

2 July 2024

Positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets related to the fifth payment request submitted by Italy on 29 December 2023, transmitted to the Economic and Financial Committee by the European Commission

Executive summary

In accordance with Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, on 29 December 2023, Italy submitted a request for payment for the fifth instalment of the non-repayable support and the fifth instalment of the loan support. That request for payment has been complemented by an addendum on 24 May 2024 in order to include in the request for payment targets M1C1-113 and M1C1-114 and to account for milestone M2C2-24, moved from non-repayable support to loan support. The payment request was accompanied by the required management declaration and summary of audits.

To support its payment request, Italy provided due justification of the satisfactory fulfilment of the 22 milestones and targets of the fifth instalment of the non-repayable support and the 31 milestones and targets of the fifth instalment of the loan support, as set out in Section 2(1)(1.5) and Section 2(2)(2.5) of the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Italy¹.

For 13 targets covering a large number of recipients, in addition to the summary documents and official listings provided by Italy, Commission services have assessed a statistically significant sample of individual files. The sample size has been uniformly set at 60 which corresponds to a confidence level of 95% or above in all cases.

In its payment request, Italy has confirmed that measures related to previously satisfactorily fulfilled milestones and targets have not been reversed. The Commission does not have evidence of the contrary.

Upon receipt of the payment request, the Commission has assessed on a preliminary basis the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets. Based on the information provided by Italy, the Commission has made a positive preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of 53 out of 54 milestones and targets.

The milestones and targets positively assessed as part of this payment request demonstrate significant steps in the implementation of Italy's Recovery and Resilience Plan. They notably highlight the continuation of the reform momentum in key policy areas as well progress in the implementation of key investments. The milestones and targets linked to this payment request cover several key reforms in the areas of public procurement, spending review framework, industrial property system, competition law, waste management, and primary, secondary and tertiary education. It covers also follow-up measures to keep up the implementation efforts concerning the already adopted reforms in the areas of justice. The main investments covered by this payment request refer to digitalisation, particularly concerning digital services for citizens, large administrations such as the pensions and social security bodies (INPS and INAIL), and the Ministries of Justice, Defense, Interior and the Council of state, as well as the construction of new schools, public transport, tourism, water infrastructure and health. The milestones and targets positively assessed as part of this payment request demonstrate significant steps in the implementation of Italy's Recovery and Resilience Plan. They notably highlight the continuation of the reform momentum in key policy areas as well progress in the implementation of key investments. The milestones and targets linked to this payment request cover several key reforms in the areas of public procurement, spending review framework, industrial property system, competition law, waste management, and primary, secondary and tertiary education. It covers also follow-up measures to keep up the implementation efforts concerning the already adopted reforms in the areas of justice. The main investments covered by this payment request refer to digitalisation, particularly concerning digital services for citizens, large administrations such as the pensions and social security bodies (INPS and INAIL), and the Ministries

of Justice, Defense, Interior and the Council of state, as well as the construction of new schools, public transport, tourism, water infrastructure and health.

By the transmission of this positive preliminary assessment and in accordance with Article 24(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the Commission asks for the opinion of the Economic and Financial Committee on the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets.

M1C1-12, Related Measure: Investment 1.3 Data and interoperability	6
M1C1-13, Related Measure: Investment 1.4 Digital services and citizen experience.....	11
M1C1-14, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 Digital transformation of large central administration	15
M1C1-16, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 Digital transformation of large central administrations	18
M1C1-38, Related Measure: Reform 1.8 Digitalisation of Justice	21
M1C1-59, Related Measure: Reform 1.9 Reform of Public Administration	25
M1C1-75, Related Measure: Reform 1.10 Reform of public procurement legislative framework....	29
M1C1-73quater, Related Measure: Reform 1.10: Reform of the public procurement legislative framework	34
M1C1-84, Related Measure: Reform 1.10 Reform of public procurement legislative framework....	35
M1C1-86, Related Measure: Reform 1.10 Reform of public procurement legislative framework....	37
M1C1-87, Related Measure: Reform 1.10 Reform of public procurement legislative framework....	41
M1C1-110, Related Measure: Reform 1.13 Reform of the spending review framework.....	42
M1C1-113, Related Measure: Reform 1.12: Reform of the tax administration (1)	44
M1C1-114, Related Measure: Reform 1.12: Reform of the tax administration (2)	46
M1C1-126, Related Measure: Investment 1.4 Digital services and citizen experience.....	47
M1C1-127, Related Measure: Investment 1.4 Digital services and citizen experience.....	49
M1C1-128, Related Measure: Investment 1.4 - Digital services and citizen experience	52
M1C1-129, Related Measure: Investment 1.6.1 - Digitization of the Ministry of the Interior	53
M1C1-130, Related Measure: Investment 1.6.2 - Digital transformation of large central administrations.....	56
M1C1-131, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations.....	58
M1C1-132, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations.....	61
M1C1-133, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations.....	64
M1C1-134, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations.....	66
M1C1-135, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations.....	71
M1C1-136, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations.....	75
M1C1-137, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations.....	78
M1C2-4, Related Measure: Reform 1: Reform of the Industrial Property System	85

M1C2-9, Related Measure: Reform R2 – Annual Competition Laws.....	89
M1C2-10, Related Measure: Reform R2 – Annual Competition Laws.....	94
M1C2-29, Related Measure: Investment 5.2 – Competitiveness and resilience of supply chain	96
M1C3-4, Related Measure: Investment 1.3 – Improve energy efficiency in cinema, theatres and museums	99
M1C3-7, Related Measure: Investment 3.3 Capacity building for culture operators to manage the digital and green transition	100
M2C1-5, Related Measure: Investment 2.2 – Agri-solar Park	104
M2C1-15Bis, Related Measure: Reform 1.2 – National program for waste management.....	107
M2C1-15Ter, Related Measure: Implementation of new waste management plants and modernization of existing plants.....	108
M2C1-15Quarter, Related Measure: Investment 1.1 – Implementation of new waste management plants and modernization of existing plants	109
M2C2-22, Related Measure: Investment 4.1 – Investment in soft mobility (National Plan of Cycle Path)	110
M2C2-24, Related Measure: Investment 4.2 - Development of Rapid Mass Transport systems (metro, streetcar, BRT).....	112
M2C2-32, Related Measure: Investment 4.4.1 - Renewal of the regional public transport bus fleet with clean fuels vehicles.....	114
M2C3-5, Related Measure: Investment 1.1 - Construction of new schools through building replacement	116
M2C3-7, Related Measure: Investment 1.2: Construction of buildings, requalification and strengthening of real estate assets of the administration of justice.....	119
M2C4-30, Related Measure: Investment 4.2 - Reduction of losses in water distribution networks, including digitization and monitoring of networks	125
M2C4-33, Related Measure: Investment 4.3 - Investments in the resilience of the irrigation agrosystem for better management of water resources.....	127
M2C4-36, Related Measure: Investment 4.4 - Investments in sewerage and purification	131
M3C1-4, Related Measure: Investment 1.1 – High-speed railway connections to the South for passengers and freight	133
M3C1-17, Related Measure: Investment 1.7 - Upgrading, electrification and resilience of railways in the South	134
M4C1-10, Related Measure: Reform 1.2: Reform of the tertiary vocational training system (ITS); Reform 1.3: Reorganization of the school system; Reform 1.4: Reform of the “Orientation” system; Reform 1.5: University degree groups reform; Reform 1.6: Enabling university degrees reform. Reform 2.1: Teachers’ recruitment.....	138
M4C1-11, Related Measure: Investment 1.7 - Scholarships for University access.....	155

