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LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR RECOVERY: BELGIUM

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Belgium's recovery and resilience plan

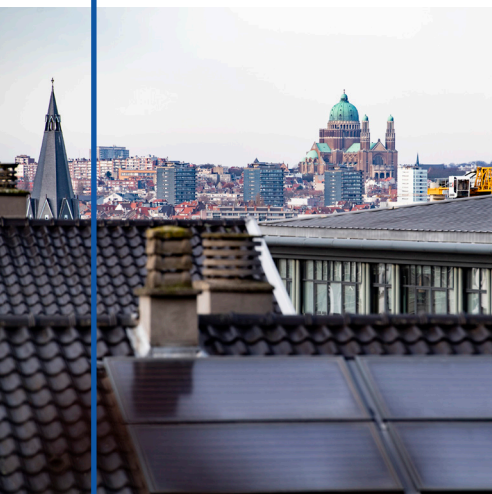
The European Commission has given a positive assessment to **Belgium's recovery and resilience plan, which will be financed by €5.9 billion in grants.**

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 Belgium to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Belgian 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, Belgium's plan will protect the climate through large-scale energy-efficiency renovations and the greening of road transport. It will digitalise the public administration, strengthen cybersecurity, make public spending more efficient and sustainable, and improve education and training across the country.

KEY MEASURES TO SECURE BELGIUM'S GREEN TRANSITION

50% of the plan's total allocation for reforms and investments supports climate objectives



▶ **Energy-efficient renovation of residential and public buildings:** financing renovation wave across regions to increase the energy efficiency of public buildings, social housing and residential buildings. **€1 billion**



▶ **Novel low-carbon energy technologies:** financing innovative hydrogen projects and the construction of a multi-functional energy platform in the North Sea to connect 2.1 GW of offshore wind electricity to Belgium. **€540 million**



▶ **Sustainable transport:** financing of 356 green buses for public transport, promoting the deployment of over 78,000 electric charging stations, improving railway infrastructure and intermodal platforms in ports across the country, creating or refurbishing 1500 km of cycling pathways. **€920 million**



- ▶ **Greening of the company car tax scheme:** restricting the preferential tax scheme to new company cars that are zero emission from 2026 onwards.

KEY MEASURES TO SUPPORT BELGIUM'S DIGITAL TRANSITION

27% of the plan's total allocation for reforms and investments supports digital objectives



- ▶ **Reinforcing cyber resilience and security:** increasing cyber risk awareness and management capabilities for SMEs and boosting Belgium's response capacity to cyberattacks. **€80 million**

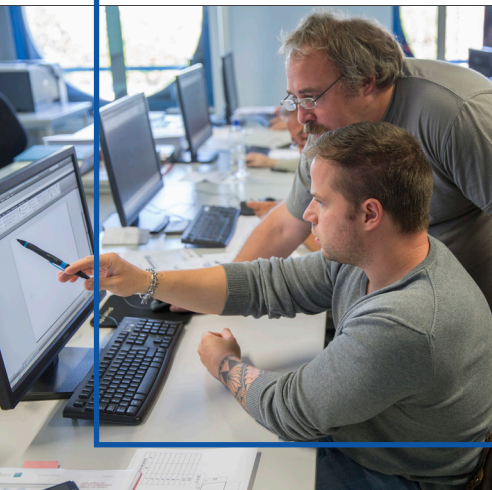


- ▶ **Education 2.0:** financing a more inclusive and future-proof education system across communities with improved digital and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) skills of pupils and students and access to digital tools and technology. **€480 million**



- ▶ **E-services:** investing in the digital transformation of the public administration, justice system and health care system to improve access for citizens and businesses. **€585 million**

KEY MEASURES TO REINFORCE BELGIUM'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE



- ▶ **Efficient and sustainable public spending:** reviewing the quality and efficiency of Belgium's public spending, allowing to reprioritise towards more growth and environmentally friendly expenditures, and improving the sustainability and adequacy of pensions.







- ▶ **Reskilling and upskilling:** improving and expanding training to facilitate the integration of vulnerable groups – including people with a migrant background, the low-skilled, people with disabilities - and to improve access to the labour market for job seekers. **€450 million**



- ▶ **Boosting research and innovation capacity:** financing research and innovation infrastructure and boosting R&D programmes, with a focus on the green and digital transition. **€400 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.