



ROMANIA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MAIN COMMITMENTS

FOR THE

NATIONAL REFORM PROGRAMME 2013

April 2013

Main (new or updated) commitments in the NRP for the next 12 months	Foreseen main measures	The estimated impacts of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative) ¹
<i>Modernizing the public administration</i>		
<i>Modernizing and strengthening national public administration</i>	Elaborating and adopting the <i>Strategy on strengthening the efficiency of public administration 2013-2020</i>	Increase the efficiency of the public administration, reduction of development gaps at the local level, strengthen the decision-making process, increase the quality of the regulations and public services, improvement of the citizens' access to the public services. Also, this strategy will address some issues related to regionalization and continuation of the decentralization process.
	Revising the procedures of preliminary impact assessment for public policy documents and draft legal acts (including the impact on SMEs)	Improvement of the quality of regulations and a better substantiation of public policies, with a favorable impact on business.
	Updating the <i>Strategy for Better Regulation</i> The revised strategy will include measures for the financial framework 2014-2020.	Improvement of the quality and simplification of national regulations, thereby increasing competitiveness and employment.
	Finalizing and implementing an action plan to improve the administrative capacity for EU funds management	Improvement of the functioning of the structures involved in the management of EU funds, development of tools to increase the quality of human resources, improvement of programming, implementation of these funds and their monitoring.
	Elaborating the national <i>Digital Agenda</i> Strategy	Stimulating demand for interoperable e-government services, both public and private. The estimated impact translates into savings to the state budget, economical growth and productivity.
	Elaborating the national <i>Next Generation Access networks</i> plan	Creating a high-speed Internet infrastructure in areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at a reasonable cost, providing affordable growth in all sectors.
<i>Improving framework conditions for enterprises</i>		
<i>Improving framework conditions for enterprises</i>	Elaborating and implementing plans to simplify legislation in order to reduce costs An initial plan to simplify legislation will be developed after	It contributes to achieving the 25% reduction target in administrative burden arising solely by national law.

¹ Cross references with column 9 of the standard reporting table (Annex 2)

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	<p>finalizing the second package of projects to measure administrative costs and to identify administrative burden (July 2013). The second simplification plan will be elaborated in Q2/2014.</p>	
	<p>Reducing the costs for starting a business Setting up a Joint Working Group ONRC-ME aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyzing the normative acts that are setting out taxes and tariffs for registration in the trade register of enterprises, - Issuing proposals for amending legal acts through which taxes and tariffs for registration will be reduced, - Proposing solutions for the improvement of services provided to enterprises for increasing the degree of the submission of the electronic forms by enterprises into the trade register. <p>The solutions will be implemented by ONRC and ME.</p>	<p>Reducing the administrative costs for starting a business to 100 euro.</p>
	<p>Reducing time for obtaining the licenses and authorizations The Working Group composed of central public authorities will inventory the authorizations and the licenses, will review the regulatory framework and will initiate, where appropriate, proposals for amending and completing the legal acts that establish licensing and authorization procedures.</p>	<p>Reducing time for obtaining licenses/authorizations from an average of 82.5 days to a level below EU average of 67 days.</p>
	<p>Improving the public procurement system, the measure foresees the effective implementation of recommendations in Deloitte study, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drawing up <i>The Romanian Public Procurement Code</i> - Eliminating the non-unitary practices of different actors involved in public procurement system and sustaining/coaching the contracting authorities in performing in optimum conditions the procurement process, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing-up guidelines / instructions / notifications, in order to harmonize at institutional level, the interpretations of legal provisions on public procurement in national law and European directives according to sensitive identified issues by the Joint Working Group ANRMAP-UCVAP-CNSC and by ANRMAP – issues 	<p>Enhancing transparency of public procurement procedures in order to increase the non-discriminatory participation of economic operators into procurement procedures, reducing the time to complete the procedures for awarding public contracts by contracting authorities, increasing the administrative capacity, reducing corruption and preventing the occurrence of conflict of interest in the public procurement process.</p>

