

From Recommendations to Results: Is administrative capacity becoming the missing link in the European Semester?

Section for Economic and Monetary Union and
Economic and Social Cohesion (ECO),
European Economic and Social Committee
(EESC)

Capacity in the European Semester

- Since 2011: CSR on public administrative capacity in key utility sectors and EU funds
- https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/country-specific-recommendations-database/

adopted in the context of the European Semester since 2011 are registered in the database, as well as the Commission services' assessment on progress with their implementation over time.

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Version: 2026 - Semester Cycle (June) Country: Romania Year: Year Policy Area: Public administration

MIP EAR Assessment

☒ CSR and Subpart Level ☐ CSR Level ☐ Subpart Level

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Country	Year	CSR Nbr	Version	Text	Policy Area(s)	EAR(s)	MIP	Annual/Multiannual	Assessment
Romania	2025	3	2026 - Semester Cycle (June)	Improve the quality and effectiveness of public ad...	Research & innovation;Business environment (incl...	-	No	Annual	Some Progress
Romania	2025	3.1	2026 - Semester Cycle (June)	Improve the quality and effectiveness of public ad...	Public administration	-	No	Annual	Some Progress
Romania	2025	3.4	2026 - Semester Cycle (June)	Better prepare and prioritise large infrastructure pr...	Public administration	-	No	Annual	Some Progress
Romania	2025	3.5	2026 - Semester Cycle (June)	ensure mature public investment projects are carri...	Public administration	-	No	Annual	Some Progress
Romania	2020	4	2026 - Semester Cycle (June)	Improve the quality and effectiveness of public ad...	Public administration;Quality of law making	-	Yes	Multiannual	-
Romania	2020	4.1	2026 - Semester Cycle (June)	Improve the quality and effectiveness of public ad...	Public administration	-	Yes	Multiannual	Some Progress
Romania	2019	4	2026 - Semester Cycle (June)	Focus investment-related economic policy on trans...	Renewable energy, energy infrastructure & networ...	-	No	Multiannual	-
Romania	2019	4.2	2026 - Semester Cycle (June)	Improve preparation and prioritisation of large proj...	Public administration	-	No	Multiannual	Some Progress

Capacity in RRF, TSI and MTFSP

- 2021-2026 Recovery & Resilience Facility
 - Greece Technical Assistance and Italia 1000 esperti
 - Since 2023: renewed emphasis for RRF with “targeted” CSR on capacity
 - Largest 100 beneficiaries were public railways
 - TSI specific support to RRF plans
- 2025-2029 Medium Term Fiscal Structural Plan IT 2025-2029:
 - Italian Reform on public expenditure: To strengthen the capacity for programming, monitoring and evaluation of public spending
 - Monitoring with Annual Progress Reports (April)

Capacities in EU Cohesion

- 2014-2020: Thematic Objective 11 and action plans
- 2021-2027:
 - Semester Country Report 2019 “Roadmaps”
 - increased capacities of EU Funds managing authorities, intermediate bodies, final beneficiaries, and other bodies to prepare and implement projects, especially in waste, roads, railways, education, health sectors and for regional and local public authorities in preparation of their integrated territorial development strategies and project applications;
 - development and implementation of a roadmap on administrative capacity building necessary for the effective administration and implementation of the EU Funds;
 - enabling conditions (evolved from ex-ante conditionalities)
 - EC capacity building tools for cohesion policy with OECD

Capacities in future NRP 2028-2034 plans

- Council partial approach: TA also for A&C, ACB to regions, increased to 3,5%, TA distributed along MS internal structure
- NRPs new approach R&I and performance: Flat-rate for TA

Recommendations:

- New 2028-2034 governance and compliance framework is a challenge for the participation of weaker LRA and partners
- Module 10 on MLG, partnership and citizens engagement
 - https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/how/improving-investment/training_en
- Renewed strategic approach to capacity building to move from TA and compliance to systemic transformation
- From capacity of the public administration to capacities of the stakeholders

Questions?

We would be happy to help

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