



ERGO NETWORK

Support Note on Engaging with the National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs) 2021

Background

On 17 September 2020, the European Commission published the [Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy \(ASGS\) 2021](#), accompanied by two annexes, namely the [Guidance to Member States on Recovery and Resilience Plans](#) and the [Commission Staff Working document, template, Recovery and Resilience Plans](#). This package launches the European Semester 2021.

While the ASGS confirms the commitment to the [European Green Deal](#) and its four key dimensions – *environmental sustainability, productivity, fairness, and macroeconomic stability* – it marks a distinct temporary change from previous processes and introduces new delivery mechanisms for the next years (2021-2023, at least)

The main focus is the **Recovery and Resilience Facility** (see below), the central pillar of [Next Generation EU](#), which is the European Union’s “emergency temporary recovery instrument to help repair the immediate economic and social damage brought about by the coronavirus pandemic, support an economic recovery and build a better future for the next generation.”

What are the National Recovery and Resilience Plans?

The **Recovery and Resilience Facility** combines grants and loans totaling EUR 672.5 billion, which Member States will be able to access by submitting *National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs)*, together with their National Reform Programmes (between now and [30 April](#)).

The National Recovery and Resilience Plans are the main reference documents of the European Semester this year, and they will have to outline national investment and reform agendas for the pandemic and post-pandemic context. The Plans should enable Member States to enhance their economic growth potential, job creation and economic and social resilience, and to meet the green and digital transitions.

The European Commission has made available a long and detailed [Guidance Note](#) for Member States, on how they should prepare the Recovery and Resilience Plans – including the structure, the expected content, information to be provided, priorities to be kept in mind etc. It also provides more information about how the European Commission will be assessing them (methodology and criteria). The European Commission also provided a very detailed [template](#) for the Plans, to be filled in by Member States.

⇒ **See [here](#) for ERGO Network’s detailed analysis of the NRRP Guidance Note and template**

The Recovery and Resilience Plans will be assessed by the Commission within two months of the submission. The criteria of consistency with the Country-Specific Recommendations, as well as strengthening the growth potential, job creation and economic and social resilience of the Member State shall need the highest score of the assessment. Effective contribution to the green and digital transition shall also be a prerequisite for a positive assessment.

Each Plan must include expenditures of minimum 37% related to climate and minimum 20% related to digital, while no minimum standard is set for social expenditure. The Commission will determine the amount of money to be granted, as well as which targets and milestones need to be met by each Member State. The 2019 and 2020 Country-Specific Recommendations remain valid and must be incorporated in the Plans!

After assessing the Plans, the European Commission will propose *implementing acts* (replacing the Country-Specific Recommendations), accompanied by explanatory *analytical documents* (replacing the Country Reports). As not all Member States will submit their National Recovery and Resilience Plan at the same time, the Commission will release implementing acts and analytical documents in separate batches at different times.

A [Recovery and Resilience Task Force](#) (RECOVER) was established on 16 August 2020 within the European Commission’s Secretariat-General. It is responsible for steering the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility and for coordinating the European Semester.

Engaging at the national level with the Recovery and Resilience plans

Your Governments are already preparing their draft Recovery and Resilience Plans. The right timing to try to influence these Plans and ensure that the situation, needs, and rights of Roma people are included is **NOW**.

Our role is to ensure that the Roma are reflected in the National Recovery and Resilience Plans as stakeholders and beneficiaries, and that there is coherence with the National Roma Strategic Frameworks and the MFF Programmes – which are also prepared now.

The European Commission’s Guidance Note explicitly invites Member States to consult civil society organisations in the drafting and implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plans, as well as to describe their consultation and include a summary of stakeholder contributions.

1. Find out who is in charge

Most likely, the Minister for Finance / Economy or the Prime Minister's office will draft the Plans. If you have any contacts in any Ministry, don't hesitate to ask them. Get in touch with the National Roma Contact Point, ask information about the process and offer to support them to get involved – you are stronger together. Contact the European Semester Officers – they are European Commission officials stationed in your capital (in the Commission Representation) and they oversee your Government's delivery on the European Semester. They are very powerful allies, have a lot of information, are quite approachable, and speak your language.

2. Connect the dots

There are three parallel processes currently taking place: the drafting of National Roma Strategic Frameworks (EU Roma Strategic Framework); the drafting of the Programmes (MFF / Cohesion Policy); the drafting of Recovery and Resilience Plans (European Semester). All of these are done by your Government on different timelines, so we must try to push for policy coherence around Roma inclusion, arguing that Roma rights and inclusion should be prominent in both the MFF Programmes and the NRRPs, and that the Roma should be significantly prioritised in both. This has a double objective: to ensure that the right policies and actions are enacted for Roma rights, and to secure funding streams for Roma inclusion projects and activities in your country.

3. Prepare key messages

Governments don't want long policy papers or research, but 3-5 concentrated key messages that are short and to the point. In some countries, you might be invited to take part in consultation meetings, or you might even have the opportunity to see the draft Plans and be allowed to comment. But whatever happens, be prepared with strong key messages that you can quickly feed into any discussion. Make as strong links as you can with the targets and commitments of the EU Roma Strategic Framework, the 20 policy principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and the Country-Specific Recommendations of 2019 and 2020 (which remain valid).

4. Ask to be involved

Governments should invite civil society and other stakeholders to contribute to the Plans. They must also report to the European Commission how they did it (this is indicated in the Commission's Guidance to Member States on preparing the Plans). Use all your contacts to find out information, to pro-actively set up or join lobbying and consultation meetings (in person or online), and to push for your key messages on Roma. These contacts include the National Roma Contact Point, the European Semester Officers, anyone you know in your Government.

5. Build alliances and use media

Reach out to other civil society actors, social partners, other stakeholders, Members of Parliament etc, to try to develop joint messages and advocacy. This is a hot topic for everybody at the moment, so you are likely to easily find support. Use any means at your disposal – including your website, social media, traditional media etc – to make your key messages and input widely known. This is something that the press will be reporting on, since it's about big EU money being given to countries to deal with the pandemic, so make sure the Roma are included.