

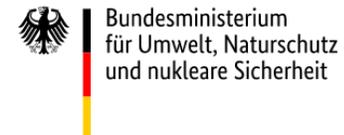
How Green are the Recovery Plans?

Budapest, 23 March 2021

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This project has received funding from the European Union's LIFE programme under grant agreement no. LIFE17 GIC/AT/000039
We acknowledge the support of the European Climate Foundation and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Short overview of the Recovery Plan

1. Status of the Plan (final draft? Has it been made public?)

Public:

- **13-page document on NRRP in general**
- **12-page document on “Green Energy Transition”**
- **11-page document on “Sustainable, Green Transport”**
- **13-page document on “Demography and Public Education”**

All of them

- **are very general,**
- **have very few concrete targets,**
- **lack several very important elements.**



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Short overview of the Recovery Plan

2. Public consultation

- How was this undertaken? Did you reply to it? In which form? (meetings, letters etc.) Was this a one-off feedback or a regular dialogue with the government departments?
- Did you have enough time to react? Were your input taken on board?
- The government has asked for comments (website <https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/>)
- We sent our proposals by email: <https://www.levego.hu/egyeb/ngo-proposals-for-the-partnership-agreement-on-eu-funds-and-the-national-recovery-and-resilience-plan/>.
One-off feedback, no dialogue.
- We had time only because we started preparing our proposals in July 2020!
- From the government: only confirmation that they received the email.



Short overview of the Recovery Plan

2. Public consultation



The Hungarian government is set to spend over 51 billion Euro, but forgets to consult with stakeholders

2021.02.11.



51,6 billion Euro, 40% of Hungary's GDP (2019) is at stake. This is the amount Hungary will receive between 2021 and 2027 from the multi-year EU budget and Recovery Fund, and a broad range of stakeholders from civil society must be included in the – currently ongoing – planning phase to set the goals and priorities of allocating these resources.

Members of the [Civilisation Coalition](#) and signatory civil society organisations find that they are excluded from meaningful participation in the consultation process, hence they address in an [open letter](#) dr. Szabolcs Ágostházy, the State Secretary for EU Development Projects, and call upon starting a real consultation about the allocation of resources which decide Hungary's fate for the coming years. In their letter the civil society organisations show the various ways the responsible ministries fail to fulfill their duties of consultation:

- The original full-length texts are not uploaded to the [website](#) of the consultation. Summaries without exact numbers and details make it hardly possible to submit elaborate proposals.
- While consultation of the Operative Programs, the key framework documents guiding the allocations of funds is still open, some drafts of calls for proposals are already out.
- Stakeholders are often not informed or called for consultation on a very short notice just before public holidays.
- Standing committees of dialogue between state officials and civil society actors are summoned rarely (once a year or less) and their recommendations pass unnoticed.
- These practices of the Hungarian state are not in line with the [European code of conduct on](#)

Complaint by 59 NGOs about the lack of proper public consultation

<https://www.levego.hu/en/news/2021/02/a-kormany-19-ezer-milliard-forint-elkolteset-tervezi-de-a-tarsadalmi-egyeztetesrol-megfeledkezik/>



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Short overview of the Recovery Plan

3. Your comments on measures/investments in the transport, buildings and agriculture sectors

- Have all these three sectors been covered in the Recovery Plans? Is there enough detailed information?

They are mentioned but practically nothing concrete.

- Highlight good and bad measures:
 - Are the measures good for climate, i.e. no fossil-fuel based projects
 - Do they respect the “Do no significant harm principle”

It is impossible to evaluate the government's documents – they are too vague.

Consistency between measures in the Recovery Plans and the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)

1. Your National Energy and Climate Plan was submitted last year and the European Commission gave its final assessment in September 2020.
2. Are the measures for **transport, buildings and agriculture** contained in the NECP consistent with the measures in the Recovery Plan? Are the measures in the RPs additional to those of the NECPs?

Nothing new.

Commitments to Policy Reforms – Use of fiscal instruments

1. Are fiscal instruments such as carbon taxes or green taxation part of the toolbox of measures in the Recovery Plan – and if so, which?
2. Are there any commitments to reform environmental harmful subsidies – if so, which?

No. (They only mention that the external costs of transport is equal to 6% of the GDP.)



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Consistency between measures in the Recovery Plans and the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)

- Your final recommendations for the way forwards (1)

Raising awareness, promoting our proposals:

- **European Commission** (will it do its job?) – cooperating in the evaluation of national draft plans
- **European Parliament** – can and should influence the Commission
- **National governments**
 - Setting up the proper institutional framework for monitoring recovery spending; not just administrative oversight but also assessing performance and alignment with the aims of the fund
 - Net donor countries of EU funding (a growing disenchantment with the way their taxpayers' money is used in net recipient countries)
- **Civil society** – preparing and setting up informal and formal CSO networks for monitoring and holding governments and EU institutions accountable



Consistency between measures in the Recovery Plans and the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)

- Your final recommendations for the way forwards (2)

Some proposals for the most important conditions:

- The national budget must be consistent with the aims of the RRF → removal of environmentally harmful subsidies, internalisation of external costs
- Indicators on national level with annual targets
- No discretionary funding to companies
To read: <https://hungarianspectrum.org/2021/03/20/jozsef-papp-hungarian-economy-is-distorted-and-disorientated-by-grants/>
- Full application of the non-regression principle
- Much more funding for raising public awareness
- Meaningful public participation



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Thank you

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RRF project website: <https://www.levego.hu/en/campaigns/eu-funding-for-the-climate/>

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