Baker McKenzie.

Solutions for a connected world

EUROPEAN RECOVERY PLAN:

Funding opportunities under Member States' recovery plans!

Why is this important? Unprecedented amounts of financing are being made available by the European Commission to EU Member States. This funding will support the transformation to greener, more digital, sustainable and resilient economies and businesses active in the EU will be able to benefit.

The European Recovery Plan (ERP) in numbers:

- EUR 1.8 trillion to boost economic resilience and recovery.
- EUR 338 bn in grants and EUR 385.8 bn in loans available to the 27 EU Member States.

What projects can receive financing? Projects must: (i) be completed by the end of August 2026, and (ii) fall within one or more Member State Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs). Generally, these will cover projects that improve sustainability and resilience, that are particularly innovative, and especially projects that promote the green transition and digital transformation. Member States have earmarked about 40% of the plans' total volume to green transition measures and 26% to digital transition measures.

Funding opportunities are opening up! At the end of March 2022, already 23 Member States had their RRPs vetted by the EU Commission and the Council.* The volume of these 23 RRPs totals EUR 448 bn. Member States have received almost EUR 150bn RRP funding already and have started

allocating and financing projects.

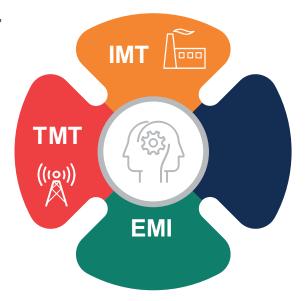
Significant funding remains to be allocated to projects by the end of 2023. Member States are open for discussion of projects that fall within their RRPs, including because they only have until the end of 2026 to spend their allocations.

Additional funding may still become available! In addition, the Commission has encouraged Member States to take up EUR 200bn of unused loans to expand their RRPs to accelerate the EU's energy independence and security given the current geopolitical situation.

What does that mean for businesses active in the EU? You should (continue to) identify and take advantage of funding opportunities under Member States existing RRPs and actively seek to explore additional energy transition opportunities that are likely to arise.

How we can help? Our teams, including in Brussels and in the main recipient Member States (Italy, Spain, France and Germany), assist throughout the process from assessing opportunities and projects, through the application and grant process, to advising on the implementation of your project, including compliance with applicable rules particularly on procurement and State aid.

Click below for industry specific examples of opportunities from Member States' RRPs!

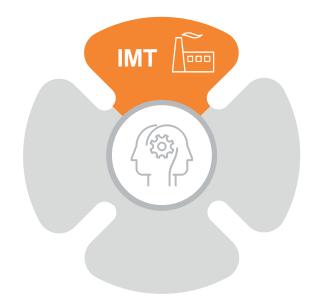


^{*} The RRPs of Bulgaria, Poland and Hungary are still being assessed and the Netherlands had not submitted their RRP.

Industrials, Manufacturing & Transportation

- Accelerate the diversification, modernization and environmental transformation and get funding for R&D&I in "green plane" technologies (aeronautics support plan; France, Belgium)
- Support to the space industry by way of loans and grants for (collaborative) R&D&I (France, Belgium)
- Support to strengthen research structures and create national R&D champions in key enabling technologies for aerospace and sustainable mobility (Italy).
- Support for the development and modernization of railways (Austria, France)
- Decarbonization / transformation aid for investments towards climate neutrality of the industry (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany)
- Funding for R&D projects and investments in climate friendly industrial assets/facilities (Germany)
- Carbon contracts for difference (CCfDs) for companies actives in sectors that require the allocation or acquisition of emission certificates (Germany)

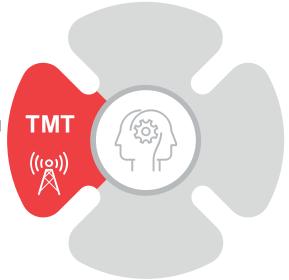
- Aid for investments in reuse and recycling (e.g. of plastics) promotion of the circular economy (Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain)
- Funding of emission-free utility vehicles and infrastructures (Austria)
- Tax advantages for zero-emission company cars (Belgium)
- 10-year tax exemption for purely electric vehicles (Germany)
- Subsidies ("Innovationsprämie") for the purchase of electric vehicles (Germany)
- Grants for the construction of public charging and fueling infrastructure (Germany)
- Funding to promote alternative rail propulsion and for rail vehicles with alternative propulsion (Germany)
- Funding for the automotive industry and its supply industries for the development of hydrogen-based transportation (Germany)
- Electromobility grants for R&D projects, environmental studies and acquisition of electric vehicles and charging infrastructures (Germany)
- Funding for the purchases of busses with alternative propulsion (Germany)



Technology, Media & Telecommunications

- Participation in important projects of common European Interest (IPCEIs) on Microelectronics, Cloud and Telecommunications (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy).
- Support to high-tech industrial projects and for the semiconductor industry (Italy)
- Incentives for digital transition and digital skills for investments in tangible and intangible assets (Italy)
- Support to strengthen research structures and the creation of national R&D champions on key enabling technologies for big data, quantum computing, fintech and the digitalization of industry (Austria, France, Italy).
- Aid for gigabit-capable access networks and symmetrical gigabit connections in areas with special socio-economic priorities (Austria)
- Financing for gigabit connectivity and connectivity in the context of innovative sectorial digitization projects (health, agri-food, mobility, tourism, industry, commerce, etc.) (Spain)
- Aid for the digitization of SMEs and other enterprises (Austria, France)
- Support for projects aimed at increasing cyber security for SMEs (Belgium)
- Investment aid for the digitization of the culture and media sector (Belgium / Wallonia)

- Package of measures for "Innovative Data Policy in Germany" in the field of digitization for companies active in fields of data procession and computer development (Germany)
- Support for ultra-fast broadband build-out based on calls for projects in 2021-2023 (Spain)
- Aid to optimize the adaptation and updating of telecommunication infrastructures in buildings (Spain)
- Grants for the development and experimental testing of 5G (Spain)
- Financing of large projects using AI in priority sectors such as the agri-food sector, tourism and hospitality, energy, mobility and climate change, biomedicine and healthcare (Spain)
- Grants for the incorporation of digital technologies in audiovisual products and services, the creation and development of audiovisual content in different formats (series, videogames, animation and others) (Spain)
- Aid for the development of strategies affecting intelligent operations, data governance, digital infrastructure, cybersecurity (Spain)



Energy, Mining & Infrastructure

- Investment aid for the development of innovative renewable energy integrated in buildings (Spain)
- Investment aid for the development of energy storage (Spain)
- Aid for the creation of a renewable hydrogen cluster for sectoral integration in relation to large-scale production, transformation and consumption (Spain)
- Aid for the development of the production and use of green hydrogen (France), including in the context of an important project of common European interest (IPCEI) for hydrogen (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain)
- Aid for the development of hydrogen and CO2 transport infrastructure (Belgium)
- Investment aid for hydrogen pyrolysis, green hydrogen ships and green electrolyser capacity projects (Belgium)
- Investment aid for renewable heat networks (Belgium / Flemish Government)
- Funding for specific lead projects ("Leitprojekte") related to green hydrogen technology (Germany)

