DRAFT REPORT

on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (2021/2251(INI))

Committee on Budgets
Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

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(Joint committee procedure – Rule 58 of the Rules of Procedure)
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EXPLANATORY STATEMENT - SUMMARY OF FACTS AND FINDINGS

Aim and timing of the report

Article 16 of Regulation 2021/241 establishing Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) stipulates that the Commission shall present to the European Parliament (EP) and the Council a review report on the implementation of the Facility by 31 July 2022. The purpose of this EP implementation report is to provide EP’s input to this review as regards its views on the progress of the RRF implementation.

Background

The RRF, as set up by Regulation 2021/241, aims at providing financing to Member States, through grants and loans, to finance reforms and investments, helping citizens and economies to cope with the COVID-19 impacts and setting up the basis for sustainable recovery. Financing from the Facility requires meeting specific conditionalities, set out in Article 18 of RRF Regulation. Member States are required to present a coherent set of reforms and investments in a national Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) in order to receive financing from the RRF. The Commission assesses the plans focusing on their relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and coherence, and proposes their adoption to Council through Council implementing decisions (CID). The RRF is a performance-based instrument and the payments are conditional upon the achievement of milestones and targets, as agreed in CID.

The role of the European Parliament

The EP pays particular attention to the scrutiny and oversight of the RRF. To this end, it established a number of channels for regular exchange of views with the Commission and for transmission of information in line with Articles 25 and 26 of RRF Regulation. In 2021, the EP held five plenary debates and adopted two plenary resolutions. In line with Article 26 of RRF Regulation, four Recovery and Resilience Dialogues with Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis and Commissioner Gentiloni were held in the joint BUDG-ECON Committee. On 4 March 2021, the Conference of Presidents established ECON-BUDG Working Group on the scrutiny of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF WG). In 2021, it held 18 meetings with the Commission, experts and stakeholders. At the request of Members, the Commission

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1 Relevance: (a) contribution to all six pillars; (b) contribution to effectively addressing all or a significant subset of challenges identified in the relevant CSRs; (c) contribution to strengthening the growth potential and job creation and to the implementation of the EPSR; (d) ensuring that no measure does significant harm to environmental objectives; (e) contribution to the green transition, including biodiversity, and whether they account for at least 37%; (f) contribution to the digital transition, and whether they account for at least 20%; including a security self-assessment.

Effectiveness: (g) whether NRRPs are expected to have a lasting impact; (h) ensuring an effective monitoring and implementation of NRRPs.

Efficiency: (i) whether the estimated total costs of the NRRPs are reasonable; (j) whether the arrangements are expected to prevent, detect and correct corruption, fraud and conflicts of interests.

Coherence: (k) whether NRRPs contains measures for the implementation of reforms and public investment projects that represent coherent actions.

2 RRF WG consists of 27 full Members and 14 Substitutes from the Committee on the Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and the Committee on Budgets (BUDG), as well as from following associated Committees: the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL), the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN).
provided a vast amount of information on the NRRPs, their milestones and targets, communication and visibility strategies. Members also receive information shared by the Commission with the expert group of Member States on RRF implementation and the staff of the EP participates in its meetings. All these channels are used to voice the EP’s views and expectations regarding various aspects of the RRF implementation.

Implementation of RRF

The RRF has been set up to provide financial assistance to Member States to help cater for the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. A paper by Commission staff evaluating the spillovers of the RRF points “For a fast spending scenario (four years), with evenly distributed spending between 2021 and 2024, we find that the level of real GDP in the EU-27 can be around 1.5% higher than without NGEU investments (in 2024).” Even if the economic effects of the RRF cannot be fully disentangled from other developments, it seems fair to conclude the RRF has had a positive impact on the EU GDP.

The RRF makes available EUR 385.8 bn in loans and EUR 338 bn in grants (in current prices). By mid-February 2022, all Member States but one have been submitted NRRPs requesting in total EUR 337.5 bn in grants and EUR 166 bn in loans. The 4 plans are pending assessment by the Commission. Seven countries have requested loans, although it is still possible request additional loans in the future. The Council has so far approved all the 22 Commission assessments. These plans requested the maximum possible amount of EUR 291.2 bn in grants. Six of the approved plans also requested loans adding up to EUR 153.9 bn (Poland, whose NRRP is under assessment, also requested a loan). 21 countries received pre-financing up to the amount of 13% of the total allocation, adding up to EUR 56.6 bn. Ireland did not request pre-financing. In November 2021, Spain and France submitted payment requests; the Spanish request for disbursement of EUR 10 bn was approved on 3 December and paid on 27 December 2021. The Commission received also payment requests from Greece and Italy (EUR 3.6 bn and EUR 21 bn respectively) end of December 2021, and from Portugal in January 2022 (EUR 1.16 bn), which are not yet approved.

