RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY

Social dimension in Member States’ national recovery and resilience plans

Trade Union Dialogues in the framework of the European Semester 2024

Maria Teresa Fabregas Fernandez
Director SG.RECOVER B
**State of play on implementation: EUR 240bn disbursed**

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* No pre-financing requested.

* Prerequisite to request pre-financing: CID was adopted by 31 December 2021.

* Prerequisite to request RePower EU pre-financing: RePowerEU chapter was adopted by Council by 31 December 2023.
RRP measures supporting social objectives across the six pillars

Pillar 1 | Contribution to the green transition
Trainings in **green skills**; improving energy efficiency of **childcare facilities** (e.g. BE, CZ, HU, FI, SI,)

Pillar 2 | Contribution to the digital transformation
Digitalisation of **public administration**; girls’ and women’s **digital skills** (e.g. CY, EE, FI, IT LV, PT, ES, SE)

Pillar 3 | Contribution to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
Improving access to **finance & skills development** (e.g. CY, FR, IT, PT, EL, LV)

Pillar 4 | Contribution to social and territorial cohesion
Improving **adequacy and sustainability** of pensions, reducing the **pension gender gap**, (e.g. AT, BE, HU, MT, ES)

Pillar 5 | Contribution to health and economic, social and institutional resilience
Resilient **healthcare systems** across all MS; Reforms and investments in **social housing** (e.g. BE,CY, IT, IE, ES, PT, SE)

Pillar 6 | Contribution to policies for the next generation, children and the youth, such as education and skills
Empowering **young people** in entering the labour market (e.g. AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, FR, ES)

*Examples are non-exhaustive*
The RRF’s social dimension

Legal requirement to contribute to the six pillars for each plan, including:
- Social and territorial cohesion
- Health; Economic, Social and Institutional Resilience
- Policies for the Next generation

Country Specific Recommendations to be addressed by the plans
- Labour Markets
- Social protection and services
- Inclusion
- Education and skills policies

Reporting
- Scoreboard
- Annual reports
- Mid-term evaluation

Recovery and Resilience Plans allocate on average, 25% of their budget towards social objectives, (around EUR 163 billion of total funding).
Supporting employment and social policies

**RRPs dedicate EUR 163 billion to social objectives, 25% of the total allocation:**

**Employment and Skills**
Adult learning, employment support, modernisation of labour market institutions
€41 bn – 25%

**Education and Childcare**
General, vocational, higher and early childhood education and care
€48 bn – 29%

**Health and long-term care**
Supporting resilience, sustainability, adequacy, availability, accessibility, affordability and quality
€47 bn – 29%

**Social policies**
Supporting social housing, social protection, and social inclusion
€27 bn – 17%

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Data as of 4 June 2024. Data shows the breakdown of estimated social expenditures in all endorsed RRP. Social categories are defined and applied based on the methodology adopted by the Commission in consultation with the European Parliament and the Member States in the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2105.
Progress of the RRP: common indicators

• According to the Delegated Act on common indicators, Member States report on several indicators relevant for the implementation of the EPSR. Here are the latest results reported:

• (10) Number of participants in education or training – 11,793,385 participants

• (11) Number of people in employment or engaged in job searching activities – 1,625,415 people

• (12) Capacity of new or modernised health care facilities – 47,149,727 total capacity

• (13) Classroom capacity of new or modernised childcare and education facilities – 511,761 total capacity

• (14) Number of young people aged 15-29 years receiving support – 7,525,200 people

Progress of the RRF reforms:

As an essential part of the RRP, the impact of reforms is substantial across different areas, with long-lasting effects. Examples of reforms with fulfilled milestones and targets:

- **Croatia** adopted amendments for more flexibility in working time and the place of work and to close the gender gap in employment and pay.

- **Portugal** has approved a new Mental Health Law, incorporating legislative principles to better respond to the needs of people with mental illness and disability.

- **Spain** adopted a reform of the social security contribution system for the self-employed to receive a more adequate pension income in the future.

- **Italy** established the Guaranteed Employability of Workers programme.

Social protection and inclusion

More than 300 measures address a broad range of challenges:

- **Social protection** and integration of vulnerable groups
- Renovation / construction of **housing** and shelters
- **Reforms and Investments** to promote social and affordable housing supply
- Upgrade, expansion and/or improvement of **access to social services**

**Reducing the gender gap in pensions**

Austria plans a reform to introduce pension splitting, allowing parents to transfer pension entitlements between themselves to mitigate the impact of interrupted employment due to childcare responsibilities.

