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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

No relevant updates.

C3. Waste management

Reforms

REFORM 1, M46 - WASTE MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE MOVES TO FINAL VOTE. After remaining in Parliament for more than three years, the draft bill approving GEO No. 30/2023, adopted in support of **NRRP Component C3, Reform 1, Milestone 46** on the operationalisation of the unified waste management framework, has received its committee report and is now awaiting a final vote in the Chamber of Deputies, as the decision-making chamber. The ordinance, which has been in force since 2023, extended the deadline for local authorities and intercommunity development associations to award contracts for municipal waste sorting, treatment and disposal activities.

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

COMPONENT C6 - ENERGY TARGETS MET OR EXCEEDED BY NRRP DEADLINE. The Ministry of Energy reported that several NRRP energy targets had been met or exceeded by the 31 August 2026 implementation deadline. Completed projects include 1,171 MW of new renewable generation capacity against a 950 MW target, 349.6 MW of storage against 240 MW, 84.328 MWe of high-efficiency cogeneration against 83 MWe, and 45.27 MW of electrolyser capacity for renewable hydrogen against 45 MW. In addition, 40 industrial energy efficiency projects were completed compared with a target of 30, while contracts covering 315.8 MW of wind capacity were signed under the Contracts for Difference mechanism. The Ministry also reported more than EUR 468 million in cumulative payments to

beneficiaries, including over EUR 256 million in 2026.

C7. Digital transformation

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1 – GOVERNMENTAL CLOUD IMPLEMENTATION. The Authority for the Digitalization of Romania, STS and SRI **have completed the infrastructure intended for the hosting and secure interconnection of the IT systems of the central public administration - the Government Cloud.** The investment has a total value of RON 2.209 billion, of which RON 1.866 billion represents eligible financing through the **NRRP, Component 7, Investment 1.** The project included the design and equipping of **Tier IV/III by design** resilient data centers, the installation of hardware and software infrastructure for cloud services and data exchange, as well as ensuring secure communications through national broadband networks. The infrastructure aims to ensure the interoperability of public systems and the continuity of IT services.

C8. Tax reform and pension reform

Reforms

REFORM 6, M214 – PENSION DECISIONS APPEAL FLEXIBILITY. The Committee for Labor of the Senate issued an admission report with amendments for the legislative proposal which amends Law No. 360/2023, through which **Milestone 214 - Reform 6, Component 8**

of the **PNRR** was fulfilled, and makes it **more flexible to challenge pension decisions, allowing pensioners and applicants to choose between an administrative appeal and direct action in court**. Territorial pension houses must resolve administrative appeals within a maximum of 45 days and provide a reasoned response. The proposal **strengthens the protection of pension rights, expressly establishing that they are imprescriptible** and cannot be transferred in whole or in part. Next, the legislative proposal is expected to be adopted by the Senate as first chamber.

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

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT AND BICYCLE LINES OBJECTIVES EXCEEDED BY MDLPA. MDLPA announced that the targets assumed through **NRRP - Component 10** regarding the development of green public transport infrastructure, the digitalization of urban mobility and the expansion of bicycle networks have been achieved and exceeded. Thus, **Target 300 (Investment 1)** of 491 administrative-territorial units with delivered/extended intelligent transport systems and electronic ticketing systems or other infrastructure was exceeded, with beneficiaries reporting 535 implemented systems, approximately 9% above the established objective. Furthermore, 1,147 km of bicycle paths were completed, compared to the target of 644 km (**Milestone 343, Investment 4**), the objective being exceeded by approximately 78%. Nonetheless, there are 236 km of cycle routes (**Milestone 339, Reform 2**) in Bihor County, on the Crișuri Hydrographic Basin, and in Harghita County, on the Olt Hydrographic Basin. Through these investments, the Ministry of Development supports more connected localities, with better managed traffic and safer and less polluting transport alternatives.

Investments

INVESTMENT 1, T296 & T303 – GREEN TRANSPORT TARGETS ACHIEVED BY MDLPA. The Ministry of Development has exceeded the targets assumed through the NRRP for **the development of green transport and infrastructure for electric vehicles**, related to **Component 10**, according to an official release. Thus, **1,147 non-polluting vehicles, including buses, trams, trolleybuses and electric minibuses, were purchased from European funds, intended for local public transport**, compared to an initially assumed target of 1,135 (**Investment 1, Target 296**). A significant result was also obtained in terms of green, environmentally friendly transport in localities, intended for the installation of recharging points for electric vehicles. Compared to the renegotiated target of 2,000 recharging points (**Investment 1, Target 303**), beneficiaries reported, in the online platform made available by the ministry, 5,278 charging points achieved at national level.

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 LAW. President Nicușor Dan and Fiscal Council President Daniel Dăianu have called for a **new public pay law to be adopted alongside the 2027 budget**, arguing that clearer salary rules are needed to reduce litigation, budgetary costs and social tensions, while supporting Romania’s fiscal credibility. Dăianu stressed that public-sector wages and pensions should not grow faster than nominal GDP, given the need for continued deficit reduction. Romania has already **lost EUR 770 million in PNRR funding** after failing to meet **Milestone 420 (Component 14, Reform 4)**, which required the adoption of the unitary public pay law by 31 August.

