Investment 2 "Cloud development and cloud migration" – Component 7,** which requires the migration or development of at least 30 government digital service applications.

INVESTMENT 3.2, T161 – INSP COMPLETES ITS DIGITALIZATION THROUGH NRRP. The National Institute of Public Health (INSP) has completed the project to digitize the institution's activity, worth a total of **RON 27.7 million**, of which almost **RON 23 million represent NRRP funds**. The project falls is part of **Component 7, Investment 3** - Implementation of the eHealth and telemedicine system, **Specific Investment I3.2** - Digitalization of institutions with health responsibilities under the Ministry of Health and contributes to the achievement of **Target 161**. The project modernized the IT infrastructure and communications and security networks of the INSP, developed **six national health registries**, as well as new software systems for laboratories, interoperability, and institution administration.

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

No relevant updates.

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

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C13. Social reforms

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C14. Good governance

Reforms

REFORM 4, M420 – PUBLIC PAY REFORM, DEADLINE APPROACHING. The draft Public Pay Law, a key reform under **NRRP Milestone 420 (Component 14, Reform 4)**, must be adopted and promulgated by **31 August**. Interim Labour Minister Dragoș Pîslaru said that a new version of the Public Pay Law is expected to be presented to political leaders as a **“balanced” proposal**, designed to avoid salary cuts while meeting the NRRP requirements. According to Pîslaru, salaries would increase for around **two-thirds of public employees**, while the remainder would not see their incomes reduced. He also warned that meeting all trade union demands would push the additional wage bill above the RON 12 billion ceiling.

In this regard, Presidential adviser Eugen Tomac stated that **President Nicușor Dan would not promulgate a law that reduces the salaries of employees in education and healthcare**, while suggesting that the latest Government proposal could address the objections raised. The reform remains under pressure from the tight deadline, with failure to meet the milestone potentially triggering the loss of significant PNRR funding.

REFORM 7, M431 – INTEGRITY LAW, CONSTITUTIONAL. The Constitutional Court has ruled on the **new Integrity Law**, challenged jointly by USR and PNL MPs and separately by President Nicușor Dan. The CCR found the so-called “Fritz Amendment” (sanctions to dignitaries found in the past to be incompatible or in conflict of interest) constitutional, while declaring unconstitutional the provisions requiring life partners of public officials to disclose financial interests and the provision requiring public officials’ financial interest declarations to be published. However, the decision has raised concerns regarding the retroactive application of the law. We remind you that this law implements **NRRP Milestone 431 (Component 14, Reform 7)**, as it amends the national integrity framework. Since two provisions were found unconstitutional, the law will now go back to Parliament for review.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

REFORM 1, M452 – TEACHING LOAD REDUCTION. Adopted by the deputies, the **legislative proposal** amending the teaching load reduction regime for management, guidance and supervisory staff in pre-university education reached the Senate for a final debate. It limits teaching obligations to a maximum of 40% of the standard teaching load and prohibits hourly paid teaching or additional teaching-load arrangements for staff benefiting from the reduction. This proposal amends **NRRP Milestone 452 (Component 15, Reform 1)**, previously implemented through Education Laws 198/2023 and 199/2023.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T457 – ALMOST 110 NURSERIES BUILT. The Ministry of Development has continued the rollout of nurseries under the government’s “Saint Ana” programme, financed in part through **NRRP Target 457 (Component 15, Investment 1)**, bringing the number of completed facilities to **107 nationally**, close to the target of 110 units. New nZEB-certified nurseries have recently been inaugurated in Bucecea (Botoşani), Sibiu, Blaj (Alba), Olteniţa (Călăraşi), Reteag (Bistriţa-Năsăud) and Căpleni (Satu Mare), with capacities ranging from 40 to 110 children and equipped with modern educational facilities, solar and photovoltaic panels, and energy-efficient systems.

In parallel, the Government has also approved **the recruitment of vacant positions needed to operationalise 34 nurseries awaiting completion and handover**, within existing approved personnel expenditure limits and without additional salary funding. According to the Ministry of Development, the nurseries completed so far have created more than 6,000 places in the public system, helping address the shortage of childcare places and reduce the financial pressure on families.

