European Commission

NEXT GEN EU

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR RECOVERY: AUSTRIA

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Austria's recovery and resilience plan

The European Commission has given a positive assessment to **Austria's recovery and resilience plan, which will be financed by €3.5 billion 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 Austria to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Austrian 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, Austria's plan will reform the tax system to make it greener and more social, increase digitalisation, protect the climate through energy-efficient mobility and renovation measures, and improve education and training across the country.

KEY MEASURES TO SECURE AUSTRIA'S GREEN TRANSITION

59% of the plan's total allocation for reforms and investments supports climate objectives


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- **Refocussing the tax system to benefit the climate:** introducing tax reforms to incentivise green technologies, preferential tax rates for low- or zero emission products combined with targeted tax relief for companies and households in need.
- **Emission-free transport:** supporting the transition from fossil-fuel powered buses to zero-emission buses, a large-scale rollout of electric vehicles and installing charging stations. **€256 million**
- **Circular economy:** reforming the re-use and recycling of beverage packaging, accompanied by financial support to install take-back systems in the retail sector. **€170 million**
- **Energy efficiency for homes:** supporting private households to replace oil and gas heating with more sustainable heating devices. **€159 million**
- **Environmental mobility:** expanding the electrified rail network between regions. **€543 million**

KEY MEASURES TO SUPPORT AUSTRIA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

53% of the plan's total allocation for reforms and investments supports digital objectives


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- **Improved digital connectivity:** reaching at least 50% of Austrian households with gigabit-capable connections supplying download and upload speed of at least 100 Mbit/s. **€891 million**
- **Easing access to digital education:** providing school pupils with computers and tablets. **€172 million**
- **Boosting future-oriented, transformative and innovative research:** supporting digital infrastructure and cross-border research collaboration to foster quantum computing. **€107 million**

KEY MEASURES TO REINFORCE AUSTRIA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE


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- **Fairer pensions:** recognising early entries into working life while abolishing early retirement pensions will minimise the risk of old age poverty; splitting equally pension benefits obtained during parental leave between the two partners will reduce the pension gap between men and women.
- **More and better kindergarten places:** providing additional places in high-quality early childhood care facilities, enabling also both parents to work full-time. **€28 million**
- **Lifelong learning:** providing up - and reskilling opportunities for people who have become unemployed during the crisis. **€277 million**
- **Business environment:** introducing supportive framework conditions for the business environment and making it easier to transfer the ownership of businesses within families or to third parties.
- **Future-oriented technologies:** investing in microelectronics and hydrogen production in projects of common European interest. **€250 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.
- Disbursements of funds is performance-based and will reflect progress on reforms and investments of the plan.
- Control systems will protect against serious irregularities such as fraud, corruption and double funding.

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