How can the Italian PNRR steer the green transition towards sustainable growth?



Policy workshop 'Shared Perspectives' 2023 (*Bertinoro, 7th October 2023*)

Ottavio Ricchi



Ministero dell'Economia e delle Finanze

Outline

- 1. Introduction: The green transition and sustainable growth
- 2. The NRRPs: context and content
- 3. The Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan: an overview
- 4. Macroeconomic impact of the NRRP
- 5. The NRRP's contribution to the 2030 Agenda implementation
- 6. The Italian NRRP to steer the green transition
- 7. REPowerEU
- 8. The green transition beyond NPRR
- 9. A new European approach to industrial policies
- 10. Trade-off between the green transition and growth? Better to mitigate social impacts



1. Introduction: The green transition and sustainable growth

- Greening our economy while ensuring sustainable growth
 - ✓ Climate and environmental challenges into opportunities
 - ✓ A cooperative action at international level is required to mitigate GHG emissions
 - At European Union: common legal framework, ambitious goals in the medium and longer term and specific sectoral timelines
 - Targeted policies to reduce potential adverse side-effect on consumers and to mitigate the short-term impact on the most vulnerable
- Social, economic, environmental and institutional dimensions of sustainability, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Affordable clean and digital technologies to boost a new industrial policy
- Integrated policies to mitigate sectoral and social distributive impacts for a smoother transition



2. The EU Recovery and Resilience Facility: context and content

- <u>Next Generation EU</u>: the European Union response to the economic and social consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic
- <u>The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)</u>: a temporary instrument that is the centrepiece of Next Generation EU
- The six pillars of RRF
- ✓ green transition
- ✓ digital transformation
- ✓ sustainable and inclusive growth

- ✓ social and territorial cohesion
- ✓ health, economic, social and institutional resilience
- ✓ policies for the next generation
- <u>National plans</u>: reforms and investments presented by MS to be financed by RRF and other resources
- Main elements of the NRRPs
- ✓ The plans should assign at least 37% of total expenditure to reforms and investments that support the green transition
- ✓ A minimum of 20% of expenditure should support the digital transition
- All investments and reforms must respect the "do no significant harm" principle to safeguard the environment



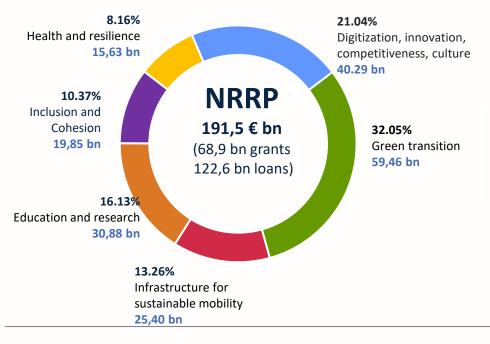
3. The Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan: an overview

Milestones

- qualitative goals to be achieved through a certain measure of the NRRP (reform and/or investment)
- often identify key phases of the implementation of the measures (e.g. legislation adopted, full operation of information systems)

Targets

- quantitative goals to be achieved through a certain measure of the PNRR (reform and/or investment)
- measured using well-specified indicators (e.g. km of railways built, square meters of surface area subject to energy efficiency measures, number of students who have completed training, etc.)



Dipartimento del Tesoro

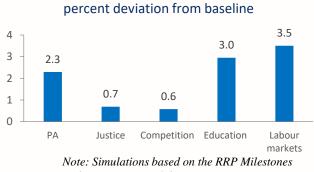
Transversal priorities

Reducing regional, gender and age disparities

4. Macroeconomic impact of the NRRP

MAIN REFORMS

- ✓ Public administration
- ✓ Justice
- ✓ Competition and public procurement
- ✓ Education and research
- ✓ Active labour market policies



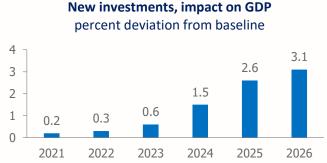
Reforms, impact on GDP (2050)

- and Targets. MEF elaboration.
- Structural reforms could raise GDP by 10%
 - ✓ In a low (high) scenario GDP would be
 4.5% (16.3%) above the baseline in
 the long run



NEW OVERALL INVESTMENTS

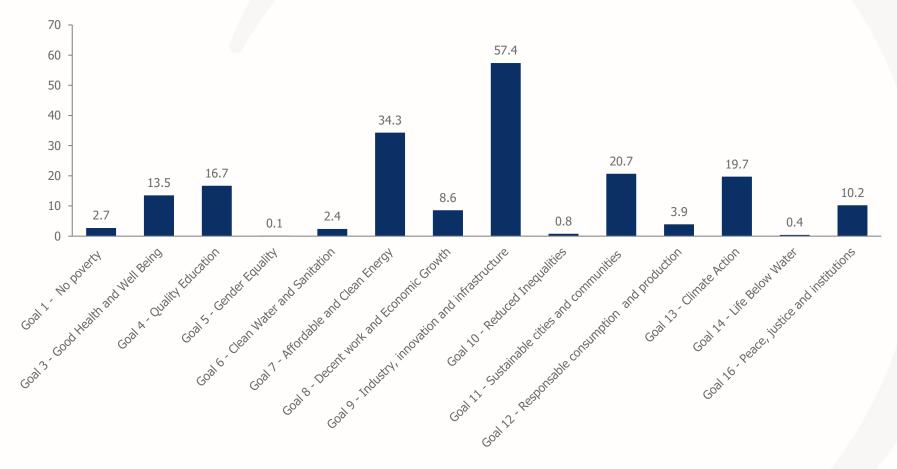
Source of financing (€/bln)	
RRF	124.5
React-EU	13.9
National fund	46.2
Total	184.7



Note: Simulations based on the updated RRP investment timeline. Preliminary results. MEF elaboration.