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	<p>considered the most important to be clarified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing-up standardized documentations for contracting authorities in awarding different types of public contracts with repeatability character. - Drawing –up the <i>National Strategy for Professional Training in the field of public procurement at contracting authorities level</i> - Fighting against conflict of interest in public procurement process by modifying the legal framework and setting up an effective prevention and verification mechanism of conflict of interest 	
<p><i>Promoting economic competitiveness and local development</i></p>	<p>Elaborating the <i>National Competitiveness Strategy for 2014-2020</i></p> <p>The strategy aims at reducing the competitiveness gaps between Romania and average EU 27. This will include the main actions with <i>impact on competitiveness set out in the ME draft strategies in the field of business environment, SMEs development and foreign trade by ensuring synergies with RDI National Strategy for 2014-2020</i>².</p>	<p>Romania will focus on the capitalization of the potential of the specialized manufacturing industries and services with competitive advantage in order to leverage their abilities to attract SMEs in the supply chains, to innovating their technological processes and products and to penetrate on the new markets.</p>
	<p>Modifying the Law No. 283/2010 regarding the chambers for agriculture, forestry and rural development</p>	<p>Ensuring a better professional training of consultants and a more active involvement of farmers in decision making. In order to increase the level of accessing of the European funds for rural development 2014-2020, the improvement of the competitiveness in agriculture sector and of the advisory capacity it is also foreseen.</p>
	<p>Elaborating the <i>National Local Development Strategy for 2014-2020</i></p>	<p>Managing efficient resources and valorizing the regions potential of innovation and of the economic and social development in order to improve the quality of life by ensuring the welfare, the environment protection and the social cohesion for today and tomorrow sustainable communities.</p>
	<p>Elaborating the Plan for training in the field of State aid of the personal involved in European Funds implementation</p>	<p>The correct preparation of State aid schemes in various fields of intervention which could be</p>

² The first version of the *National Competitiveness Strategy* will be finalised in July 2013.

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		<p>financed under SF in the next programming period 2014-2020, as well as the increasing of the expertise in the compliance with the European rules of the personal from the institutions involved in the implementation of the European funds.</p> <p>The database will facilitate an efficient monitoring of the State aids and of the <i>minimis</i> aid granted in Romania from national funds and European funds and will contribute in the same time to ensuring the compliance with the cumulus rule and the <i>minimis</i> rule. This will avoid the failure in complying with the Community regulations in the field of State aid.</p>
Employment		
<i>Facilitate youth transition from school to labour market</i>	<p>Implementing Youth guarantee pilot scheme It comprises professional counselling services, internships, and traineeships completed by certified diplomas, youth job-brokerage fairs, apprenticeship at work, business counselling – promoting youth entrepreneurship for persons aged 15-24 years old.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing access to the labour market for 5,000 young persons that did not graduate the secondary school (young people aged 15-24 years that are not in education, employment or training)
<i>Defining the strategic framework on employment for the 2014-2020 programming period</i>	<p>Drafting the National Employment Strategy The strategy shall include four specific objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stimulating creation of "knowledge intensive" simultaneously to labor intensive quality jobs 2. Employment security correlated to economic performance and economic cycles phase. 3. Support global competitiveness in the knowledge economy conditions 4. Information and transparency on progress in the labor market to mitigate information disruptions between labor market stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving the labour force skills, and correlating them to the labour market needs - Facilitating the integration in the labour market of people facing certain employment difficulties - young people, older workers, disabled persons, long-term unemployed, Roma people, etc.
	<p>Drafting the Law on regulating the organizing the sectoral committees</p>	<p>Strengthening the support mechanism dedicated to social partners in order to draft policies meant to anticipate and manage the labour market changes and restructuring</p>
	<p>Amending the Law No 202/2006 on organizing the Public Employment Service</p>	<p>Improving the participation of the employers and trade unions' representatives in the tripartite management of Public Employment Service</p>

