BELGIUM'S RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN

#NEXTGENEU | FEBRUARY 2024

KEY FIGURES

- **EUR 5 billion** in grants, 1% of GDP<sup>1</sup>
- **EUR 264 million** in loans
- **29%** value of payments requested corresponding to 9% of milestones/targets

Climate Target 51%

Digital Target 27%

Social Spending 31%

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BELGIAN PLAN?

**GREEN**

Belgium’s Plan dedicates over EUR 1 billion to energy-efficient renovations of buildings and invests massively in sustainable mobility and emerging energy technologies to green Belgium’s industry.

**DIGITAL**

The Plan invests heavily in digital public administration and justice, as well as in digital education and inclusion. It also promotes cybersecurity, 5G and fibre coverage.

**INNOVATIVE**

Belgium is strengthening its position as an innovation leader with investments in R&D. Reskilling and upskilling measures will further boost productivity and innovation.

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1 Based on GDP in current prices for 2021.
HOW DOES THE BELGIAN PLAN HELP CITIZENS?

It helps improve people’s quality of life by investing in social infrastructure, contributing to the reduction of fossil energy consumption, pollution, and congestion, boosting skills and employability of vulnerable groups and enabling inclusive education and training.

FLAGSHIP EXAMPLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investments in energy efficiency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The <strong>Plan boosts the renovation wave</strong> across the country in order to reduce Belgium’s strong reliance on imported fossil fuels, to lower energy consumption and to reduce emissions, by funding works on:</td>
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<tr>
<td>▶ Private houses through progressive subsidy schemes for renovation dependent on household income.</td>
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<td>▶ Greening social housing.</td>
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<td>▶ Public buildings of federal, regional and local authorities.</td>
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<td>▶ Sports and cultural facilities.</td>
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<td>▶ Crèches, schools and universities.</td>
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<th>Life-long learning</th>
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<td>The plan helps tackle low labour market participation, increasing labour shortages and skills mismatches, as well as a low participation rate in adult learning in Belgium.</td>
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<td>As part of the Plan Belgium has implemented a reform:</td>
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<td>▶ promoting <strong>life-long learning</strong> by ensuring that workers can benefit from <strong>training to acquire skills</strong> in line with labour market needs.</td>
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<td>▶ aimed at improving training for unemployed workers to <strong>facilitate reintegration in the labour market</strong>.</td>
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HOW DOES THE BELGIAN PLAN HELP BUSINESSES?

It tackles key challenges for businesses’ competitiveness and resilience, including **skills shortages** and **cybersecurity**.

### FLAGSHIP EXAMPLES

#### Strong and competitive SMEs in the digital world

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are often more vulnerable to emerging cyber threats. The Plan **helps Belgian SMEs to increase their cyber resilience** by financing:

- Free **cyber-scans** to identify areas where cyber resilience of firms can be improved.
- A **“spear warning” system** to alert organisations of detected cyber-attacks.
- **Cyber maturity evaluations** and recommendations to businesses.
- **Awareness raising campaigns** on cyber security risks.

#### A skilled workforce for an innovative economy

The Plan boosts the competitiveness of the Belgian **biotech and biopharma sectors**, by addressing the **growing need for a skilled workforce**.

- Thanks to the Plan, a new 5,500 m² ‘EU Biotech Campus’ is under construction near Charleroi.
- The new centre will focus on developing skills and on delivering training programmes.
HOW DOES THE BELGIAN PLAN STRENGTHEN OUR UNION?

It invests in charging infrastructure to facilitate cross-border electric mobility and supports the creation of a North Sea hub to increase Europe’s energy independence.

FLAGSHIP EXAMPLES

Charging stations across Belgium

Belgium is a key transport hub in Europe and needs to accelerate the deployment of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. The Plan supports the installation of over 70,000 charging stations throughout the country, thus boosting clean mobility across the EU, via:

- A federal tax incentive to install private and semi-public charging stations.
- Regional measures to stimulate the deployment of public and semi-public charging stations.

Offshore energy island

The Plan supports the development of an offshore energy hub in the Belgian part of the North Sea, a first of its kind worldwide. This artificial island will be equipped with infrastructure to enable the connection of a new offshore wind park to the onshore electricity grid. This will more than double Belgium’s offshore wind energy capacity. The energy island will also make it possible to connect with other countries around the North Sea, thereby contributing to reducing Europe’s reliance on imported fossil fuels, increasing our security and greening our economy.