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LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR RECOVERY: BULGARIA

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Bulgaria's recovery and resilience plan

The European Commission has given a positive assessment to **Bulgaria's recovery and resilience plan, consisting of €6.27 billion in grants.**

The financing provided by the Recovery and Resilience Facility – at the heart of NextGenerationEU – will support the implementation by 2026 of crucial investment and reform measures put forward by Bulgaria to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Bulgarian plan forms part of an unprecedented coordinated EU response to the COVID-19 crisis, to address common European challenges by embracing the green and digital transitions, to strengthen economic and social resilience and the cohesion of the single market. In particular, Bulgaria's plan will accelerate the decarbonisation of the energy sector, promote the large-scale deployment of digital infrastructure, including in rural areas, as well as support investments in enhancing education and skills.

KEY MEASURES TO SUPPORT BULGARIA'S GREEN TRANSITION

59% of the plan's total allocation for reforms and investments supports climate objectives



▶ **Accelerated decarbonisation of the energy sector:** setting-out a framework for the coal phase-out, cutting greenhouse gas emissions of the power sector by 40% by 2025; tripling power generation from renewables by 2026; setting ambitious targets for expanded storage capacity for solar and geothermal electricity. **€1.7 billion**



▶ **Energy efficiency of private and public buildings:** financing large-scale energy-efficient renovation of residential, public and commercial buildings, and targeted reforms to facilitate investments in energy efficiency. **€924 million**



▶ **Sustainable transport:** promoting zero-emission vehicles, enhancing road safety, and investing in railways, intermodal transport and sustainable urban mobility. **€666 million**



KEY MEASURES TO SUPPORT BULGARIA'S DIGITAL TRANSITION

26% of the plan's total allocation for reforms and investments supports digital objectives



▶ **Large-scale deployment of digital infrastructure:** increasing the coverage of very high capacity networks across the country, including in rural and sparsely populated areas. **€270 million**



▶ **Enhancing digital skills:** promoting adult learning by digital skills trainings; setting up a national online platform for adult learning. **€319 million**



▶ **Digitalisation of public administration:** investments in the modernisation and digital transition of public administration; digital public services in key areas such as justice, health, employment and social protection. **€297 million**

KEY MEASURES TO REINFORCE BULGARIA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE



▶ **Justice and business environment:** comprehensive anti-corruption measures, including reforms to ensure the accountability and criminal liability of the Prosecutor General, strengthened anti-corruption institutions and increased transparency and competition in public procurement; support for e-justice; better governance of state-owned enterprises. **€71 million**



▶ **Smart industry:** important support for businesses for the modernisation and transition to green, circular and digital-oriented business practices, and support for industrial parks' infrastructure development. **€801 million**



▶ **Modernising education and enhancing research and innovation:** modernising educational institutions' infrastructure; a comprehensive education reform, covering pre-school, school and higher education; fostering efficient policy coordination in all phases of research and innovation; supporting research and innovation performance of public research institutions and innovative business. **€748 million**







▶ **Fostering social inclusion:** strengthening the adequacy and coverage of the minimum income scheme; improving the provision of employment and social services and their integration; modernising long-term care, with a focus on people with disabilities and the elderly; support for culture and creative sectors. **€440 million**



▶ **Improving access to healthcare:** modernising hospitals and medical facilities; establishing an air ambulance system; constructing outpatient care units in remote areas and under-served regions; addressing shortages of healthcare professionals across the country. **€372 million**

IMPLEMENTATION

-  None of the plan's measures will do significant harm to the environment.
-  Stakeholders should continue to be involved in the implementation of the recovery and resilience plan to ensure ownership of reforms.
-  Disbursement of funds is performance-based and will reflect progress on reforms and investments set out in the plan.
-  Control systems will protect against serious irregularities such as fraud, corruption and double funding.