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<i>Research, Development and Innovation</i>		
<i>Elaborating the strategic documents for ensuring the funding of RDI activities in the period 2014-2020</i>	<i>Elaborating the National Strategy for RDI 2014-2020</i> The procedure for granting the project for elaborating the <i>National Strategy in the field of research, technological development and innovation for the period 2014-2020</i> was launched in September 2012. The contract, amounting 3.5 million Lei, was signed on December 20 th , 2012.	Promote innovation and improve technological transfer by developing the <i>smart specialization</i> component, based on the fields, sectors and regions identified as having a high innovation potential.
	<i>Elaborating the National Plan for RDI 2014-2020</i> Under the project for elaborating the <i>National Strategy for RDI 2014-2020</i> , the two main instruments for implementing the strategy will also be developed: the <i>National Plan for RDI 2014-2020</i> and the list of investment priorities eligible to be financed from European funds in the period 2014-2020.	Establishing the investment priorities in the R&D field and ensuring their multi-annual funding.
<i>Climate change and energy</i>		
<i>Efficient management of climate change and natural resources</i>	<i>Approving the National Strategy on Climate Change 2013-2020</i>	All national policies for the promotion of climate change adaptation and risk prevention (part of climate change) will be coordinated.
	<i>Developing National Action Plan on Climate Change</i>	An effective system for collecting and analysing data and information for all administrative levels will be developed.
	<i>Carrying out the analysis of cost recovery for water services (assessment study of environmental costs, including resource and benefits of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive)</i>	A system of contributions, payments, bonuses, fees and penalties will be established by law, based on the principles of cost recovery for water management: i.e. "user pays" and "polluter pays".
	<i>Developing of National Waste Management Strategy 2014-2020</i>	The general objective of protecting the environment and promoting sustainable use of resources in the waste sector, according to the new requirements / European guidelines will be achieved.
	<i>Developing of National Waste Management Plan</i>	The national target for reuse and recycling will be achieved by 2020, according to art. 11 of <i>Directive 2008/98/EC</i> and the <i>National Waste Management Strategy 2014-2020</i> .
	<i>Developing of National Waste Prevention Plan</i>	The national waste prevention programs will be established, according to art. 29 of the <i>Directive 2008/98/EC</i> and the <i>National Waste Management Strategy 2014-2020</i> .

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	Developing of <i>County Waste Management Plan</i>	The objective for reuse and recycling will be achieved by 2020, according to art. 11 of the <i>Directive 2008/98/EC</i> and the <i>National Waste Management Strategy 2014-2020</i> .
	Developing of <i>The Strategy for Sludge Management</i>	Sustainable investment in the field of waste management will be promoted, according to the provisions of the <i>2008/98/EC Directive on waste</i>
	Developing of a <i>Training Plan for staff involved in the implementation of EIA and SEA Directives, for 2014-2020 programming period</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing a standard document on how to prepare a training plan for 2014-2020; - Developing of a pilot training plan for Romania (containing the training subject, instructors, number of trainings etc). 	The expertise of staff from institutions involved in the implementation of the EIA and SEA Directives will be increased.
<i>Promotion of renewable energy sources</i>	Revising the support scheme on RES promotion in order to avoid overcompensation	Reducing the support scheme will contribute to diminishing the impact on energy bills (of final consumer) considered to be currently too high.
<i>Improving the energy efficiency</i>	Elaboration of strategic options (privatization included) and co-financing mechanism (through Structural and Cohesion Funds) for the centralized heating systems of the municipal sector³	The thermal energy losses will be significantly reduced and the quality of public service will be improved by promoting the investments for replacing the transport and distribution networks of the centralised heating systems.
	Promotion of financing mechanisms for the rehabilitation of public buildings	By increasing the energy performance of public buildings, energy savings could be achieved in addition to that derived from the rehabilitation of the residential buildings.
	Promotion of pilot projects on smart metering at the level of distribution systems of electrical energy	The smart metering systems will contribute to reduce the networks losses and will allow consumer to participate to the energy market.
	Thermal rehabilitation of the residential buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contracting the projects selected in the framework of the 	The financing scheme will contribute to increase the energy efficiency of about 46,920 apartments.

