



***MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI E DELLA COOPERAZIONE
INTERNAZIONALE***

Comitato Interministeriale per i Diritti Umani

***Italy's contribution following the Call for inputs on the
Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights'
Thematic Report on "Best Practices in the Contribution of
Development to the Promotion and Protection of
Human Rights in the Context of Recovery from the
COVID-19 Pandemic"***

Maggio 2024



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Following the request for the Call for Inputs, Italian authorities are pleased to the following information.

Best practices and lessons learned on policies, initiatives, mechanisms, safeguards or emergency packages that have been put in place by your government to tackle rising poverty and inequalities in the context of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that helped advance human rights including the right to development.

Can you highlight initiatives or strategies that proved effective to protect disadvantaged groups' rights and prevent that they be pushed further behind?

In order to address the challenges related to the pandemic crisis and the subsequent slowdown of the European economies, the European Union has set up the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), a new financial instrument to support recovery in the Member States, as part of the Next Generation EU. The Recovery and Resilience Facility, whose operation is governed by Regulation No 2021/241/EU, has a maximum initial budget of EUR 723.8 billion, of which EUR 338 billion in grants and EUR 385 billion in loans. With the amendments introduced by Regulation (EU) 2023/435 (REPowerEU), additional grants (18.9 billion) were made available to Member States under the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and the Brexit Adjustment Reserve. The Member States also requested fewer resources for loans than were available. Thus, the total allocation of the Facility amounts to EUR 648 billion, of which 357 billion in grants and 291 billion in loans.

Italy received the largest allocation, initially amounting to EUR 191.5 billion, of which EUR 122.6 billion in loans and EUR 68.9 billion in grants. Italy's PNRR (Recovery and Resilience Plan) was approved on 13 July 2021 by a Council Implementing Decision. The Decision is accompanied by an Annex defining, in relation to each investment and reform, precise objectives and targets, the achievement of which constitutes the conditionality to which the disbursement of resources is subject. The achievement of the targets and objectives, to which each of the actions of the NRP is aimed, is cadenced on a six-monthly basis, starting from the second half of 2021 and ending on 31 December 2026, the date of conclusion of the Plan implementation process. The disbursement of the resources by the European Commission (net of the pre-financing from which Italy initially benefited) takes place on a six-monthly basis, at the end of the process of evaluating the Member State's achievement of the targets and objectives for the six-month period of reference.

The original PNRR is structured on 6 Missions, which in turn are divided into 16 Components concerning 43 areas of intervention, and provides for at least 40% of the total resources to be allocated to the territories of southern Italy. Moreover, in compliance with the thresholds set by European regulations, the Plan provides that 37 per cent of the resources are to be allocated to interventions for the ecological transition and 25 per cent to the digital transition.

The NRRP as amended on 8 December 2023 includes a new Mission 7 dedicated to the objectives of the REPowerEU. In the new Plan there are 145 new or modified measures, including those in the new Mission 7. The measures in the REPowerEU chapter are intended to strengthen fundamental reforms in areas such as justice, public procurement and competition law. A number of new or enhanced investments aim to promote Italy's competitiveness and resilience, as well as the green and digital transition, and cover areas such as renewable energy, green supply chains and railways. The changes resulted in an increase to 39% of the resources earmarked for measures in support of climate objectives.

The reshaping of the Plan entailed a different profile of resource disbursement by the Commission, as the achievement of most of the Plan's overall objectives was shifted forward. In particular, in the new configuration of the Plan, the number of Milestones and Targets increased to 617, compared to 527 in the original NRP. With regard to the temporal distribution of the targets, the completion of the Plan from 2024 (i.e. from the sixth to the tenth instalment) requires the achievement of 439 targets (compared to 349 in the original Plan). In particular, the tenth instalment, which absorbs the largest share of resources (16.8% of the PNRR funding), corresponds to the achievement of 173 Goals/Objectives, about 28% of the total.

Could you share promising methodologies that your government used for National Development Plans to tackle rising poverty and inequalities and leave no one behind, in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

Can you share good practices, lessons learned and examples of national public finance and debt management frameworks, policies or laws that ring fenced States' legal obligations on economic, social and other rights?

On the whole, the revision of the NRRP entailed the financing of additional investments amounting to approximately EUR 25 billion, of which EUR 11.17 billion related to Mission 7, and the defining of interventions amounting to approximately EUR 22 billion.

In order to enable the monitoring of the PNRR measures through the sustainability indicators, the National Institute of Statistics makes available an 'information dashboard' for navigating between the missions of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) and the welfare and development indicators.

It should be noted that the National Reform Programme (PNR), contained in Section III of the 2024 Economic and Financial Document (DEF), contains a chapter, the fourth, entitled 'Italy's path towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the sustainable development objectives', in which an analysis is provided of the state of implementation of the most relevant objectives, grouped according to the 'four dimensions of competitive sustainability' (environmental sustainability, productivity, equity and macroeconomic stability), highlighting the measures envisaged by the PNRR to achieve these objectives.

It should also be noted that the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Ecological Transition Resolution No. 1 of 18 September 2023 approved the periodic update of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.