M4C2-5, Related Measure: Investment 1.1: Research Projects of Significant National Interest (PRIN)	157
M5C3-3, Related Measure: Investment 2: Territorial proximity health facilities	160
M6C1-8, Related Measure: Investment 1.2 - Home as the first place of care and telemedicine....	162

Number: M1C1-12	M1C1-12, Related Measure: Investment 1.3 Data and interoperability		
Name of the Target: Single Digital Gateway			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 0	Target: 19	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context: Investment 1.3 “Data and interoperability” aims at ensuring full interoperability of key datasets and services across central and local public administrations. Sub-investment 1.3.2 “Single Digital Gateway” aims at establishing an online platform making available a range of essential services for citizens across EU borders through interoperability solutions and by re-using information already available to public administrations (“once-only principle”). The objective of target M1C1-12 is to create a Single Digital Gateway from where to access 19 prioritized administrative procedures applicable in Italy out of the 21 defined in EU Regulation 2018/1724. M1C1-12 is the only target for this sub-investment.</p>			
<p>Evidence provided: In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled. ii. Activity report by the Ministry of Interior of 14 December 2023 on implementation of procedures i), II) and x) (numeration from analysis section below); iii. Activity report by the by the Ministry of Education of 14 December 2023 on implementation of procedures iii) and iv); iv. Activity report by the by the Ministry of University and Research of 12 December 2023 on implementation of procedures iii) iv) and v); v. Activity report by the National Social Security Institute (INPS) of 12 December 2023 on implementation of procedures vi), vii), xiv), xv), xvii), xviii), xx) and xxi); vi. Activity report by the National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work (INAIL) of 7 December 2023 on implementation of procedures vi), xiv), xv), xvii), xviii) and xxi); vii. Activity report by the Ministry of Labour of 12 December 2023 on implementation of procedures vii), xvi), xviii) and xx); viii. The activity report by the Ministry of Economy and Finance of 13 December 2023 on implementation of procedure viii); ix. Activity report by the Revenue agency of 11 December 2023 on implementation of procedures ix) and xix); x. The activity reports by the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport of 13-14 December 2023 on implementation of procedures xi) and xvi); xi. Activity report by the Chambers of Commerce of 12 December 2023 on implementation of procedures xvi); xii. Activity report by the National Bar Association of 11 December 2023 on implementation of procedure xvi); xiii. Activity report by the National Agency for Civil Aviation of 12 December 2023 on implementation of procedure xvi); xiv. Activity report by the Institute for the National Agency for Civil Aviation of 12 December 2023 on implementation of procedure xvi); xv. Activity report by the Institute for the Supervision of Insurance of 12 December 2023 on implementation of procedure xvi); xvi. Activity report by the Agency for Digital Italy (AgID) of 21 December 2023 on implementation of procedure xvi); xvii. Activity report by Region Toscana and Marche of 12 December 2023 on implementation of procedure xvi); xviii. 20 activity reports by Regions/Autonomous Provinces (with the exclusion of Lazio) from 9 to 			

19 December 2023 on implementation of procedures xviii) and xx).

The authorities also provided:

- xix. Collaboration Agreement between the Department of Digital Transition (DTD) of the Presidency of Council of Ministers and the Agency for Digital Italy (AgID) of 6 October 2021;
- xx. 33 Collaboration Agreements between AgID and sub-implementing bodies agreed between 16 November 2022 and 24 November 2023;
- xxi. Technical document by DTD-AgID on Specifications for integrating the single procedure portals to the Single Digital Gateway of 24 March 2023 (“Integrazione SDG con Procedure Portal - Documento di Specifica Tecnica”).

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

- **The 19 prioritized administrative procedures applicable in Italy out of the 21 defined in EU Regulation 2018/1724 are fully compliant with the requirements defined in Article 6 of the EU Regulation 2018/1724.**

On the website <https://servizisdg.gov.it/#/frontoffice/servizi> the entire catalogue of 19 administrative procedures pertaining to the Single Digital Gateway is available. These are the 19 procedures applicable in Italy among the ones listed in Annex II of EU Regulation 2018/2174 (as recalled by Art. 6 Par. 1 of the Regulation) and namely: (i) Requesting proof of registration of birth (ii) Requesting proof of residence (iii) Applying for a tertiary education study financing, such as study grants and loans from a public body or institution (iv) Submitting an initial application for admission to public tertiary education institution (v) Requesting academic recognition of diplomas, certificates or other proof of studies or courses (vi) Request for determination of applicable legislation in accordance with Title II of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 (vii) Notifying changes in the personal or professional circumstances of the person receiving social security benefits, relevant for such benefits (viii) Application for a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) (ix) Submitting an income tax declaration (x) Registering a change of address (xi) Registering a motor vehicle originating from or already registered in a Member State, in standard procedures (xii) not applicable (xiii) not applicable (xiv) Claiming pension and pre-retirement benefits from compulsory schemes (xv) Requesting information on the data related to pension from compulsory schemes (xvi) Notification of business activity, permission for exercising a business activity, changes of business activity and the termination of a business activity not involving insolvency or liquidation procedures, excluding the initial registration of a business activity with the business register and excluding procedures concerning the constitution of or any subsequent filing by companies or firms within the meaning of the second paragraph of Article 54 TFEU (xvii) Registration of an employer (a natural person) with compulsory pension and insurance schemes (xviii) Registration of employees with compulsory pension and insurance schemes (xix) Submitting a corporate tax declaration (xx) Notification to the social security schemes of the end of contract with an employee, excluding procedures for the collective termination of employee contracts (xxi) Payment of social contributions for employees.

- **More specifically:**
 - (a) **the identification of users, the provision of information and supporting evidence, signature and final submission shall all be carried out electronically at a distance, through a service channel which enables users to fulfil the requirements related to the procedure in a user-friendly and structured way;**

The activity report by the Ministry of Interior provided by Italy, (including screenshots of the services), confirm that administrative procedures i), ii) and x) listed above, are operational on the web portal created by the authorities (<https://servizisdg.gov.it/#/frontoffice/servizi>), and that they

enable users to fulfil the requirements related to the identification of users (pp.3-5) and final submission, electronically at the distance, and in a user-friendly and structured way (pp.3, 7).

The activity reports by the Ministry of Education and by the Ministry of University and Research provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services), show that administrative procedures iii) and iv) are operational and that they enable the identification of users (pp. 3,4 and 9 and Allegato 1,2 pp. 1 respectively), the provision of information and supporting evidence (pp. 4 and 5 and Allegato 1,2 pp. 3-7 respectively), signature and final submission carried out electronically at a distance (pp. 4 and 19 and Allegato 1,2 pp. 7 respectively), through a service channel which enables users to fulfil the requirements related to the procedure in a user-friendly and structured way (pp.10-18 and Allegato 1,2 pp. 3-7 respectively).

The activity report by the Ministry of University and Research provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services), shows that administrative procedure v) is operational and that it enables the identification of users (Allegato 3 pp. 1), the provision of information and supporting evidence (Allegato 3 pp. 2-7), signature and final submission carried out electronically at a distance (Allegato 3 pp. 7), through a service channel which enables users to fulfil the requirements related to the procedure in a user-friendly and structured way (Allegato 3 pp. 2-7).

The activity reports by the National Social Security Institute (INPS) and by the National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work (INAIL) provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services), shows that administrative procedures vi), xiv), xv), xvii) and xxi) are operational and that they enable the identification of users (Allegati 6.2.I.1-13,16-17 and Allegato B respectively), the provision of information and supporting evidence (pp. 7-10,13,15 and Allegati C, D,E,G,H respectively), signature and final submission carried out electronically at a distance (pp. 7-10,13,15 and Allegati C, D,E,G,H respectively), through a service channel which enables users to fulfil the requirements related to the procedure in a user-friendly and structured way (Allegato pp. 7-14 and Allegati C, D,E,G,H respectively).