- Implementation of the 6 pillars

According to the Commission, all national NRRPs met the green target of at least 37% set out in the RRF Regulation and the overall expenditure of the pillar on green transition is reaching almost 50% or EUR 220 billion. The Commission favourable assessment has been questioned by some external stakeholders. During the RRF WG of 26 May 2021, the Commission highlighted that the highest contribution is foreseen for measures on clean transport, building renovations, clean power and circular economy and biodiversity.

All Member States achieved the digital target of at least 20%, while some allocated more than half of their RRF funds to measures qualifying for the digital target. According to the Commission, the overall expenditure of the pillar on digital transformation is reaching almost 29% or EUR 130 billion. At the RRF WG meeting of 17 May 2021, the Commission noted that

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3 EU recovery package, Members' Research Service, 2021
4 Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard, European Commission
5 For instance the Green Recovery Tracker by Wuppertal Institute and E3G - Third Generation Environmentalism and the E3G’ study on Renovate2Recover.
6 Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard
NRRPs include a strong focus on the digitalisation of public services, including the health sector, with other measures covering digitalisation of business, connectivity, digital R&D and advanced technologies.

Pursuant to the Commission, NRRPs dedicate almost 50% of total expenditure or EUR 203 billion to measures to the third pillar on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including economic cohesion, jobs, productivity, competitiveness, research, development and innovation, and a well-functioning internal market with strong SMEs. Many Member States introduced measures on connectivity projects, reforms on business environment, promotion of private investment or reform of justice and public procurement.

Member States dedicate almost 43% of total NRRPs’ expenditure or EUR 189 billion to the pillar on social and territorial cohesion. At the RRF WG meeting of 27 May 2021, the Commission signalled that measures ranged from investing in skills and healthcare, measures to improve employability of disadvantaged groups, gender equality to support for people with migrant background figure prominently in the NRRPs. On labour market policies, measures include the provision of employment incentives for specific disadvantaged groups.

The total NRRPs’ allocation into the fifth pillar on health, economic, social and institutional resilience to increase crisis preparedness and crisis response capacity amounts to approximately 17% representing EUR 76 billion. According to the Commission, the total expenditure on healthcare-related measures amounts to approximately EUR 37 billion, which corresponds to 8% of the plans’ total expenditure. During the RRF WG of 29 June 2021, the Commission highlighted that the highest contribution is earmarked for renovating and expanding hospital infrastructure, followed by strengthening primary care and prevention, digital transition in health care and long-term care.

As regards the last pillar on policies for the next generation, children and the youth, such as education and skills, the approved NRRPs foresee expenditure of EUR 49 billion corresponding to 11.5%. Data presented by the Commission on 27 May 2021 showed that most plans include measures aimed to improve digital skill, reforms of vocational education and training, the performance of education and increasing capacity in higher education.

- **Respecting conditionalities, horizontal principles and other elements of RRF Regulation**

In its assessments, Commission concluded that all NRRPs comply with the 11 conditionalities and thus, gave a rating of A to most NRRPs. However, all Member States received a B-rating for the criteria that evaluates whether the estimated total costs of the NRRPs are reasonable. In addition, NRRPs have to comply with horizontal principles and other elements of RRF Regulation, such as:

- Under to Article 17(2), the Facility Regulation foresees the possibility to include in the NRRPs measures mitigating the effects of COVID-19 started from 1 February 2020 onwards.