REFORM 9, T443 - STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES AND STRATEGIC ASSETS. The Senate, as first chamber, rejected two AUR proposals introducing (1) **state pre-emption rights** and (2) **stronger state control over strategic public enterprises and critical infrastructure**. The proposals would have imposed significant restrictions on investors and operational changes for companies. Both initiatives could have affected **NRRP Target 443 (Component 14, Reform 9)**, which requires the listing or restructuring of at least three state-owned companies. However, according to interim Deputy Prime Minister for Reform Oana Gheorghiu, the target has already been fulfilled, and the proposals will now be forwarded to the Chamber of Deputies, where they are expected to be ultimately rejected.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C15. Education

Reforms

REFORM 1, M452 – HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSION EXAM ABOLISHED. Parliament adopted a **law abolishing the separate high school admission exam for 50% of places**, with the changes applying from the **2026–2027 school year**. The law amends Education Law 198/2023, which implemented **NRRP Milestone 452 (Component 15, Reform 1)**. The additional admission exam had entered into force on 1 September, but will be cancelled once the new law is published in the Official Gazette.

Investments

No relevant updates.

C16. REPowerEU

Reforms

No relevant updates.

Investments

No relevant updates.

General News

PRIME MINISTER BOLOJAN ON NRRP ABSORPTION MAXIMIZATION. Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan stated that the government will concentrate administrative efforts to maximize the absorption rate of NRRP funds by the end of the year. The executive's stated focus regarding the Plan is to accelerate project implementation, unblock pending funding flows, and meet committed targets to ensure that allocated European recovery resources are drawn into the national economy before implementation deadlines.

MMAP REORGANIZATION. A government decision that **reorganizes the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests (MMAP) and reduces its maximum staffing allocation from 531 to 511 posts**, executing public spending cuts was adopted and published in the Official Gazette. The reform disestablishes the standalone Directorate-General for the NRRP alongside the Directorate for European Funds Management, consolidating their functions into a unified General Directorate for the Management of Environmental Programs and Investments. Divided into specialized directorates for contracting and implementation/payments, the merged entity focuses operational resources on the closing stages of NRRP, prioritizing final verifications, disbursements, and long-term asset durability monitoring, including oversight for projects transferred to alternative national funding schemes.

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY NRRP OBJECTIVES COMPLETION. The interim Minister of Economy, Digitalization, Entrepreneurship, and Tourism, Irineu Darău, reported the **completion of all 32 NRRP milestones and targets under the ministry's authority, securing over €907 million in EU funding** without relinquishing or eliminating any investments during the latest negotiations with the European Commission. The fulfilled commitments span digitalization, private sector development, and tourism, featuring specific deliverables such as administrative process automation, high-speed rural broadband rollouts, and advanced digital upskilling programs for SME employees.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AUGUST NRRP DISBURSEMENTS. Moreover, the Ministry of Health announced that, in August, it disbursed **over RON 1 billion in NRRP funds for healthcare digitalization, infrastructure modernization, and primary care expansion**, elevating its **overall NRRP absorption rate to 91%**. An additional tranche of **RON 340.06 million** disbursed between August 31 and September 4 backed digital transformation projects across major tertiary medical units, including the Fundeni Clinical Institute, the "Prof. Dr. Matei Balș" National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Mureș County Emergency Hospital, and Timișoara Municipal Hospital, alongside continued support for integrated community health centers and a targeted allocation of RON 29.89 million for the construction of the new hospital in Bistrița-Năsăud.

EC Priorities. Priority 1: Prosperity & competitiveness

A Clean Industrial Deal

EV CHARGING SPACES. The draft bill amending GEO No. 195/2002 to define EV charging spaces and sanction vehicles occupying them without being actively charged was tacitly adopted by the Senate and has now been registered with the Chamber of Deputies, as the decision-making chamber. The proposal was sent to the responsible committees, which are expected to issue their report by 24 September 2026.

DIESEL EXCISE AID FOR TRANSPORTERS ADJUSTED TO CRISIS MECHANISM. The Government adopted the Decision amending the existing state aid scheme for road transport operators to align it with the temporary diesel excise reductions introduced by Law No. 162/2026. During the declared oil and petroleum products crisis, the partial excise reimbursement for standard diesel would decrease from the ordinary RON 0.85/litre to RON 0.71/litre when the national excise cut is 15%, RON 0.57/litre at a 20% cut and RON 0.43/litre at a 25% cut. Under the 25% excise reduction currently applicable from 1 September, eligible transport operators would therefore receive RON 0.43/litre through the state aid scheme. The adjustment is intended to prevent the combined effect of the general excise reduction and the transport aid from bringing taxation below the EU minimum required by Directive 2003/96/EC. The proposal comes after the Ministry of Finance activated the maximum 25% excise reduction for standard diesel for 1–15 September 2026, meaning that, if the draft is adopted, the reimbursement available to eligible transport operators during this period would be RON 0.43/litre.