The activity reports by the National Social Security Institute (INPS) and by the Ministry of Labour provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services) show that administrative procedure vii) is operational and that it enables the identification of users (pp. 6, 16 and Allegato E pp. 1-7 respectively), the provision of information and supporting evidence (pp. 7-8 and Allegato E pp. 8-10 respectively), signature and final submission carried out electronically at a distance (pp. 7-8 and Allegato E pp. 11), through a service channel which enables users to fulfil the requirements related to the procedure in a user-friendly and structured way (pp. 7-8 and Allegato E).

The activity report by the Ministry of Economy and Finance provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services) (including screenshots of the services) shows that administrative procedure viii) is operational and that it enables the identification of users (pp. 6-8), through a service channel which enables users to fulfil the requirements related to the procedure in a user-friendly and structured way (pp. 9-12).

The activity report by the Revenue Agency provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services) shows that administrative procedures ix) and xix) are operational and that they enable the identification of users (Allegato 1), the provision of information and supporting evidence (Allegato 2), signature and final submission carried out electronically at a distance (Allegato 2), through a service channel which enables users to fulfil the requirements related to the procedure in a user-friendly and structured way (Allegati 1-3).

The activity report by the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services) shows that administrative procedure xi) is operational and that it enables the identification of users (Allegato 6.11), signature and final submission carried out electronically at a distance (Allegato 6.11), through a service channel which enables users to fulfil the requirements related to the procedure in a user-friendly and structured way (Allegato 6.11).

The activity reports by the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport (MIT), by the Chambers of Commerce (CoC), by the National Bar Association (NBA), by the National Agency for Civil Aviation, by the Ministry of Labour, by the Institute for the Supervision of Insurance, by Toscana and Marche Regions and by the Agency for Digital Italy (AgID), provided by Italy (including screenshots of the

services), show that administrative procedure xvi) is operational and that it enables the identification of users (pp. 5 of MIT report, Allegato 1 pp. 1-5 of CoC report, pp. 5 of NBA report), the provision of information and supporting evidence (pp. 6 of MIT report, Allegato 1 pp. 6-10 of CoC report, pp.6 of NBA report), signature and final submission carried out electronically at a distance (Allegato 1 pp. 11-12 of CoC report), through a service channel which enables users to fulfil the requirements related to the procedure in a user-friendly and structured way (Allegato 1 of CoC report).

The activity reports by the Ministry of Labour (MoL), by the National Social Security Institute (INPS), by the National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work (INAIL) and by Regions and Autonomous Provinces, provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services), show that administrative procedure xviii) is operational and that it enables the identification of users (Allegato G pp. 1-7 of MoL report, Allegato 6.2.I.14 of INPS report, and pp. 1-5 of INAIL report), the provision of information and supporting evidence (Allegato G pp. 8-12 of MoL report, Allegato F pp. 2 and pp. 14 respectively), signature and final submission carried out electronically at a distance (Allegato G pp. 13 of MoL report, Allegato F pp. 3 of INPS report and pp. 14 of INAIL report), through a service channel which enables users to fulfil the requirements related to the procedure in a user-friendly and structured way (Allegato G pp. 8-13 of MoL report, Allegato F pp. 2,3 of INPS report and pp. 14 of INAIL report).

The activity reports by the Ministry of Labour (MoL), by the National Social Security Institute (INPS) and by Regions and Autonomous Provinces, provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services), show that administrative procedure xx) is operational and that it enables the identification of users (Allegato H pp. 1-7 of MoL report, pp. 1-5 of INPS report), the provision of information and supporting evidence (Allegato H. pp. 8-12 of MoL report, pp. 14 of INPS report), signature and final submission carried out electronically at a distance (Allegato H. pp. 13 of MoL report, pp. 14 of INPS report), through a service channel which enables users to fulfil the requirements related to the procedure in a user-friendly and structured way (Allegato H. pp. 8-13 of MoL report, pp. 14 of INPS report).

(b) users shall be provided with an automatic acknowledgement of receipt, unless the output of the procedure is delivered immediately;

(c) the output of the procedure shall be delivered electronically, or where necessary to comply with applicable Union or national law, delivered by physical means;

(d) users shall be provided with an electronic notification of completion of the procedure.

The activity report by the Ministry of Interior (including screenshots of the services) provided by Italy shows that for procedures i), II) the output of the procedure is delivered electronically (pp. 4,6 and 7) and that for procedure x) the users are notified electronically of the completion of the procedure (pp. 4, 5 and 6).

The activity reports by the Ministry of Education and by the Ministry of University and Research (including screenshots of the services) provided by Italy show that for procedures iii) and iv) the users are provided with an automatic acknowledgement of receipt (pp. 5 and 20 and Allegato 1,2 pp. 8 respectively) and for procedure iii) the users are notified electronically of the completion of the procedure (pp. 5 and pp.6 respectively).

The activity report by the Ministry of University and Research (including screenshots of the services) provided by Italy shows that for procedure v) the users are provided with an automatic acknowledgement of receipt (Allegato 3 pp. 8) and are notified electronically of the completion of the procedure (Allegato 3 pp. 8).

The activity reports by the National Social Security Institute (INPS) and by the National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work (INAIL) (including screenshots of the services) provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services), show that for procedures vi), xiv), xvii) and xxi) the users are provided with an automatic acknowledgement of receipt (pp. 17-18,19-23,30-31, Allegati 6.2.I.1-13,16-17 and Allegato H pp. 7-9, Allegato C pp. 12, Allegato E pp. 3, Allegato G 17-18,22-23,33-34

respectively), for procedure xv) the output of the procedure is delivered electronically (pp. 23-29 and Allegato D pp.3-5 respectively) and for procedures xiv) and xxi) the users are notified electronically of the completion of the procedure (pp. 20-23,34-35 and Allegato C pp. 13, Allegato G pp. 19-20,24,29,35,37 respectively).

The activity reports by the National Social Security Institute (INPS) and by the Ministry of Labour provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services), show that for procedure vii) the users are provided with an automatic acknowledgement of receipt (pp. 18-19 and pp. 6 respectively) and are notified electronically of the completion of the procedure (pp. 7 of the latter).

The activity report by the Ministry of Economy and Finance provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services), shows that for procedure viii) the users are provided with an automatic acknowledgement of receipt (pp. 12)

The activity report by the Revenue Agency provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services), shows that for procedures ix) and xix) the users are provided with an automatic acknowledgement of receipt (Allegato 4).

The activity report by the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services), shows that for procedure xi) the users are provided with an automatic acknowledgement of receipt (Allegato D).

The activity reports by the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport, by the Chambers of Commerce (CoC) , by the National Bar Association (NBA), by the National Agency for Civil Aviation, by the Ministry of Labour, by the Institute for the Supervision of Insurance, by Toscana and Marche Regions and by the Agency for Digital Italy (AgID), provided by Italy (including screenshots of the services), show that for procedure xvi) the users are provided with an automatic acknowledgement of receipt (pp. 7 of MIT report, Allegato 1 pp. 13-14 of CoC report, pp. 7-9 of NBA report) and are notified electronically of the completion of the procedure (Allegato 1 pp. 15-16 of CoC report).

The activity reports by the Ministry of Labour, by the National Social Security Institute (INPS), by the National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work (INAIL) and by Regions and Autonomous Provinces, provided by Italy, show that for procedure xviii) the users are provided with an automatic acknowledgement of receipt (Allegato G pp. 14 of MoL report, pp. 14 of INPS report and Allegato F pp. 18 of INAIL report) and are notified electronically of the completion of the procedure (pp. 32 of INPS report).