5. The NRRP's contribution to the goals of the 2030 Agenda

Agenda 2030: 17 Sustainable Development Goals – 169 targets
Resources allocated from the NRRP toward each SDG (in bn)



Source: ISTAT



6. The Italian NRRP to steer the green transition

- Investments and reforms to directly boost the green transition <u>Some examples</u>:
 - ✓ Investment M2C2 1.4 Promotion of renewable gas (bio- methane)
 - ✓ Investment M2C1 2.2 Agrisolar Park
 - ✓ Investment M2C3 2.1 Ecobonus and Sismabonus up to 110% for energy efficiency and safety of buildings (i.e. Superbonus)
 - ✓ Reform M2C3 1.1 Simplification and acceleration of procedures for energy efficiency interventions
- Investments and reforms that indirectly stimulate the green transition

Some examples:

- ✓ Investment M2C2 5.4 Support to start ups and venture capital active in the ecological transition
- ✓ Reform M3C1 1.2 Acceleration of the authorization process for railway projects



7. REPowerEU

- **Political context**: The conflict in Ukraine disrupts the EU's energy system
- <u>EU reaction</u>: New REPowerEU chapter in NRRP with focus on: i) save energy, ii) diversify supplies, iii) quickly substitute fossil fuels and iv) combine investments and reforms

• Italian proposal of REPowerEu chapter:

- ✓ Investments:
 - energy grids: i) high voltage transmission lines and cross-border electrical interconnection; ii) scale up of measures already within the PNRR (e.g. Smart grid and interventions on climate resilience of networks)
 - energy transition: tax credits and similar instruments to support: i) renewable sources and selfproduction plants; ii) agri-food and livestock sectors, iii) upskilling and reskilling of workers
 - strategic industrial sectors: i) energy-related production chains, ii) supply of critical raw materials

✓ <u>Reforms under consideration</u>:

- legislation aimed at reducing the costs of connecting biomethane production plants and mitigating the financial risk associated with Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) from renewable sources
- a Consolidated Law for the authorization procedure of renewable energy plants
- □ rationalization of subsidies for fossil fuels



8. The green transition beyond NPRR

- NRRP as short-medium plan vs a medium-long term process green transition
 - coherence of all policy instruments and engagement at all levels of government:
 PNRR, PNIEC, other climate related national strategies (e.g. Adaptation Plan, Air Quality, Green Treasury Bonds, cohesion funds, regional and local policies)
 - ✓ stable regulatory framework over time

□ The update of the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)

The national medium-term fiscal-structural plans

- <u>Significant additional investments</u>
 - ✓ Private and public resources
 - ✓ A new European approach to industrial policies
- Green transition and growth
 - ✓ Trade off?
 - ✓ Sectorial and social impacts



9. A new European approach to industrial policies

- The twin transitions are crucial and mutually reinforcing opportunities
- In the long term coordinated EU industrial policies are crucial to achieve a net-zero economy while remaining competitive
- In detail the EU industrial approach is oriented to
 - $\checkmark\,$ strengthen green growth and strategic technologies
 - ✓ ensure a predictable regulatory environment
 - $\checkmark\,$ improve access to finance for innovative firms
 - ✓ provide structural answers to European industries as they compete in a more fragmented global market
- Recent EU initiatives
 - ✓ Net-Zero Industry Act
 - ✓ European Critical Raw Material Act
 - ✓ Strategic technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)



10. Trade-off between the green transition and growth? Better to mitigate social impacts

- Estimated impact on aggregate growth slightly positive or, in any case, minimal
 - ✓ short-medium run or the long run impacts
 - ✓ possible technological and productivity gains
- Large sectoral shifts
 - ✓ The transition is expected to entail a significant reallocation of employment and output
 - ✓ For example some sectors stand to gain in terms of employment (i.e. construction, renewable sourced power, sustainable mobility) while others see a fall in employment (i.e. emission intensive manufacturing, fossil fuel industries)
- Most employment could be characterized as "white" but sectoral shifts will impact on workers in "brown sectors" that can be concentrated geographically and affect disproportionally low-skilled workers
- Need for specific interventions to mitigate social impacts
 - ✓ Training and reskilling within the NRRF (private sector and public administrations)
 - ✓ Measures to contrast energy poverty



Thank you for your attention.

E-mail address: ottavio.ricchi@mef.gov.it