³ Technical assistance project approved through the Memorandum called *Conclusion of negotiations and signing the agreement - between the Government of Romania and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development - on the assistance for the implementation of projects financed through the EU Structural Instruments*

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	financing scheme <i>Support of investments in the energy efficiency of the multi-storey buildings</i> (KAI 1.2 – ROP 2007-2013)	
<i>Education</i>		
<i>Setting up a national strategic framework of public policies on decreasing early school leaving</i>	<i>Elaboration of the National Strategy on reducing early school leaving</i>	Coordination of all national policies in this field and an increased contribution of European funds for the projects aimed at combating ESL. In the medium run, the Strategy will channel the ESL rate towards a decreasing trend. The Strategy will result in the development of an efficient data collection and analysis system on school participation.
	<i>Elaboration of the 2014-2010 National Strategy on Developing/Modernizing the Education Infrastructure</i>	Expansion, rationalization and modernization of education infrastructure for all levels and forms of education based on an proper mapping and assessment of the adequacy of education infrastructure to the forecasts on demographic trends regarding people enrolled in school.
<i>Setting up a national and regional strategic framework on lifelong learning</i>	<i>Completion of the National Strategy on Lifelong Learning</i>	Coordination of all national policies in this field and an increased contribution of European funds for the projects aimed at increasing adults' access to education with positive outcome on labour force' productivity and skills.
	<i>Completion and adoption by Government Decision of the National Qualifications Framework</i>	Building-up a national qualifications system that will integrate all sub-national qualifications systems, related tools (qualifications registers), and all institutions with responsibilities in the field of education and VET. National Qualification Framework (NQF) will increase transparency of all education and VET systems and facilitate access of all people to lifelong learning.
<i>Setting up a national and regional strategic framework on tertiary education</i>	<i>Elaboration of the National Strategy on Tertiary Education</i>	Coordination of all national policies in this field and an increased contribution of European funds for the projects aimed at fostering access to tertiary education level and increasing quality higher education.

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<i>Social inclusion/Poverty reduction</i>		
<i>Reform of the social assistance system</i>	<i>Drafting the Law on Minimum Insertion Income</i>	- Improving the social benefit granting rules by unifying the actual benefits – minimum guaranteed income, heating allowances and family allowances – in order to ensure a minimum living standard for the beneficiaries and the reduce the administrative costs
	<i>Drafting the legislative act on protecting the vulnerable householders</i>	Compensating the supplementary energy costs - induced by the elimination of the social tariff and by the increase of gas and electric energy prices - shall have a real impact both on social protection and on energy poverty reduction of the most vulnerable people.
<i>Defining the strategic framework on social inclusion/poverty reduction for the 2014-2020 programming period</i>	<i>Drafting the National Strategy for social inclusion and poverty reduction 2014-2020</i> The strategy will include an action plan consisting of sectoral measures and responsibilities for all public institutions that are responsible for social inclusion.	- Reducing by 580,000 persons the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion, including by implementing certain active inclusion measures dedicated to people at risk of social marginalization.
	<i>Drafting the National Strategy for elderly people and active ageing 2014-2020</i>	Improving the living conditions and ensuring the active ageing of elderly people
	<i>Drafting the National Strategy for protecting the children rights 2014-2020</i>	Increasing the live quality and reducing the risk of poverty and social exclusion of children
	<i>Drafting the National Strategy for protecting the rights of disabled persons 2014-2020</i>	Increasing the live quality and reducing the risk of poverty and social exclusion of disabled persons
	<i>Identifying the disadvantaged areas and designing the poverty maps and the social integration strategies for the disadvantaged communities (including Roma people)</i> MDRAP and World Bank shall draft the study.	- Defining new integrated measures to reduce poverty and social exclusion of disadvantaged urban communities The outcomes of the study will substantiate some financial interventions could be funded under European funds and/or other sources
	<i>Drafting the National Health Strategy 2014-2020</i>	Ensuring people's access to quality and economically sustainable health services. The strategy will include the following priorities: public health and healthcare, extensive research in the health field, health information technology (e-health) and health infrastructure.