The activity reports by the Ministry of Labour (MoL), by the National Social Security Institute (INPS) and by Regions and Autonomous Provinces, provided by Italy, show that for procedure xx) the users are provided with an automatic acknowledgement of receipt (Allegato H pp. 14 of MoL report and pp. 14 of INPS report) and are notified electronically of the completion of the procedure (Allegato H pp.15 of MoL report and pp. 33 of INPS report).

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure,

- **[...] In addition, the measure shall establish a “Single Digital Gateway” in compliance with EU Regulation 2018/1724), that shall be run to help central and public administrations restructure prioritized procedures and enable the fulfilment of the “once-only” principle (Investment 1.3.2).**

- As explained above, the web portal <https://servizisdg.gov.it/#/frontoffice/servizi> gives access to the eGovernment procedures described under Annex II of Regulation 2018/1724. Those procedures are accessible by any citizen in possession of an EIDAS-compliant eidentity card issued by their EU country of residence. In addition, the DTD-AgID technical document describes the Application Programming Interfaces created in the public administrations’ portals in order to implement the once-only technical system envisaged by Art. 14 of the EU Regulation 2018/1724 for the automated exchange of documentation between public administrations, belonging to one or more Member States, for the services provided through the Single Digital Gateway.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-13	M1C1-13, Related Measure: Investment 1.4 Digital services and citizen experience
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Name of the Milestone: Mobility as a Service solutions M1

Qualitative Indicator: Report by Ministero delle Infrastrutture e della Mobilità Sostenibili (MIMS) in collaboration with universities describing the implementation and assessing the results of the three pilot projects	Time: Q4 2023
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Context:

Milestone M1C1-13 is part of investment 1.4 “Digital services and citizen experience” which aims at developing an integrated and harmonized offering of state-of-the-art citizen-oriented digital services, ensure their wide-spread adoption thereof across both central and local administrations and enhance users’ experience.

The sub-investment 1.4.6 “Mobility as a Service for Italy” aims at fostering the adoption of Mobility as a Service (MaaS) paradigms in metropolitan cities to digitize local transport and provide users with an integrated mobility experience from trip planning to payments across multiple modes of transport.

Milestone M1C1-13 requires the implementation of three pilot projects aimed at testing Mobility as a Service solutions in technologically advanced metropolitan cities. Each solution has been used by at least 1000 users during the pilot period. Each pilot project shall be open to a minimum of 1000 users, who shall be able to access it on a voluntary basis and at their own expense, with the possibility to choose and purchase mobility services among those available on the platform. The MaaS service, through a single technological platform, shall suggest to the citizen-user the best travel solution based on his needs, exploiting the integration between the different mobility options available (local public transport, sharing, cab, car rental) to optimize the travel experience both in terms of planning (intermodal route planner and real-time information on times and distances), and in terms of utilization (booking and payment of services).

Milestone M1C1-13 is the first step of the implementation of the sub-investment and will be followed by milestone M1C1-23, related to the implementation of the second wave of seven pilot projects aimed at testing Mobility as a Service solutions in ‘follower’ areas, capitalizing on the experiences of the pilot projects of milestone M1C1-13.

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- ii. Certificates of regular execution for the realization of the “data sharing and service repository facilities” (DS&SRF) in the context of “Maas for Italy” (M1C1 sub-investment 1.4.6), as signed by the contractor (RTI) and the competent authority (Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport) on 6 December 2023 demonstrating that the three pilot projects have been regularly executed;
- iii. Report by an independent engineer endorsed by the relevant ministries, including justification that the technical specifications of the projects are aligned with the CID’s description of the investment and milestone, as signed on 18 December 2023;
- iv. Anonymised lists of users for each pilot project with reference to the user number/ID.

The authorities also provided:

- v. Collaboration Agreement between the DTD and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport of 11 November 2021;

- vi. Agreement between the DTD and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport of 29 July 2022, as modified by the additional act with further specification regarding modification to the agreement, as signed on 3 July 2023, for the implementation of DS&SRF;
- vii. Public call for the submission of proposal in relation to the National Recovery and Resilience plan – mission 1 – component 1 – axis 1 – sub-investment 1.4.6. mobility as a service for Italy – Maas4Italy, as published by the Digital Transformation Department of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on 22 November 2021;
- viii. Final order approving the ranking list as signed by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on 21 February 2022, and published on the webpage of the Department of Digital Transformation of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on 23 February 2022;
- ix. Agreement between the DTD and the municipality of Milan, as signed on 22 June 2022 and attached Operational Plan;
- x. Agreement between the DTD and the municipality of Rome, as signed on 1 July 2022 and attached Operational Plan;
- xi. Agreement between the DTD and the municipality of Naples and attached Operational Plan.
- xii. Declarations by the municipalities of Milan, Rome and Naples of “voluntary access and choice of platform by the user”.
- xiii. “Report D: Description of the MaaS Operator” from the Municipality of Milano of 30 November 2023;
- xiv. “Report D: Description of MaaS Operator” from the Municipality of Rome of 6 December 2023;
- xv. “Report D: Description of MaaS Operator” from the Municipality of Naples of 6 December 2023;
- xvi. Copies of “Progettazione e realizzazione del DSRM ‘Data Services Repository for MaaS’ within RRP project ‘MaaS for Italy’ - functional specifics” by the DTD and the MIT, signed on 3 May 2024;
- xvii. Copy of “Onboarding of MaaS operators” by the DTD and the MIT, signed on 15 February 2024;
- xviii. Copy of “Terms and conditions for the use of services of DS&SRF for MaaS operators and for operators involved in MaaS pilots” by the DTD and the MIT, signed on 4 April 2024;
- xix. Report by the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transports (MIT) and Department of Digital Transformation (DTD) of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on the “experimentation of M1C1.1.4.6 MaaS for Italy – Milestone M1C1-13”, as signed on 18 December 2023 by the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transports and the University of Naples “Federico II”.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

- **Three pilot projects aimed at testing Mobility as a Service solutions in technologically advanced metropolitan cities have been implemented.**

The authorities have provided the Cooperation Agreement signed on 11 November 2021 between the Department of Digital Transformation of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (the “DTD”) and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (the “MIT”) concerning the definition and articulation of the technical specifications of the content of the project proposals, namely, the definition of the criteria for selecting operations, cooperation in the evaluation and selection of project proposals, guidance, monitoring, management and monitoring of trials, and the evaluation of trials. A Technical Committee has also been set up to meet on a monthly basis, together with a joint DTD/MIT working group.

On 29 July 2022, an additional agreement was signed with the MIT, amended by an additional act

with further specifications regarding the modification to the agreement, as signed on 3 July 2023, for the implementation of the Data Sharing and Service Repository Facility (DS&SRF), i.e. the national technology platform for the provision of MaaS services.

The authorities have provided copy of the public call for the submission of proposals in relation to the National Recovery and Resilience plan – mission 1 – component 1 – axis 1 – sub-investment 1.4.6. mobility as a service for Italy – Maas4Italy, as published by the Digital Transformation Department of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in their official webpage on 22 November 2021. The authorities have also provided a copy of the related final order approving the ranking list, as signed by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on 21st February 2022, and published on the webpage of the Department of Digital Transformation of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on 23rd February 2022, which indicates the municipalities of Milan, Rome, and Naples as the three selected technologically advanced metropolitan cities to test the pilot. The authorities have also provided a copy of the related final order approving the ranking list, as signed by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on 21 February 2022, and published on the webpage of the Department of Digital Transformation of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on 23 February 2022, which indicates the municipalities of Milan, Rome, and Naples as the three selected technologically advanced metropolitan cities to test the pilot.

