



Next  
Gen  
EU

# LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR RECOVERY: IRELAND

#NextGenEU | JULY 2021

## Ireland's recovery and resilience plan

The European Commission has given a positive assessment to **Ireland's recovery and resilience plan, which will be financed by €989 million in grants.**

The financing provided by the Recovery and Resilience Facility – at the heart of NextGenerationEU – will support the implementation by 2026 of crucial investment and reform measures put forward by Ireland to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Irish plan forms part of an **unprecedented coordinated EU response to the COVID-19 crisis**, to address common European challenges by embracing the green and digital transitions, to strengthen economic and social resilience and the cohesion of the Single Market. In particular, Ireland's plan will support energy efficiency, sustainable mobility, biodiversity and ecosystems, the digitalisation of public administration and businesses and contribute to up-skilling.

### KEY MEASURES TO SECURE IRELAND'S GREEN TRANSITION

**42%** of the plan's total allocation for reforms and investments support climate objectives



▶ **Advancing climate action:** enshrining the objective to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 into legislation and disincentivising the use of fossil fuels.



▶ **Promoting sustainable and green mobility:** encouraging a shift from private cars to rail transport by investing in the commuter rail network in Cork. **€164 million**



▶ **Energy efficiency in residential and public buildings, and businesses:** assisting households, businesses and the public sector to implement energy efficiency investments and green technology solutions to reduce carbon emissions. **€155 million**



▶ **Supporting biodiversity and ecosystems:** restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands to change land use from peat extraction to carbon sequestration. **€108 million**

## KEY MEASURES TO SUPPORT IRELAND'S DIGITAL TRANSITION

**32%** of the plan's total allocation for reforms and investments support digital objectives



▶ **Supporting the digitalisation of the public sector:** building an energy efficient government data centre, as well as supporting a range of measures to digitalise the public administration, in particular in the healthcare system. **€142 million**



▶ **Digitisation of businesses:** supporting the digitalisation, mainly of small and medium sized enterprises in Ireland. **€85 million**



▶ **Promoting digital skills:** providing connectivity and information and communications technology equipment to disadvantaged learners in schools as well as investing in developing digital skills in Irish education at all levels. **€64 million**

## KEY MEASURES TO REINFORCE IRELAND'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE



▶ **Aggressive tax planning:** adopting a reform to prevent double non-taxation on outbound payments to EU-listed non-cooperative and other no-tax or zero-tax jurisdictions, and other measures to curb aggressive tax planning in the country.



▶ **Fight against money laundering:** strengthening the supervision and enforcement of the anti-money laundering framework.



▶ **Resilience of the healthcare system:** supporting efforts towards creating a modern universal healthcare system where everyone has equal access to services based on need regardless of ability to pay.



▶ **Supporting quality higher education:** fostering the development of new education and training programmes in Technological Universities and enabling the development of regional innovation hubs. **€40 million**



▶ **Upskilling and reskilling:** developing a range of additional educational and training programmes with a strong focus on green, digital and future-proof skills, to support those most affected by the pandemic and foster the resilience of the economy. **€114 million**

## IMPLEMENTATION

- None of the plan's measures will do significant harm to the environment.
- Stakeholders should continue to be involved in the implementation of the recovery and resilience plan to ensure ownership of reforms.
- Disbursement of funds is performance-based and will reflect progress on reforms and investments set out in the plan.
- Control systems will protect against serious irregularities such as fraud, corruption and double funding.