C16. REPowerEU

Reforms

REFORM 1, M508 - ADS VEHICLE FLEET UPDATE LINKED TO REPOWEREU MILESTONE 508. The legislative proposal that would set the vehicle fleet of the National Agency for the Administration of State Domains, Fisheries and Aquaculture, ANADSPA, at 115 vehicles was

sent to the responsible committees to issue a report by 24.08.2026. The measure is linked to **NRRP Component C16, REPowerEU, Reform 1, Milestone 508**, concerning equipment needed by ADS/ANADSPA for field activities related to renewable energy acceleration zones. The proposal would allow ANADSPA to use 78 vehicles for specific activities, 9 special-purpose vehicles and 28 utility vehicles, with monthly fuel limits to be set by order of the Minister of Agriculture. According to the explanatory context, four off-road utility vehicles are needed for teams inventorying and measuring hard-to-access land that may be used for RES acceleration zones. The initiative follows Government Decision No. 545/2026, which had already adjusted the agency's vehicle structure to include four utility vehicles for Milestone 508 without increasing the total fleet. The new proposal goes further by setting a broader statutory fleet for ANADSPA, including vehicles and boats used for fisheries and control activities.

Investments

No relevant updates.

General News

PAYMENT REQUEST NO 5 SENT. Romania officially submitted its **fifth NRRP payment request**, valued at **EUR 2.84 billion** and comprising **75 targets and milestones**, on the evening of August 14, 2026. This submission, which brings the country's grant absorption rate to 78%, proceeded despite a critical internal review from earlier that same day indicating that several essential conditions were still unfulfilled. Various government branches faced significant bottlenecks, such as the Ministry of Environment lacking documents for protection areas, the Ministry of Energy needing to adopt the Hydrogen Code, and incomplete tasks at the Ministries of Economy, Agriculture, and Research. While 59 out of 69 preliminary cover notes were successfully uploaded to the European Commission's system, the remaining unresolved issues pose a substantial risk of delaying evaluations and affecting Romania's overall access to the requested European funds.

UPDATED NRRP PAYMENTS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY. The Ministry of Energy presented the updated status of payments under NRRP-funded projects as of 14 August 2026. Payments made in 2026 reached EUR 209 million, while cumulative payments to beneficiaries from the start of the programme exceeded EUR 420 million. Between 10 and 14 August, payments worth EUR 19.41 million were made and 15 transfer requests worth EUR 12.51 million were authorised. The Ministry reported that 42 transfer requests, worth approximately EUR 81.57 million, are still being processed. It also stated that all monitoring visits for projects with transfer requests have been completed and that authorisation is also carried out based on notifications for energisation, where NRRP investments are considered completed. According

to the Ministry, the targets related to new energy production and storage capacities connected to the grid, as well as industrial energy efficiency, have been met and exceeded.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY FOR 2026-2030 APPROVED. The Government approved the Railway Infrastructure Development Strategy for 2026-2030, setting the investment and maintenance framework for the network managed by CFR SA. The strategy follows the obligation established under Law No. 202/2016, transposing Directive 2012/34/EU, and responds to a major renewal backlog, with 72.56% of current and direct railway lines due for renewal. The strategy prioritises accelerated renewal, maintenance and modernisation of railway infrastructure, with total needs estimated at around RON 132.21 billion for 2026-2030. Of this amount, RON 48.72 billion is linked to maintenance, current repairs and renewal, while projects eligible for EU funding are estimated at RON 54.59 billion. The decision was also published in the Official Gazette.

DANGEROUS GOODS ROAD TRANSPORT CONTROLS UPDATED. Government Decision No. 614/2026 was adopted last week and published in the Official Gazette, updating Romania's control framework for the road transport of dangerous goods and transposing Delegated Directive (EU) 2025/1801 after the 24 June 2026 transposition deadline. The decision aligns national rules with successive ADR updates and revises the classification of infringements, control criteria and inspection documents used by authorities. The decision reorganises ADR infringements into three risk categories and allows inspectors to adjust the classification depending on the specific circumstances.

WASTE SHIPMENT DIGITAL SYSTEM PROPOSED. The Government has published a draft decision updating Romania's framework for waste shipments in line with Regulation (EU) 2024/1157. The draft introduces the mandatory use of the DIWASS system by competent authorities and economic operators involved in waste shipment procedures. Notifications, approvals, transit, transport data and reporting would be managed electronically through DIWASS. ANMAP would administer the digital flows and national contact point, while the Environmental Guard would use the system for inspections and controls. Operators of recovery or disposal facilities would also have to submit, through DIWASS, certificates confirming the completion of interim or final waste treatment operations.

Business & Economy

No relevant updates.

Commercial agreements

No relevant updates.