The three selected cities, Milan, Rome and Naples, have signed separate conventions with the national authorities to facilitate the execution of the projects. These agreements include: the agreement between the DTD and the municipality of Milan, signed on 22 of June 2022 accompanied by the respective Operational Plan; the agreement between the DTD and the municipality of Rome, signed on 1 of July 2022 also accompanied by the respective Operational Plan; and the agreement between the DTD and the municipality of Naples, signed on 6 December 2023, along with the respective Operational Plan.

The intermediate certificate of regular execution in relation to the project “Data Sharing and Service Repository Facilities” (DS&SRF) in the context of the “MaaS FOR ITALY” (measure M1C1 sub-investimento 1.4.6) by the MIT, signed on 9 of September 2023 by the MIT and the contractor, certifies that the platform for the testing of the three pilot projects was developed and is operational since June 2023.

- **Each solution has been used by at least 1 000 users during the pilot period. Each pilot project shall be open to a minimum of 1000 users, who shall be able to access it on a voluntary basis and at their own expense and give the individual assessment, with the possibility to choose and purchase mobility services among those available on the platform.**

According to the MaaS user lists provided by the authorities, the mobility solutions made available by cities during the pilot period (between July 2023 and early December 2023) were used by at least 1000 users per city. According to the lists provided, the pilot of the city of Milan has been used by 1219 users; the pilot of the city of Rome has been used by 1072 users; and the pilot of the city of Naples has been used by 1410 users. These users accessed the available services voluntarily, as demonstrated by Declarations “of voluntary access and choice of platform by the user”, from the municipalities of the three cities. These Declarations clarify that participants had voluntary access, at their own expense, to one or more apps made available by the MaaS project operators, and were required to provide their individual assessment of the accessed apps. Only users who have concluded their experience with an assessment were counted in the lists.

- **The MaaS service, through a single technological platform, shall suggest to the citizen-user the best travel solution based on his needs, exploiting the integration between the different mobility options available (local public transport, sharing, cab, car rental) to optimize the**

travel experience both in terms of planning (intermodal route planner and real-time information on times and distances), and in terms of utilization (booking and payment of services).

The authorities have provided the Agreement between the Presidency of the Council of Minister, the Department for Digital Transformation and the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transports, as signed on 29 July 2022, in which provides in its Article 1 for the development of the technological infrastructure “Data Sharing & Service Repository Facilities (DS&SRF)”. The platform was completed and became operational in June 2023 as certified by the technical documentation attached to the certification of regular execution of the MIT DS&SRF technological infrastructure, signed by the MIT and the contractor on 5 September 2023.

The DS&SRF Platform, according to the technical certification provided and to the Operational Plans accompanying each of the three agreements signed for the three pilot projects, aims at intermediating the data of transport and mobility operators (routes, timetables, etc.) to the MaaS Operators, through a single interface and using standard communication protocols, in order to facilitate the entry of new market players and expansion at national level.

The Platform, in its functional version, has been set up to support pilot activities, as certified by the intermediate report of regular execution by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, which was issued in accordance with art. 3 of the agreement signed by the MIT with the Department of digital Transformation of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

The authorities have provided the reports of the three pilot cities involved which contain descriptive documents of the MaaS Operators involved. The reports show the integration of different mobility options available (local public transport, sharing, taxi, car rental) via a MaaS operator in the three pilot cities. This integration was completed with respect to intermodal route planning, booking and payment. The authorities have provided evidence that the current version of the DS&SRF platform supports dynamic data, as evident in the copy of the documents of “Progettazione e realizzazione del DSRM “Data Services Repository for MaaS” nell’albito del progetto Pnrr “MaaS for Italy - “functional specifics” (“architettura target” and “gestione dati dinamici TPL e accesso dati di sharing”), produced by the DTD and the MIT and signed on 3 May 2024.

The Council Implementing Decision required the MaaS service to optimize the citizens’ travel experience with real-time information on times and distances, which is available through the sharing of dynamic data. The sharing of dynamic data (i.e. real-time information), especially by local public transport is less developed and present in part only in one city (Rome). However, on the latter aspect, the authorities have clarified that the DS&SRF platform supports services based on dynamic data as evidenced by the MIT/DTD with universities report. Whilst this constitutes a minimal substantive deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, Italy clarified that the platform supports these types of services and it has requested all private operators to make their dynamic data available for the MaaS4Italy project for the ongoing development of the measure, as evidenced by the document on the “onboarding of MaaS operators” by the DTD and the MIT signed on 15th of February 2024 and the “terms and conditions for the use of services of DS&SRF for MaaS operators and for operators involved in MaaS pilots”, by the DTD and the MIT, signed on 4th of April 2024. Therefore, these features will be available for all cities involved in the pilots. As of this, this minimal deviation does not change the nature of the measure and does not affect the progress towards achieving the investment that the milestone represents. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

- **Report by Ministero delle Infrastrutture e della Mobilità Sostenibili (MIMS) in collaboration with universities describing the implementation and assessing the results of the three pilot**

projects.

In particular, the final qualitative report of the Ministry of infrastructure and Transports (former Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility MIMS) was prepared in collaboration with universities, namely the Polytechnic of Milan, the University of Rome “Roma Tre” and the University of Naples “Federico II”, as representative of the three pilot cities.

The report, as explicated in its premises and introduction, contains a summary of all activities carried out and documentation produced so far for the implementation of the Sub-investment “Mobility as a Service for Italy”. The scope of the report is to provide a detailed overview of the DS&SRF Platform and its enabling functions with an in-depth analysis and evaluation of city trials. The analysis is carried out following indications received from the Scientific Table, the Pilot Cities, which within the indicated timeframe, compiled the MaaS4Italy Service Experimentation Plan Template, in order to make available a comprehensive and detailed description of the results and objectives achieved in the various phases of the pilot, as described on page 89 of the report.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-14	M1C1-14, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 Digital transformation of large central administration		
Name of the Target: Council of State - Court documents available for analysis in data warehouse T1			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 0	Target: 800 000	Time: Q4 2023
Context:			
Target M1C1-14 is part of investment 1.6 “Digital transformation of large central administrations” which aims at re-engineer and digitalise process and services of the public administration services (INPS, INAIL, Judicial system, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, Finance police), to improve their efficiency and simplify procedures.			
The sub-investment 1.6.5 “Digitization of the Council of State” aims at creating a data warehouse to collect, analyse and archive files pertaining Administrative Justice.			
Target M1C1-14 requires 800 000 court documents related to administrative judicial processes such as sentences, opinions and decrees to be available in the data warehouse, enabling efficient querying and reporting for business intelligence.			
Target M1C1-14 is the first step in the implementation of the sub-investment and it is followed by target M1C1-16, related to the processing of the first wave of documents in the data warehouse.			
Evidence provided:			
In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. 21 excel files containing the extraction from the data warehouse of the court documents related to the administrative jurisdiction system, including their ID in the system and other relevant fields; iii. A note on the content of the extraction, explaining each field contained in the excel files. 			
The authorities also provided:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Collaboration Agreement between the Digital Transformation Department (DTD) and the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice of 29th March 2021; v. Operative plan describing the project, the governance model, the implementation, the timeline and the costs; vi. Agreement to proceed with the realisation of the project following the framework of public contract <i>Consip</i>, as published by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice of 18th March 2022; 			