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

No relevant updates.

Borders and migration

COMBATING CROSS-BORDER CRIME. The Committee for Defence of the Chamber of Deputies issued a rejection report for the legislative proposal who aims to **strengthen the Romanian state's capacity to prevent and combat cross-border crime** through measures such as operational risk analysis at strategic entry points, institutional cooperation and secure exchange of information. It provides for the formation of joint operational teams, permanent collaboration with Europol and the rapid application of measures on high-risk transports, without affecting economic operators. At the same time, a minimal annual reporting mechanism on the implementation of the law is established. Next, the legislative proposal is expected to be rejected in the plenary of the Chamber of Deputies.

Security & crisis management

No relevant updates.

Priority 3: Social rights

Social fairness

No relevant updates.

Young people & equality

11% VAT FIRST HOME PURCHASES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. The Senate Budget Committee issued a rejection report on a **bill** introducing an **11% reduced VAT rate for first-home purchases by people under 35**, subject to strict eligibility criteria. The Senate is expected to reject the bill as first chamber, after which it would be forwarded to the Chamber of Deputies.

Priority 4: Life quality

Agriculture & biodiversity

AGRICULTURAL DIESEL EXCISE AID ADJUSTED. The Ministry of Agriculture published a draft Government Decision amending the state aid scheme for diesel used in agriculture. For fuel used between 7 April and 30 June 2026, the excise reimbursement would decrease from RON 2.697/litre to RON 2.397/litre, reflecting the temporary RON 0.30/litre reduction in the standard excise duty introduced by GEO No. 24/2026. The reimbursement would remain at RON 2.697/litre for the other periods of 2026, while the scheme budget would increase by RON 149.366 million, to RON 863.666 million.

Climate change

No relevant updates

Priority 5: Democratic Europe

Democracy

LUCA NICULESCU AMONG FAVORITES FOR PRIME MINISTER. Diplomat and former journalist **Luca Niculescu is reportedly one of President Nicușor Dan's preferred candidates for prime minister** in a potential government dominated by PSD. Currently a MAE Secretary of State and Romania's National Commissioner for OECD accession, Niculescu previously served as ambassador to France from 2016 to 2022 and has extensive diplomatic and administrative experience, but no political background. President Dan is expected to hold consultations with political parties and nominate a prime minister-designate this week or the next one.

Rule of law

DEPUTIES ADOPT BILLS TO STRENGTHEN JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE. The Chamber of Deputies tacitly adopted three USR bills aimed at strengthening judicial independence and transparency.

1. The **first** strengthens **external audits of random case allocation**, including checks on human interventions, IT logs and redistributions, with audit findings to be reported to competent authorities and published.
2. The second limits **delegation and secondment of judges and prosecutors**, including a maximum six-month non-renewable delegation and up to three-year secondments to specified institutions, while requiring leadership positions in the CSM to be filled by competition or examination.
3. The third revises the **appointment and hierarchical control of senior prosecutors**, limiting political involvement to the Prosecutor General, DNA and DIICOT chiefs, extending their mandates to **five years without reappointment**, and clarifying that prosecutorial decisions may only be overturned by the hierarchical superior.

The proposals, introduced after the Recorder documentary “Captured Justice” and in line with Venice Commission, GRECO and European Commission recommendations, will now be debated by the Senate.

Civil society

DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/1069 – PROTECTION AGAINST ABUSIVE LAWSUITS. Parliament has adopted legislation transposing the **EU Anti-SLAPP Directive**, protecting individuals and organizations involved in **public participation** from manifestly unfounded claims and abusive judicial proceedings. The law introduces fast-track dismissal of manifestly unfounded claims, possible security deposits, publication of judgments and judicial fines of up to RON 100,000 against abusive claimants, while also providing safeguards against recognition of abusive third-country judgments. The Ombudsman will coordinate information, awareness and training activities and publish an annual report on the issue.

Priority 6: Foreign affairs

Enlargement and wider neighbourhood

No relevant updates.

A new foreign economic policy

No relevant updates.

Reforming the international system

ROMANIA–EGYPT BILATERAL LABOR COOPERATION FRAMEWORK. The Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity (MMSS) established an **institutional cooperation framework with the Arab Republic of Egypt to regulate bilateral labor mobility, streamline workforce recruitment, and strengthen migrant workers' rights across high-demand sectors such as construction, agriculture, and hospitality.** The bilateral mechanism establishes direct coordination between national labor inspectorates and public employment services to create secure, legal recruitment channels while curbing irregular migration, unlicensed intermediary agencies, and labor exploitation. In addition to enforcing compliance with Romanian wage legislation, standard employment contracts, and occupational health and safety regulations, the partnership facilitates technical exchanges, vocational training standards, and mutual qualification recognition to ensure transparent and orderly foreign labor integration.