- According to Article 5 of the Facility Regulation the RRF should not be used to substitute recurring national budgetary expenditure, unless duly justified. The Commission stated that approved plans only cover the initial costs of setting up and launching reforms with recurring costs, if the financing of the future costs could be ensured from the national budget.
According to Recital (23) of the Facility Regulation, the Facility should support activities that fully respect the principle of “do no significant harm” within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 (“Taxonomy Regulation”). The DNSH principle was evaluated for each measure according to the Commission technical guidance and the Taxonomy, and based on the explanation provided by the MS. In order to comply with the principle some MS needed to reconsider certain measures, especially in the areas of waste incineration, combustion engine and fossil fuel-based vehicles, charging infrastructure, ETS installations, and support for aviation sector, district heating, or boiler replacements.

According to paragraph 4o of Article 18 of the Facility Regulation, NRRPs shall include an explanation of how the measures in the NRRP are expected to contribute to gender equality and equal opportunities for all and the mainstreaming of those objectives. A large majority of NRRPs includes a specific section explaining how the plan addresses gender-related concerns and challenges.

According to paragraph 4h of Article 18 of the Facility Regulation, NRRPs shall indicate whether any cross-border or multi-country projects are foreseen.

RFF allows a limited transfer of funds in line with Article 7 of RRF Regulation. According to Article 28, the Commission and the Member States concerned shall foster synergies and ensure effective coordination between the Facility and other Union programmes and instruments. During the RRF WG meeting of 25 January 2022 the Commission explained that synergies among funds can be demonstrated by the use of knowledge acquired under other programmes when preparing measures under RRF. The Commission also outlined the areas where overlapping exist (see presentation dated 19 October 2021 to the RRF WG) and noted that it is intended, thus requiring a case by case assessment of what should be financed by which programme.

- **Protection of the financial interests of the Union**

Based on Article 22 of the Facility Regulation, Member States are primarily responsible for ensuring the protection of the financial interests of the EU, therefore Member States audit systems need to be adequate to carry out the necessary audits to prevent, detect and correct corruption, fraud and conflict of interests and to ensure compliance with national and EU rules. The Commission, OLAF, the Court of Auditors and EPPO can exert their rights laid down Article 129(1) of the Financial Regulation. The Commission’s role is to assure this by controlling the national audit systems, audit capacity, beneficiary data storage and audit plan. In case of inadequacies, milestones or targets were suggested to address the issues before the first payment requests are submitted.

In case of a serious breach of Rule of Law, the Rule of Law regulation applies to RRF and can

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7 Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment
8 EGOV in-depth analysis “Country Specific Recommendations and Recovery and Resilience Plans - Thematic overview on gender-related issues”
9 Regulation 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget
be triggered for these events, as well as the article 7 procedures\textsuperscript{10} or infringement procedures.

The use of data-mining and risk assessment systems such as ARACHNE can help prevent and safeguard against conflict of interest, fraud, corruption and double funding against situations. It displays legal links between companies and persons and can identify risks of conflict of interests. Member States are required to use systemic checks of the selected applicant tender before the award for the riskiest contracts. Irregularities may lead to the reduction of financial contributions or recovery of funds by the Commission.\textsuperscript{11} In addition to the information on the beneficiaries of the programme, also data on beneficial owner needs to be collected by the Member States.

- **Involvement of stakeholders, RRF monitoring tools, transparency of RRF implementation at national level and visibility of the RRF funding**

The RRF Regulation requires NRRPs to include a summary of the consultation process, however, this is not a formal assessment criterion. The Operational Agreements between the European Commission and the Member States foresee a requirement “to jointly organise an annual event with the participation of those responsible for implementing the RRP and other relevant stakeholders”. On 10 June 2021, the EP in its RRP scrutiny resolution deplored the fact that many Member States have not or only inadequately involved regional and local authorities in the drafting process of the NRRPs.

According to Article 24 of the RRF Regulation, the Commission will assess the implementation of milestones and targets, based on the justification submitted by the Member State. They are to report on the implementation of the NRRP by mid-April and beginning of October every year covering the full period of implementation of the plan.\textsuperscript{12}

Member States will also report on common indicators to the Commission twice a year (by 28 February and 31 August) starting in February 2022. In total, the EP and the Council agreed to 14 common indicators covering all six policy pillars, listed in the Annex of the Delegated Regulation EU 2021/2106.

Additionally, the Recovery and Resilience scoreboard, set up on the basis of the Commission Delegated Regulation 2021/2106 in December 2021, is providing an overview of how the NRRPs’ implementation is progressing and will thus foster transparency on implementation of the Facility.