Digital tech, research and innovation

INTEGRATING NATIONAL SECURITY RESEARCH. The law that explicitly establishes that **research and development activities can be conducted within dedicated research hubs located inside national security institutions, granting them regulated access to specific national funding programs** was published in the Official Gazette after its review process. These hubs operate as research organizations working on projects approved by the leadership of their respective security institutions, funded by the state budget or other legal sources. Previously, these units lacked a clearly defined status within the national research and development system, which created uncertainty regarding their funding, the recognition of their scientific achievements, and their ability to participate in both national and European programs. The act entered into force on August 17.

Health Union

No relevant updates.

Priority 2: Defence & Security

The European Defence Union

SAFE BUDGETARY REALLOCATION RULES. The law allowing main credit holders to decommit and recommit 2026 funds under the dedicated SAFE budget was published in the Official Gazette. The adopted form keeps the SAFE reclassification mechanism, without allowing the funds to be used for new expenditure or transferred to other budget lines. The Chamber also broadened the bill by adding rules allowing certain state-owned companies with overdue payments at the end of 2025 to fill vacant posts and create new positions, as well as a provision enabling the redistribution of funds from the Ministry of Finance budget for the capital increase of the Investment and Development Bank, under the NRRP.

SAFE-RELATED DRONE PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO INCREASE FROM 2027. Interim Economy Minister Irineu Darău stated that Romania's domestic drone and interceptor production capacities are expected to grow faster from 2027, including through projects covered by the SAFE instrument. The statement comes in the context of Romania's planned defence investments and the broader effort to strengthen domestic industrial capacity. According to the minister, some private companies are already innovating in the defence sector and working with foreign partners, while potential partnerships with Ukraine could accelerate production if agreed. Darău indicated that Romania may continue to rely on existing technologies purchased from other states in the short term, but expects domestic production capacity for drones and interceptors to increase significantly within the 2027 horizon.

Borders and migration

SEASONAL ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN WORKERS. The Government adopted the decision which establishes the list of seasonal activities and transposes Article 2(2) of Directive 2014/36/EU on foreign seasonal workers. It covers 19 CAEN classes in agriculture and 14 classes in accommodation, food services and tourism-related leisure activities. The classification applies exclusively to procedures for employing foreign nationals as seasonal workers. Activities are aligned with CAEN Rev. 3, while Government Decision No. 187/2017 is repealed without a transitional period. The decision was also published in the Official Gazette and entered into force.

Security & crisis management

No relevant updates.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

No relevant updates.

Young people & equality

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL LAUNCHED. Environment Ministry, the Youth Platform for Sustainability and UNICEF Romania have launched the selection of **20 members aged 14–35** for a **new Youth Advisory Council on Climate and Environment (CCT-CM)**. The Council will provide recommendations on climate change, biodiversity, pollution, waste management, environmental education and public participation, with members selected to ensure diverse regional and social representation. **Applications are open until 31 August 2026**, with the 20 members to be announced on 12 September and the first meeting planned for 14–18 September.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

No relevant updates

Climate change

No relevant updates

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

SEPTEMBER, THE KEY MOMENTUM FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT. With the PNRR deadline on 31 August and Parliament resuming its ordinary session in September, most signals now point to **government talks picking up again in early autumn**. Presidential adviser Radu Burnete said that **forming a government should become a priority once the PNRR milestones are closed**, while UDMR's Cseke Attila called for a **broad political agreement to ensure a full-power government** and keep the far right out of government.

Subsequently, Interim PM Ilie Bolojan claimed that PNL could support a technocratic cabinet if it has a **parliamentary majority and continues fiscal consolidation**, while USR has argued **for a compromise arrangement between the pro-European parties**. BNR Governor Mugur Isărescu also urged politicians to return to negotiations and tone down their public statements, warning that political rhetoric can have economic consequences.

Rule of law

No relevant updates.

Civil society

OPEN GOVERNMENT NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO BE ESTABLISHED. The General Secretariat of the Government has launched the process to establish the **National Open Government Committee** and select representatives from civil society. The Committee will bring together public institutions and NGOs to support the development, implementation and monitoring of open government policies, focusing on **administrative transparency, access to information, public participation and Romania's OGP commitments**. Civil society representatives will be selected across **19 sectors**, including digitalisation, justice, finance, health, education, energy, transport, agriculture and cybersecurity. Applications opened on **18 August**, with evaluation scheduled for 1–7 September, provisional results on 8 September and the **final list due on 15 September 2026**. Existing OGP civil society partners may apply under the same conditions as other candidates,

without preferential treatment.

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.