(English version)

Question for written answer E-001668/25
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(24 April 2025)

Subject: Ensuring transparency, efficiency and equal access in the Recovery and Resilience Facility's digitalisation projects

A large part of the Recovery and Resilience Facility's resources has been committed to the implementation of public sector digitalisation projects, which are in many cases undertaken by a few powerful companies. However, there are concerns about delays, low efficiency and the extent to which these projects actually boost regional development and the needs of the agriculture, fishing and local infrastructure sectors. Meanwhile, smaller and innovative businesses are often excluded from the process.

In view of the above:

1. What measures is the Commission putting in place to ensure the transparency and efficient implementation of the digitalisation projects financed by the Recovery and Resilience Facility?

2. How is equal access to the design and execution of these projects ensured for small and medium-sized enterprises?

3. Is there provision for evaluating the contribution of IT projects to strengthening agricultural production, fishing and regional infrastructure, so that investments also benefit local communities and not just large companies?

Submitted: 24.4.2025

Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(23 June 2025)

The RRF ([1]) supports reforms and investments proposed by the Member States, who are responsible both for their design and their implementation.

In their Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs), Member States explain how measures contribute to the digital transition. They are also required to assign relevant measures in their plan to a digital intervention field (IF) according to the methodology in Annex VII of the RRF Regulation ([2]).

Several IFs focus on the digitalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and startups and on actions supporting digital skills development, which can benefit SMEs. Support for the digitalisation of public administration, including the regional level, are captured, too.

Member States update the Commission on the implementation status of milestones and targets twice a year and the Commission assesses the fulfilment of the requirements set in the Council implementing decisions in the context of the payment requests submitted by Member States.

The RRF Regulation requires Member States to report twice a year on the 100 final recipients of the largest amount of funding, which are published on the Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard. Many digital projects can also be found in the map on the Commission's RRF website ([3]).

Member States are encouraged to consult and involve stakeholders in each phase — design and implementation — to ensure impactful and relevant measures.

During implementation, Member States must comply with national and EU legislation, including state aid and public procurement rules.

However, the RRF Regulation does not set any requirement for RRPs to benefit a specific sector or type of beneficiaries, leaving it to the Member States to identify the most appropriate ones according to their own national challenges.

([1]) Recovery and Resilience Facility.
([2]) Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility.
([3]) https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en#map.