Following the Commission recommendation, most Member States have designed specific websites where RRF-related information is displayed. The level and breath of available information varies widely. Some Member States provide granular information (to the level of final beneficiaries of projects) whilst others merely display the relevant documents. So far, four Member States have launched websites with tools allowing for the monitoring of the progress of the implementation of NRRPs.

Article 34 of the Facility Regulation calls on the Commission and the recipients of Union

\textsuperscript{10} Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU)
\textsuperscript{11} Commission presentation at 16th ECON-BUDG Working Group meeting on the Scrutiny of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF WG) of 19 October 2021
\textsuperscript{12} 11th meeting of the Informal expert group for the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility
funding to ensure the visibility of the NGEU funding. The Commission listed some recommendations to Member States on how to better communicate on the RRF contribution to investments and reforms, such as raising awareness and communicating on key moments, adding the EU emblem with the funding statement “funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU” in communications, or establishing a single web space providing information on their NRRPs and financed projects.

Further harmonisation of information available for citizens would foster transparency and accountability, thus reinforcing ownership of implementation.
MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility
(2021/2251(INI))

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Article 175 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,


– having regard to its resolution of 20 May 2021 on the right of information of the Parliament regarding the ongoing assessment of the national recovery and resilience plans²,

– having regard to its resolution of 10 June 2021 on the views of Parliament on the ongoing assessment by the Commission and the Council of the national recovery and resilience plans³,


– having regard to the Commission communication of 24 November 2021 entitled ‘Annual Sustainable Growth Survey 2022’ (COM(2021)0740),

– having regard to the Commission communication of 24 November 2021 entitled ‘2022 Draft Budgetary Plans: Overall Assessment’ (COM(2021)0900),


– having regard to the recovery and resilience scoreboard⁶,

¹ OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17.
³ OJ C 67, 8.2.2022, p. 90.
⁵ OJ L 429, 1.12.2021, p. 79.
having regard to the Commission’s recovery and resilience scoreboard thematic analysis on healthcare of December 2021⁷,

having regard to the Commission’s recovery and resilience scoreboard thematic analysis on modernisation of public administration and the delivery of public services of December 2021⁸,

having regard to the Commission’s recovery and resilience scoreboard thematic analysis on education of December 2021⁹,

having regard to the Commission’s presentation to Parliament of 27 May 2021 entitled ‘Contribution of National Recovery & Resilience Plans to the six pillars & European Added value’¹⁰,

having regard to the Commission’s presentation to Parliament of 24 June 2021 entitled ‘Launching the recovery – A recovery plan for Europe: the Recovery and Resilience Facility – Social, employment and education measures’¹¹,

having regard to the Commission’s presentation to Parliament of 29 June 2021 entitled ‘Launching the recovery – A recovery plan for Europe: the Recovery and Resilience Facility – Health sector resilience’¹²,

having regard to the Commission’s presentation to Parliament of 30 September 2021 entitled ‘Recovery and Resilience Facility – Exchange of views with the European Parliament: State of play of the HU and PL RRPs’¹³,

having regard to the Commission’s presentation of 26 October 2021 entitled ‘Recovery and Resilience Facility: State of Play – Council WP Industry and Single Market of 26 October’¹⁴,

having regard to its in-depth analysis of December 2021 entitled ‘Recovery and Resilience Plans – Thematic overview on cross-border projects’¹⁵,

having regard to its in-depth analysis of October 2021 entitled ‘Country Specific

Recommendations and Recovery and Resilience Plans - Thematic overview on tax avoidance, money laundering and corruption issues\textsuperscript{16},

– having regard to its in-depth analysis of July 2021 entitled ‘Recovery and Resilience Plans: stakeholders’ involvement’\textsuperscript{17},

– having regard to its in-depth analysis of October 2021 entitled ‘Country Specific Recommendations and Recovery and Resilience Plans – Thematic overview on gender-related issues’\textsuperscript{18},

– having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure, as well as Article 1(1)(e) of, and Annex 3 to, the decision of the Conference of Presidents of 12 December 2002 on the procedure for granting authorisation to draw up own-initiative reports,

– having regard to the opinions of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, the Committee on Budgetary Control and the Committee on Culture and Education,