**Redistributive taxation**

Spain has implemented higher progressivity and redistribution in personal income and wealth taxes by raising tax rates for high earners, adjusting pension contribution limits, and increasing the top wealth tax rate.
Public healthcare

Making health systems more robust and resilient, to better protect the health of citizens:

• Modern healthcare infrastructures and top-notch medical equipment
• Primary healthcare and prevention
• Access to innovative treatment.
• Improving digital health services, to ensure high-quality care across Europe.

All RRP includes measures to reinforce healthcare, some examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development of e-health</th>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium is making progress in increasing the quality, speed and agility of healthcare through digitalisation. A new law setting up the Health Data Authority has been approved as well as the design of projects and solutions, now in implementation.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Treatment and prevention of cancer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Czechia approved the National Oncological Programme 2022-2030. The milestone is linked to the reform which aims to increase the resilience of the cancer prevention and care system, reflecting the priorities set out in Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Labour market and Skills

**EUR 75 billion in skills and EUR 24 billion in employment support to:**

- **Job seekers**, providing hiring incentives and orientation.
- Labour market **inclusion** via the reduction of the **gender gap** and integration of **disadvantaged groups**
- Preparation for the **jobs of tomorrow**; skills demand **forecast** and **green/digital training**

**RRP investments under implementation**

- **Croatia’s voucher system**
  
  Croatia’s new voucher system for adult education aims to upskill 40,000 people by mid-2026, focusing on digital (60%) and green (40%) skills, particularly aiding the long-term unemployed and inactive youth.

- **Opportunities for young people**
  
  France is funding hiring subsidies for 337,000 young people among other specifically targeted measures.

*Figures as of 4 June 2024. Data are based on the pillar tagging methodology for the Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard and correspond to the measures allocated as primary or secondary policy area to ‘adult learning’, ‘green skills and jobs’ ‘human capital in digitalization’, ‘general, vocational, higher education’ and ‘early childhood education and care’ for the skills category and to ‘youth employment support’ and ‘non-youth employment support’ for the employment category.*
**Fair working conditions**

*Improvement of the European labour market and the quality of jobs including:*

- More **secure workplaces** (health/ security) and **adaptation for workers with disabilities**
- Strengthen **open-ended contracts** and reduce segmentation, accommodate **new forms of work**
- Fight against **fraud** and **undeclared work**

**Protection of vulnerable/atypical workers**

Cyprus has extended the social benefit coverage, particularly for those self-employed and in non-standard employment.

**Unemployment benefits**

Estonia has passed legislative changes to improve the adequacy of unemployment benefits, helping people bridge longer periods of unemployment in difficult labour market conditions.
Gender equality in the RRPs

A significant number of RRP measures support gender equality, both through investments and reforms, such as:

- Improving access to finance & skills development for women entrepreneurs (e.g. CY, FR, IT, PT, SI, ES)
- Supporting socially disadvantaged pregnant women and improving working conditions for nursing (e.g. AT, SE)

Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2105, providing a methodology to track RRPs’ measures with a focus on gender equality

- In total, 136 (sub-)measures in 27 RRPs
- Further info at Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard (europa.eu) where you can also find a dedicated thematic analysis on (gender) equality

RRF Expert Group dedicated to mainstreaming (gender) equality considerations

→ Bringing together national RRF experts, (gender) equality experts from line ministries, exchanging best practices, and presenting tools for mainstreaming
Commission activities to promote mainstreaming and inclusion of social considerations

• **Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/241**, establishing the RRF, encourages Member States to consult with social partners and other stakeholders.

• The Commission is in continuous dialogue with Member States for an inclusive approach in design and implementation of measures that involves social partners and relevant stakeholders throughout the process.

• Continuous monitoring of (gender) equality aspects in the implementation phase as well as for measures that benefit children and youth.

• Direct engagement with social stakeholders at Member State level, for example during the organisation of annual events.

• Outreach to stakeholders through presentations and participation in panel discussions.
Monitoring tools

Reporting tools developed by the Commission to monitor the social dimension of the RRPs:

• **Delegated Regulation (EU 2021/2105** establishing a methodology for social reporting expenditure

• **Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2106** establishing 14 common indicators for Member State reporting.

• **Mid-term Evaluation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility**

• **Annual Report** of the RRF 2023

• **RRF Review** Report including contribution to the six pillars and a specific chapter on gender equality

• **The Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard website**, with updated information on the Plans and their implementation.
Thank you!

More information:
- Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard including Thematic Analyses
- Annual Report 2023 on the RRF
- Review Report on the RRF
- RRF mid-term evaluation