The policy reference framework

The policy reference framework is the **set of documents and processes that will underpin the identification of the specific challenges that Member States and regions will have to address** in their NRP Plans.

Rationale	• **Inform the programming** process in an operational and transparent manner • Ensure **predictability** as well as **level playing field** among Member States and regions • **Align with EU priorities** while taking into account **specific national and regional needs/challenges** of each Member State • Foster **consistency and complementarity** of policy reforms and investments across Member States, regions and the EU, improving impact and efficiency
When	• Key role at the **start of the programming period and mid-term review** • Member States are **not expected to reassess** their NRP plans to address updates to the documents aside from the mid-term review – but can in case of changing circumstances

Scope of the policy reference framework

NRP plans should **effectively address all or a significant subset of challenges identified** in:

European Semester	• Notably in the relevant CSRs, including those on the European Pillar of Social Rights • Stronger territorial focus
Relevant documents adopted/assessed by the Commission **related to the specific objectives of the Regulation**	• CAP national recommendations • Digital Decade recommendations • Rule of Law reports
Relevant documents and strategies adopted by the Council or the Commission **in internal security, European integrated border management, visa policy and asylum and migration**	Pact on Migration and Asylum, European and National Integrated Border Management Strategies, Schengen IT architecture, Schengen evaluation mechanism and vulnerability assessments, European Union Agency for Asylum monitoring mechanism, Protect EU Strategy and Preparedness Union Strategy

Publication/update of most of the documents by summer 2026

Alignment with other strategic documents

NRP Plan should also **be consistent** with:

- **National medium-term fiscal structural plans** (MTPs) (endorsed by the Council)
  - Current MTPs cover the period until-2028 or 2029
  - For the former, new MTPs are to be submitted by the Member States by April 2028 at the latest
- **National Restoration Plans**
  - Adoption at Member State level (taking into account observations by the Commission); planned by September 2027
- **National Energy and Climate Plans**
  - Plans adopted at Member State level (taking into account observations by the Commission); next cycle in 2027
- **National digital decade strategic roadmaps**
  - To be updated by Member States by **December 2026**

Contribution to the Single Market

Contribution to the completion of the **Single Market**, notably providing

- Measures with a **cross-border, transnational or multi-country dimension**, including **trans-European transport network** and **trans-European energy infrastructure**;
- Supporting **Important Projects of Common Interest (IPCEIs)** and operations awarded a **Competitiveness Seal**;
- Implementing measures underpinning the **Savings and Investments Union** (especially via **reforms**, e.g. promote the set up of savings and investments accounts for citizens; simplify access to capital markets for retail investors, including through streamlined national procedures and improved financial literacy frameworks; interconnect national company registers and digitalise access to financial information, facilitating cross-border investment and transparency).