– having regard to the letter from the Committee on International Trade,

– having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (A9-0000/2021),

\textit{Mitigating the social and economic impact of the crisis}

1. Highlights that the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is an unprecedented instrument of solidarity and a cornerstone of the NextGenerationEU (NGEU) instrument, ending in 2026, as the main tool in the EU’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic to prepare the economies of the EU to face the new challenges;

2. Welcomes the fact that even if the economic effects of the RRF cannot be fully disentangled from other developments, it seems fair to conclude that, so far, the RRF has had positive effects on gross domestic product (GDP) and that its effective implementation will be key for the EU’s economic growth; recognises that the RRF has helped to cushion EU economies and citizens from the most acute impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and is positively contributing to the EU’s recovery and resilience;

3. Notes that, according to the Commission, the real GDP of the EU-27 could be around 1.5 % higher in 2024 than without NGEU investments\textsuperscript{19}, when implemented effectively;


notes, furthermore, that the Commission forecasts that RRF grants will fund 24% of total recovery support measures in 2022;

4. Reiterates the importance of the successful implementation by the Member States of national recovery and resilience plans (NRRPs) in order to ensure a long-term impact on the EU economy and society; recalls that the RRF is a performance-based mechanism, whereby funding is disbursed upon completion of milestones and targets related to measures;

5. Emphasises that the packages of reforms and investments, particularly growth-enhancing ones under the RRF, should also generate EU added value; emphasises that the packages of reforms and investments under the RRF should also contribute to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights;

6. Deplores the fact that women, children, young people, the elderly and vulnerable groups have been the most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis; recalls the need to ensure that the EU leaves no one behind, and that it tackles gender-specific socio-economic impacts on its path to recovery;

7. Reiterates the importance of the six pillars in providing the Member States with a structure to propose and implement reforms and investments that tackle the green and digital transitions, the economy, productivity and competitiveness, social and territorial cohesion, health and institutional resilience, and measures for children and young people;

**Financing aspects of the RRF**

8. Notes that in the 26 NRRPs that have been submitted so far, Member States have requested a total of EUR 337.5 billion in grants out of the EUR 338 billion available; notes furthermore that not all Member States, in their current NRRPs, have requested the full amount of grants available to them;

9. Is concerned, however, that only seven Member States have requested loans amounting to a total of EUR 166 billion out of the EUR 385.8 billion available for loans, leaving a considerable amount available should Member States require loans at a later stage; is preoccupied that the limited interest for the loan component may lead to lost opportunities and prevent the RRF from reaching its full potential;

10. Tasks the Commission with analysing the reasons why the Member States have not requested loans to the full extent of their allocation;

11. Looks forward to more granular and disaggregated data allowing for a better understanding of the additionality impacts of the RRF; urges the Member States to provide detailed information to the Commission in order to ensure effective reporting of

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the impact of the RRF;

12. Notes that only nine operational arrangements have been signed between the Commission and Member States so far;

13. Observes that 20 Member States have received pre-financing of up to 13% of their total allocation, that one Member State has not requested pre-financing and that five have so far requested first payments from the RRF;

14. Recalls that the RRF Regulation provides for the possibility to include in the NRRPs measures started from 1 February 2020 onwards and that some Member States have made use of this possibility;

National recovery and resilience plans (NRRPs)

15. Welcomes the fact that 22 NRRPs have been approved and observes that as of early February 2022, one Member State had not yet put forward its NRRP; further notes that four NRRPs are pending assessment by the Commission;

16. Notes the fact that the Commission’s assessments concluded that all approved NRRPs address all six pillars of the RRF and satisfactorily fulfil all assessment criteria as set out in RRF Regulation and represent a balanced package of reforms and investments; considers that Member States could have better aligned their NRRPs to the six RRF pillars and the requirements of the RRF Regulation;

17. Reminds the Commission that the rule of law conditionality mechanism is an essential component of the RRF; calls on it to refrain from approving the NRRPs of Poland and Hungary as long as concerns regarding the observance of the rule of law and the prevention and detection of and fight against fraud, conflicts of interest and corruption persist in those countries, and to ensure that all the measures set out in their plans comply with EU values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union;

18. Urges the Commission to monitor very carefully the risks to EU financial interests in the implementation of the RRF and any breach or potential breach of the principles of the rule of law;