- vii. The executive contract, based on the *Consip* framework, between the Administrative Justice and the Italian innovation company Al maviva of 25th March 2022;
- viii. Decree approving the executive contract as published by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice of 30th March 2022;
- ix. Request for extension of the existing contract (due to Covid and unforeseen circumstance) by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice of 29th March 2022;
- x. Report by Al maviva on the purpose of the project and type of services provided of 24th August 2021;
- xi. Report by Al maviva on the creation of a new data warehouse platform of 30th March 2022;
- xii. Report by Al maviva on the work progress status of March 2022;
- xiii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the new data warehouse for administrative justice;
- xiv. Report by Al maviva on the work progress status of April 2022;
- xv. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the first iteration of the data warehouse;
- xvi. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the data mart “Evolution of the Appeal Status”;
- xvii. Report by Al maviva on the work progress status of May 2022;
- xviii. Report by Al maviva on the work progress status of June 2022;
- xix. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the second iteration of the data warehouse;
- xx. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the data mart “Pending Appeals”;
- xxi. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the data mart “Performance Administrative Process”;
- xxii. Report by Al maviva on the work progress status of July 2022;
- xxiii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the third iteration of the data warehouse;
- xxiv. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the data mart “Integrated Judicial Year”;
- xxv. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the data mart “Single view of the acts”;
- xxvi. Report by Al maviva on the work progress status of October 2022;
- xxvii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the pre-condition for the functioning of the data warehouse;
- xxviii. Certificate of conformity by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice on iterations 0 and 1 of 16th November 2022;
- xxix. Certificate of execution by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice for the period from 25 March to 30 April 2022 of 17th November 2022;
- xxx. Certificate of conformity by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice on iterations 2, 3 and final support of 17th November 2022;
- xxxi. Certificate of execution by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice for the period from 1 May to 31 October 2022 of 17th November 2022;
- xxxii. Note by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice on the release of the platform into operation of 17 March 2023;
- xxxiii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query for the data mart “Single view of the acts”;
- xxxiv. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “Number of judicial acts available”;
- xxxv. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “Manage, analyse and organise prior files”;
- xxxvi. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query for the data mart “Pending Appeals”;
- xxxvii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “Processing time in terms of days of various acts in different locations”;
- xxxviii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query for the data mart “Performance Administrative Process”;

- xxxix. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query for the data mart “Integrated Judicial Year”;
- xl. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query for the data mart “Evolution of the Appeal Status”;
- xli. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “Number of Appeals per location”;
- xlii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “precautionary orders”;
- xliii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “administrative disputes – comparison between 2 years”;
- xliv. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “administrative disputes by location”;
- xlv. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “administrative disputes - appeals by location”;
- xlvi. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “administrative disputes - percentage on the total, various categories”.

In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence was provided for a sample of 60 units:

- i. For each ID requested, screenshot of the corresponding metadata in the data warehouse;
- ii. A virtual on-the-spot check conducted on 18th April 2024 by COM services with the help of Italian authorities, demonstrating the functionalities of the data warehouse, showing the data marts and how the queries work.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target.

- **Number of court documents related to administrative jurisdiction system (such as sentences, opinions and decrees) for which metadata is fully available in data warehouse.**

The Italian authorities provided an extract, divided in 21 excel files, containing a total of 20 647 992 entries related to the Council of State. Therefore, Italy has made 20 647 992 court documents fully available in the data warehouse, thus exceeding the goal of Target M1C1-14 by 19 847 992 court documents.

All documents relate to the administrative judicial system and refer not only to sentences, opinions and decrees, as specified in the CID Annex, but also include more than 100 types of different acts, among which appeals, withdrawal requests, requests for collegial precautionary, delegations of power of attorney, notifications, deposits and request for referrals, to name a few.

The excel contains unique identifiers in ascending order for each entry, together with additional information such as the location where the act was filed, the section of the judicial administration within the location, the document identifier, the date, the type of document, the act number as recorded in the digital source SIGA, the number of the act in the judicial file and the origin of the document (paper or digital). The meaning of each field is explained in a separate note.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Italy submitted screenshots of the corresponding metadata in the data warehouse, demonstrating that the metadata are fully available in the data warehouse. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met. The screenshots capture the query used to retrieve the information relevant for each entry and also illustrate the final output, which corresponds to the one in the excel files containing the extraction of metadata from the data warehouse. Furthermore,

the Commission services conducted a virtual on-the-spot check on 18 April 2024 to verify the functionalities of the data warehouse and the execution of the queries. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the metadata is fully available in the data warehouse.

The additional justification provided by the Italian authorities illustrates the process behind the creation of the data warehouse. First, the enabling framework: the collaboration agreement between relevant entities, a detailed description of the project, the agreement to proceed with the realisation of the project, the executive contract and a decree approving such contract, together with a request for extension of the foreseen timeline due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Second, the technical process, documented by functional specifications and explanatory reports for each iteration. Third, certificates validating the conformity of the project and the execution of the tasks expected. Finally, technical specifications containing the queries used to achieve a certain task.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-16	M1C1-16, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 Digital transformation of large central administrations		
Name of the Target: Council of State - Court documents available for analysis in data warehouse T2			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 800 000	Target: 2 500 000	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>Target M1C1-16 is part of investment 1.6 “Digital transformation of large central administrations” which aims at re-engineer and digitalise process and services of the public administration services (INPS, INAIL, Judicial system, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, Finance police), to improve their efficiency and simplify procedures.</p> <p>The sub-investment 1.6.5 “Digitization of the Council of State” aims at creating a data warehouse to collect, analyse and archive files pertaining Administrative Justice.</p> <p>Target M1C1-16 requires 1 700 000 court documents related to administrative judicial processes such as sentences, opinions and decrees to be available in the data warehouse, enabling efficient querying and reporting for business intelligence.</p> <p>Target M1C1-16 is the second step in the implementation of the sub-investment and it is preceded by target M1C1-14, related to the processing of the first wave of documents in the data warehouse.</p>			
<p>Evidence provided:</p> <p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. 21 excel files containing the extraction from the data warehouse of the court documents related to the administrative jurisdiction system, including their ID in the system and other relevant fields; iii. A note on the content of the extraction, explaining each field contained in the excel files. 			
<p>The authorities also provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Collaboration Agreement between the Digital Transformation Department (DTD) and the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice of 29th March 2021; v. Operative plan describing the project, the governance model, the implementation, the timeline and the costs; vi. Agreement to proceed with the realisation of the project following the framework of public contract <i>Consip</i>, as published by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice of 18th March 2022; vii. The executive contract, based on the <i>Consip</i> framework, between the Administrative Justice and the Italian innovation company Al maviva of 25th March 2022; 			

- viii. Decree approving the executive contract as published by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice of 30th March 2022;
- ix. Request for extension of the existing contract (due to Covid and unforeseen circumstance) by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice of 29th March 2022;
- x. Report by Almagora on the purpose of the project and type of services provided of 24th August 2021;
- xi. Report by Almagora on the creation of a new data warehouse platform of 30th March 2022;
- xii. Report by Almagora on the work progress status of March 2022;
- xiii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the new data warehouse for administrative justice;
- xiv. Report by Almagora on the work progress status of April 2022;
- xv. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the first iteration of the data warehouse;
- xvi. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the data mart "Evolution of the Appeal Status";
- xvii. Report by Almagora on the work progress status of May 2022;
- xviii. Report by Almagora on the work progress status of June 2022;
- xix. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the second iteration of the data warehouse;
- xx. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the data mart "Pending Appeals";
- xxi. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the data mart "Performance Administrative Process";
- xxii. Report by Almagora on the work progress status of July 2022;
- xxiii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the third iteration of the data warehouse;
- xxiv. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the data mart "Integrated Judicial Year";
- xxv. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the data mart "Single view of the acts";
- xxvi. Report by Almagora on the work progress status of October 2022;
- xxvii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the pre-condition for the functioning of the data warehouse;
- xxviii. Certificate of conformity by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice on iterations 0 and 1 of 16th November 2022;
- xxix. Certificate of execution by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice for the period from 25 March to 30 April 2022 of 17th November 2022;
- xxx. Certificate of conformity by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice on iterations 2, 3 and final support of 17th November 2022;
- xxxi. Certificate of execution by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice for the period from 1 May to 31 October 2022 of 17th November 2022;
- xxxii. Note by the General Secretariat of the Administrative Justice on the release of the platform into operation of 17 March 2023;
- xxxiii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query for the data mart "Single view of the acts";
- xxxiv. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query "Number of judicial acts available";
- xxxv. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query "Manage, analyse and organise prior files";
- xxxvi. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query for the data mart "Pending Appeals";
- xxxvii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query "Processing time in terms of days of various acts in different locations";
- xxxviii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query for the data mart "Performance Administrative Process";
- xxxix. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query for the data mart "Integrated Judicial Year";
- xl. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query for the data mart "Evolution of the Appeal Status";

