

The future of transport in the context of the Recovery Plan - overview briefing



See the full study

The EU's main transport policy objectives are threefold: promote sustainable forms of transport, improve the digitalisation of transport, and make the transport system more resilient. **29 EU priorities** in the field of transport are identified in this study: twelve are related to sustainable transport, nine to smart transport and eight to the theme of resilient transport.

The EU's Recovery Plan, called **Next Generation EU (NGEU)**, consists of the **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**, with an allocated sum of **€723.8 billion** in loans and grants, and several other smaller programmes, to which **€83.1 billion** have been allocated.

The main focus of this report is the RRF, the centrepiece of the NGEU. The **29 EU priorities** in the field of transport fall under **the scope of the RRF**

The study

provides an overview of the EU policy priorities in the field of transport and the Recovery Plan's funding opportunities for the transport sector.

Main observations

It is concluded that due to the broad formulation of the goals of the RRF, **all EU priorities in the field of transport fall under the scope of the RRF**. While this is true, due to the way the goals of the RRF and the funding requirements are defined, certain transport measures are more likely to be included in the **National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRP)** by Member States than others.

Transport measures most eligible for RRF funding are:

- Measures related to transport-specific challenges such as: green transition, digital transformation, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, social and territorial cohesion, health, and economic, social and institutional resilience and, finally, policies for the next generation.
- Measures related to the Country Specific Recommendations (CSR) for Member States in the



field of transport, which are, in general, related to accelerating the use of low and zero-emission technologies in transport, the provision of renewable energy, and providing 5G coverage.

- Measures contributing to gender equality and equal opportunity for all.
- Measures that are coherent with other measures.
- Measures contributing to the 37% and 20% minimum expenditure target for investments in climate and digitalisation, respectively.

In addition, the measures must also meet certain requirements to be eligible for RRF funding. In particular:

- Measures need to be mature enough to define milestones and targets at the time of submission of the plan.
- Measures must be completed before August 2026.
- Measures must not significantly impair efforts in climate change mitigation; climate change adaptation; sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources; the circular economy; pollution prevention and control and the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

While the broad formulation of the goals of the RRF allows Member States to develop more customised actions in areas where they see fit, at the same time, too little guidance may lead to certain transport priorities remaining unaddressed.



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Reimbursement will take place based on the milestones achieved by Member States and agreed with the EU in advance.

As for the other programmes that fall under the NGEU, the following programmes are relevant for transport:

Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe (REACT-EU) and the Just Transition Fund (JTF), which can be used for transport topics falling under the Cohesion policy, whereby the JTF specifically is for addressing climate issues.

For Horizon Europe, €1.35 billion is added to the transport-relevant cluster 'Climate, Energy and Mobility'.

Additional funds for the InvestEU (€6.1 billion) programme can be used to finance riskier transport-related measures.

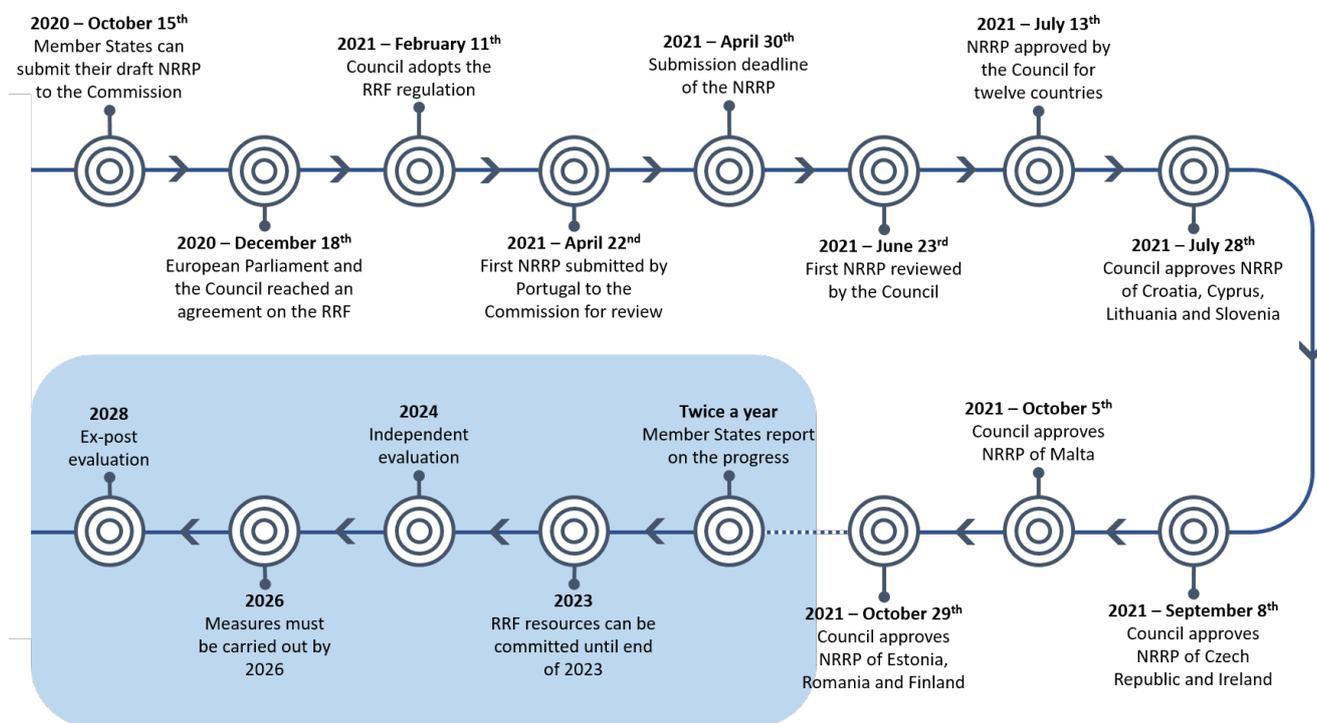
Conclusions

The list of 29 policy priorities identified in this overview briefing will serve as the basis of the analysis framework in **the full study, to be delivered in the spring of 2022**. This list is used to identify which EU transport priorities are covered by the National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRP) and which are not. It will help to assess how well the EU policy priorities in the field of transport are covered by the NRRPs submitted by Member States.

Next steps

The list of 29 policy priorities identified in this overview briefing will serve as the basis of the analysis framework in the full study, to be delivered in the spring of 2022.

RRF Timeline



Source: Authors' preparation based on <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-recovery-plan> and <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/20201006-recovery-resilience-rrf>

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