19. Notes that all approved NRRPs expect to reach the green target of at least 37% set out in the RRF Regulation and that the overall climate expenditure of all approved NRRPs reaches almost 50% or EUR 220 billion;

20. Notes that all approved NRRPs expect to achieve the digital target of at least 20% set out in the RRF Regulation and that the overall digital expenditure of all approved NRRPs reaches almost 29% or EUR 130 billion;

21. Underlines the importance that the NRRPs dedicate almost 50% of total expenditure or EUR 203 billion to measures to benefit the well-functioning of the single market, improving the business environment and promoting private investments; calls on the Member States to lift all unnecessary obstacles that would prevent SMEs from accessing the relevant RRF funding;

22. Notes that the Commission estimates social spending in the NRRPs to account for
around 20% of the grants and loans requested; observes that this expenditure focuses on employment incentives for specific disadvantaged groups, reforms of employment protection legislation and labour contract regulation; regrets that social investment measures have been rather limited to social infrastructure and that only some NRRPs contain measures for the development of proper care services and temporary support measures; supports the Commission’s aim, through the RRF, of building a more resilient and inclusive labour market;

23. Underlines the importance of reforms and investments in health, economic, social and institutional resilience to increase crisis preparedness and crisis response capacity, which account for more than 17% of total NRRP allocations, representing EUR 76 billion;

24. Notes that approved NRRPs envisage expenditure on healthcare-related measures of EUR 37 billion, which corresponds to 8% of total NRRP expenditure; expects these healthcare-related measures to contribute to increasing the resilience of healthcare systems and their preparedness for future crises;

25. Notes that approved NRRPs envisage expenditure dedicated to children and young people, including early childhood education and care, youth unemployment and skills, of EUR 49 billion, which corresponds to approximately 11.5% of total NRRP expenditure; is concerned that many NRRPs do not properly reflect the ambitions set by the European Child Guarantee and that they reflect only partially those of the reinforced Youth Guarantee;

26. Emphasises that the RRF should not be used to substitute recurring national budgetary expenditure, unless duly justified; notes that the Commission has only approved NRRPs to cover the initial costs of setting up and launching reforms;

27. Points out that the principle of ‘do no significant harm’ was evaluated for each measure by the Commission in accordance with its technical guidance; notes that in order to comply with the principle, some Member States had to improve certain measures;

28. Observes that a large majority of NRRPs include a specific section explaining how the plan addresses gender-related concerns and challenges;

29. Believes that NRRPs would benefit from further cross-border projects in order to enhance spill-over effects and contribute to EU added value;

30. Notes the Commission assessment that all NRRPs address at least a significant subset of challenges identified in the relevant European Semester recommendations but that not all challenges are addressed;

31. Recalls that, according to the Commission assessment, all Member States received a B-rating for the criteria that evaluates whether the estimated total costs of the NRRPs are reasonable;

**Monitoring and control mechanisms**

32. Urges the Commission to take the appropriate measures to ensure early detection of abuse of EU funds; calls on it to monitor rigorously any possible occurrence of double
funding and, if such occurrences are confirmed, to proceed with the recovery of funds without delay;

33. Recalls that Member States are required to set up a robust control system in order to guarantee the protection of the financial interests of the Union and to prevent fraud and tackle corruption, and that the Commission is responsible for assuring that these systems are in place before the first payments are approved;

**Governance, transparency and visibility of RRF implementation**

34. Reaffirms Parliament’s role in scrutinising the implementation of the RRF, in particular through five plenary debates held in 2021, two adopted resolutions, four Recovery and Resilience Dialogues held with the Commission in 2021, 20 meetings of the dedicated working group on the scrutiny of the RRF, parliamentary questions, and the regular flow of information and ad hoc requests for information from the Commission;

35. Welcomes the launch in December 2021 of the recovery and resilience scoreboard, which will allow every citizen to monitor the implementation of the RRF;

36. Notes that Member States’ NRRPs report on their communication strategies; deplores however that, without a clear standard, such communication campaigns are envisaged to be very different, thus limiting the visibility of the RRF and EU funding overall;

37. Calls on the Commission to fully take into account Parliament’s views in the upcoming review report on the implementation of the RRF, which the Commission shall present to Parliament and the Council by 31 July 2022;

38. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, and to the governments and parliaments of the Member States.