- xli. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “Number of Appeals per location”;
- xlii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “precautionary orders”;
- xliii. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “administrative disputes – comparison between 2 years”;
- xliv. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “administrative disputes by location”;
- xlv. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “administrative disputes - appeals by location”;
- xlvi. Explanatory report by the Council of State on the query “administrative disputes - percentage on the total, various categories”.

In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence was provided for a sample of 60 units:

- xlvii. For each ID requested, screenshot of the corresponding metadata in the data warehouse;
- xlviii. A virtual on-the-spot check conducted on 18th April 2024 by COM services with the help of Italian authorities, demonstrating the functionalities of the data warehouse, showing the data marts and how the queries work.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target.

- **Number of court documents related to administrative jurisdiction system (such as sentences, opinions and decrees) for which metadata is fully available in data warehouse.**

The Italian authorities provided an extract, divided in 21 excel files, containing a total of 20 647 992 entries related to the Council of State. Therefore, Italy has made 20 647 992 court documents fully available in the data warehouse, thus exceeding the goal of Target M1C1-16 by 18 147 992 court documents.

All documents relate to the administrative judicial system and refer not only to sentences, opinions and decrees, as specified in the CID Annex, but also include more than 100 types of different acts, among which appeals, withdrawal requests, requests for collegial precautionary, delegations of power of attorney, notifications, deposits and request for referrals, to name a few.

The excel contains unique identifiers in ascending order for each entry, together with additional information such as the location where the act was filed, the section of the judicial administration within the location, the document identifier, the date, the type of document, the act number as recorded in the digital source SIGA, the number of the act in the judicial file and the origin of the document (paper or digital). The meaning of each field is explained in a separate note.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Italy submitted screenshots of the corresponding metadata in the data warehouse, demonstrating that the metadata are fully available in the data warehouse. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met. The screenshots capture the query used to retrieve the information relevant for each entry and also illustrate the final output, which corresponds to the one in the excel files containing the extraction of metadata from the data warehouse. Furthermore, the Commission services conducted a virtual on-the-spot check on 18 April 2024 to verify the functionalities of the data warehouse and the execution of the queries. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the metadata is fully available in the data warehouse.

The additional justification provided by the Italian authorities illustrate the process behind the

creation of the data warehouse. First, the enabling framework: the collaboration agreement between relevant entities, a detailed description of the project, the agreement to proceed with the realisation of the project, the executive contract and a decree approving such contract, together with a request for extension of the foreseen timeline due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Second, the technical process, documented by functional specifications and explanatory reports for each iteration. Third, certificates validating the conformity of the project and the execution of the tasks expected. Finally, technical specifications containing the queries used to achieve a certain task.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-38	M1C1-38, Related Measure: Reform 1.8 Digitalisation of Justice	
Name of the Milestone: Digitalisation of the justice system		
Quantitative Indicator: Provision in the primary and secondary acts indicating the entry into force of the corresponding acts		Time: Q4 2023
Context:		
<p>The measure aims at strengthening the digitalisation of the justice system both in the civil and in the criminal sectors.</p> <p>Milestone M1C1-38 requires the mandatory electronic filing of all documents and full electronic workflow for civil proceedings and aims at introducing a free, fully accessible and searchable database of civil law decisions according to the legislation. It also targets the digitalisation of the first instance criminal proceedings.</p> <p>Milestone M1C1-38 will be followed by milestone M1C1-38<i>bis</i>, indicatively due in Q4 2025, which aims at the full digitalization of first instance criminal proceedings up to the concluding act through the operationalisation and interoperability of the main IT platforms used in criminal proceedings.</p>		
Evidence provided:		
<p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. Decree No. 217 of the Ministry of Justice of 29 December 2023, as published in the Official Journal No. 303 of 30 December 2023, implementing Art. 87 (paragraphs 1 and 3) of Legislative Decree No. 150/2022, enabling legislation for the criminal justice reform, and provisions on the digitalisation of the justice system as envisaged by Legislative Decree No. 150/2022 and by Decree Law No. 36/2023, as converted into law by Law No. 41/2023; iii. Decision of the Directorate-General for Automated Information Systems of the Ministry of Justice adopted on 5 December 2023, as published on the website of the Ministry of Justice, providing the technical specifications on technical consultants registry; iv. Decision of the Directorate-General for Automated Information Systems of the Ministry of Justice adopted on 11 December 2023, as published on the website of the Ministry of Justice, providing the technical specifications for the video-registration of minors; v. Decision of the Directorate-General for Automated Information Systems of the Ministry of Justice adopted on 11 December 2023, as published on the website of the Ministry of Justice, providing the technical specifications for remote hearings and their publicity; vi. Decree of the Ministry of Justice of 4 July 2023, as published in the Official Journal No. 155 of 5 July 2023, on the trial phase for the digitalisation of criminal proceedings; vii. Decree of the Ministry of Justice of 18 July 2023, as published in the Official Journal No. 166 of 18 July 2023, integrating Ministerial Decree of 4 July 2023; viii. A link to the Public Database of civil justice decisions: https://bdp.giustizia.it/login ix. Circular of 13 November 2023 adopted by the Digital Transition Department of the Ministry of Justice, indicating the setting of the Databases for civil justice decisions and their entry into service; 		

The authorities also provided:

- x. Set of manuals, presentations and reports on the digitalisation of the justice system;
- xi. Links to the e-learning trainings on digital competencies provided for the digitalisation of the civil justice system and the use of the searchable database of civil decision;
- xii. Preparatory documents for the adoption of the aforementioned regulations and secondary sources of legislation.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italy authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

- **The mandatory electronic filing of all documents and full electronic workflow for civil proceedings shall be established. Provision in the primary and secondary acts indicating the entry into force of the corresponding acts.**

In line with the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision, the Italian authorities have adopted the necessary regulations and secondary sources of legislation necessary for the mandatory electronic filing of all documents and full electronic workflow for civil proceedings. The Italian authorities had previously adopted Legislative Decree No. 149 of 10 October 2022, implementing the enabling legislation for the civil justice reform as per Law No. 206/2021, that was assessed in the context of the satisfactorily fulfilment of prior milestone M1C1-29. Articles 4 (paragraph 12) and 35 of Legislative Decree No. 149/2022 established, for defence lawyers, the mandatory filing of all documents for civil proceedings. Law-Decree No. 13 of 24 February 2023, converted, with amendments, into Law No. 41 of 21 April 2023 has extended the obligation to public prosecutors and has established that judges' orders and hearings minutes must be also filed electronically. The Decrees of 3 May 2023, 11 July 2023, 4 August 2023 and No. 110 of 7 August 2023 of the Ministry of Justice have all contributed to the digitalisation of civil proceedings and have been assessed in the context of the satisfactorily fulfilment of prior milestone M1C1-37. In particular, they have, among other things, defined the criteria for drafting electronic judicial files for civil proceedings introduced as of 1 September 2023 below EUR 500.000 with the objective of rationalising the file management system of civil electronic trials. Moreover, it should be noted that the digitalisation of civil proceedings and the electronically filing of any relevant act and document are indeed part of the overarching civil justice reform which is by essence intertwined with reform 1.8 on the digitalisation of the justice system. The pieces of legislation adopted in the context of the abovementioned prior milestones are necessary step towards the mandatory electronic filing of all documents and full electronic workflow for civil proceedings that originally stem from the adoption of the enabling legislation for the civil justice reform, Legislative Decree No. 149/2022 as converted into Law No. 206/2021.

