

BULGARIA'S RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN

#NEXTGENEU | FEBRUARY 2024

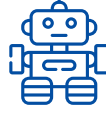
KEY FIGURES

EUR 5.69 billion in grants
8% of GDP¹

>35% value of **payments requested**
corresponding to
26% of milestones/targets



Climate Target
57.5%



Digital Target
23.1%



Social Spending
25%

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BULGARIAN PLAN?

GREEN

57.5% of the total amount dedicated to green objectives, including accelerated decarbonisation of the energy sector, uptake of renewable energy sources and storage capacities, and ensuring a secure and future-proof electricity system.

TRANSFORMATIVE

Reforms and investments addressing long-standing challenges, including decarbonisation, sustainable transport, digital connectivity, healthcare, education, social inclusion, research and innovation, public administration and justice, and the business environment.

FAIR

The plan has a wide range of social objectives, including strengthening institutions, fighting against corruption, supporting quality and inclusive education, improving social security, and ensuring better access to healthcare.

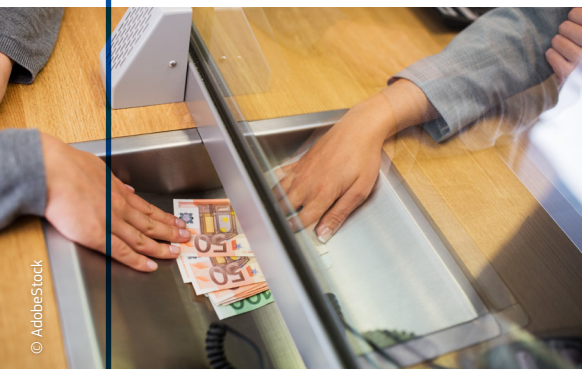
¹ Based on GDP in current prices for 2021.

HOW DOES THE BULGARIAN PLAN HELP CITIZENS?

It helps improve people's quality of life through improved **social security**, more **sustainable public transport**, lower energy bills due to **energy-efficient homes**, **improved air quality** on foot of decarbonisation and uptake of renewable energy sources, accessible **social and healthcare services**, and **quality education and training**.

FLAGSHIP EXAMPLES

Improved minimum income scheme



The Plan helps Bulgaria **improve the adequacy and coverage of the minimum income scheme**, which provides support for **lifting people out of poverty and promoting the labour market integration of those who can work**. Through the reform:

- ▶ The number of individuals receiving the monthly minimum income support will increase from 63,518 in 2020 to 116,873 at the end of 2024 due to an update of the eligibility criteria.
- ▶ Increasing the percentage for accurate calculation of the minimum income for each person in need depending on their individual situation. The income threshold gets automatically updated annually adjusted to the poverty threshold allowing for a more adequate support to those at risk of poverty.

Sustainable urban environment



The Plan is contributing to energy-efficient and sustainable urban environment in Bulgaria. Some of the measures aim to:

- ▶ Ensure fast and sustainable transportation, the Plan invests in the construction of a new 3 km section of metro line, which will transport 7.6 million passengers per year on average as of 2026.
- ▶ Support a comprehensive national scheme, which will lead to the renovation of at least 3.6 million metres squared of residential buildings and at least 1.4 million metres squared of non-residential public buildings.

HOW DOES THE BULGARIAN PLAN HELP BUSINESSES?

It tackles key challenges for businesses' competitiveness, including **skills shortages**, the **digitalisation and greening of business practices** and improving **the business environment**.

FLAGSHIP EXAMPLES

Far-reaching Economic Transformation Program



Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play a major role in the Bulgarian economy, but at the same time face difficulties in terms of competitiveness on regional, internal and global markets. Through the Plan:

- ▶ EUR 640 million is being made available to **SMEs and mid-caps** in the form of **financial instruments and grants** for **technological modernisation and green, circular and digital business practices**.

Improved business environment



The Plan contains a comprehensive set of measures which address long-standing challenges in the business environment and improve the institutional framework through improvements in areas such as: **justice**, the **fight against corruption**, the **digitalisation of the public administration**, the **governance of state-owned enterprises**, the **quality of legislative process, public procurement**, and audit and control mechanisms.

HOW DOES THE BULGARIAN PLAN **STRENGTHEN OUR UNION?**

It helps build stronger and **more secure EU financial system** and capabilities to **fight corruption and money laundering**. It ensures more effective **biodiversity protection**.

FLAGSHIP EXAMPLES

Effective Anti-money laundering framework



The Plan improves Bulgaria’s capabilities to **prevent and fight more effectively money-laundering** and contributes to the security and financial system stability of the EU by:

- ▶ Adding new aspects such as sectorial risk assessments of the non-profit sector, of virtual assets and of citizenship investment schemes;
- ▶ Adopting an action plan to mitigate the money laundering and terrorist financing risks identified in the national risk assessment, for instance by introducing specialised software to help analyse cash transactions reports and detect suspicious cases.

Enhanced and more integrated electricity network infrastructure



A EUR 190 million investment from the Plan will **enhance the electricity network infrastructure**, resulting in:

- ▶ A **modernised and more flexible electricity** grid, equipped with state-of-the-art digital tools, which can facilitate the seamless integration of additional 4,500 megawatts of renewable energy into the electricity system;
- ▶ An additional 1.8 gigawatts capacity at the borders with Romania and Greece, **enhancing cross-border electricity flows**.

Combined with further large-scale investments in renewable energy and storage, financed through the Plan, this can contribute to the decarbonisation of the energy mix of Bulgaria and its neighbouring EU Member States.

For more information: [Bulgaria’s recovery and resilience plan — European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-operations/infographic-12242024/attachment/attachment_data/file/442420/Bulgaria%20-%20Recovery%20and%20Resilience%20Plan.pdf)