In order to give further implementation to the digitalisation of civil proceedings, the Italian authorities have adopted the following acts:

- The Decree of the Ministry of Justice No. 217 of 29 December 2023, which implements Article 87 (paragraphs 1 and 3) of Legislative Decree No. 150/2022, constituting the enabling legislation for the criminal justice reform, and provisions on the digitalisation of the justice system as envisaged by Legislative Decree No. 150/2022 and by Decree Law No. 36/2023. The Decree No. 217 has entered into force on 14 January 2024, 15 days after its publication in the Official Journal No. 303 of 30 December 2023. Article 2 of the Decree has amended the Decree of the Ministry of Justice No. 44 of 21 February 2011 by updating the provisions on the service of certified delivery of communications, the identification process to access the justice system and on the issuing of the Digital Signature Certificate, apart from extending the possibility to use remote hearing for people that stand trial personally or represent private entities. Moreover, the mandatory electronic filing of all documents and full electronic workflow for civil proceedings have

also been extended to proceedings in front of the Court of Cassation, the judges of the peace and juvenile courts, in accordance with the provisions mandated by Art. 35 of the enabling legislation for the civil justice reform Legislative Decree No. 149/2022 and the technical rules of the abovementioned Ministry of Justice Decree No. 44/2011 as amended by the Ministry of Justice Decree No. 217/2023;

- Decision of the Directorate-General for Automated Information Systems of the Ministry of Justice adopted on 5 December 2023 and entered into force on 4 January 2024, 30 days after its publication on the website of the Ministry of Justice. The Decision contains the technical specifications for the submission of applications and the maintenance of the register of technical consultants and the national list of technical consultants;

- Decision of the Directorate-General for Automated Information Systems of the Ministry of Justice adopted on 11 December 2023 and entered into force the same day of its publication on the website of the Ministry of Justice. The Decision contains the technical specifications for the video-registration of minors, its archiving and electronic filing;

- Decision of the Directorate-General for Automated Information Systems of the Ministry of Justice adopted on 11 December 2023 and entered into force the same day of its publication on the website of the Ministry of Justice. The Decision contains the technical specifications for remote hearings and for ensuring their publicity.

In conclusion, the Italian authorities have taken significant action for establishing a full electronic workflow for civil proceedings in line with the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision. To this end, they have adopted numerous legislative acts and secondary legislation, including for the extension of the mandatory electronic filing of documents to all parties involved in civil proceedings. Additionally, the Italian authorities have implemented various technical specifications and provided practical measures such as work laptops for judges, trainings to judges of the Court of Cassation, judges of the peace and juvenile courts as evidenced by the links to the e-learning platforms, user manuals, PowerPoint presentations and reports on the digitalisation of the justice system, as well as fully telematic chancellery communications. These measures not only support the transition to digitalization, but also facilitate the full electronic workflow for civil proceedings across all levels of the Italian judicial system.

- **First instance criminal proceedings digitalised (excluding preliminary hearing office).**

In line with the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision, the Italian authorities have adopted the necessary regulations and secondary sources of legislation necessary to digitalise criminal proceedings, with the exclusion of the preliminary hearing office, which are the following:

- The Council Implementing Decision required that the first instance criminal proceedings are digitalised (excluding preliminary hearing office). The Decree of the Ministry of Justice No. 217 of 29 December 2023, which implements Art. 87 (paragraphs 1 and 3) of Legislative Decree No. 150/2022, constituting the enabling legislation for the criminal justice reform, and provisions on the digitalisation of the justice system as envisaged by Legislative Decree No. 150/2022 and by Decree Law No. 36/2023, has entered into force on 14 January 2024, 15 days after its publication in the Official Journal No. 303 of 30 December 2023. However, this Decree envisages a postponement of its applicability for specific provisions. Article 3 defines a timeline for the digitalisation of criminal proceedings that is modulated in respect of the phases and instances of criminal proceedings. In particular, Article 3 (paragraphs 1, 2, 7 and 8) establishes a transitory period for 2024, during which documents for preliminary investigations, can be filed both electronically and in paper. Article 3 (paragraph 2 and 4) determines that as of 1 January 2025 the filing of legal documents pertaining to first instance criminal proceedings, including the preliminary hearing office and the contradictory phase, must be exclusively done electronically. Whilst this constitutes a

minimal temporal deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, the delay between the entry into force of this Decree and the actual application of such provisions is considered both limited and proportional, notably because the delay in applicability is of a short duration and is proportional to the time necessary for the Italian authorities to conduct the required technical work for enabling the exclusively electronic filing of the legal documents pertaining to first instance criminal proceedings. No further legal act is necessary for the digitalisation of first instance criminal proceedings, and as such there is legal certainty that these provisions will apply as of 1 January 2025. Therefore, the delay in applicability enables practitioners to have enough time to familiarise with the new system and allows for a smooth and gradual technical transition towards the digitalisation of criminal proceedings, which would be assessed in the context of future milestone M1C1-38bis. Moreover, the Ministerial Decree No. 217/2023 has already entered into force, as such ensuring the production of legal effects. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

○ Decree of the Ministry of Justice adopted on 4 July 2023 and entered into force on 20 July 2023, 15 days after its publication in the Official Journal No. 155 of 5 July 2023. The Decree has been integrated by the Ministry of Justice Decree of 18 July 2023, which has entered into force on 19 July 2023, the day after its publication in the Official Journal No. 166 of 18 July 2023. The combined reading of the two Ministerial Decrees launched a trial phase, from their entry into force until the applicability of Decree No. 217/2023, for the electronic filing of criminal proceedings through the “Portal for electronic filing of criminal acts”, which is assessed below.

The digitalisation of criminal proceedings involves the use of three platforms:

- “Portal of notice of crimes” (hereinafter referred to as “PNDR”, the “*Portale delle notizie di reato*”), which is used by law enforcement to record and transmit notices of crime to the justice system for preliminary investigations;
- “Portal for electronic filing of criminal acts” (hereinafter referred to as “PDP”, the “*Portale deposito atti penali*”, which is used by authorised actors that are outside the management of the justice system, such as defence lawyers, to file and send documents related to a criminal proceeding;
- “Portal of criminal proceedings” (hereinafter referred to as “APP”, the “*Applicativo Processo Penale*”, the IT system for criminal proceedings) which is managed by the judicial sector (for instance magistrates and personnel of the trial offices) and allows magistrates to draft and archive the documents related to the phase of the preliminary investigation up to the request for dismissal (*archiviazione*) and/or to the notification of conclusion of the preliminary investigations.

The PNDR and PDP feed the APP and have a certain degree of interconnection with it. The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 27 February 2024 to verify the three platforms and their functionalities. The check was completed successfully, confirming that the platforms contribute to the digitalisation of criminal proceedings.

- **Creation of a free, fully accessible and searchable database of civil decision according to the legislation.**

In line with the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision, the Italian authorities have created a database of civil decisions that is in conformity with the legislation, namely the Legislative Decree No. 196 of 30 June 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the “Personal Data Protection Code”), since it ensures a high degree of data confidentiality through the pseudonymization of data potentially allowing the parties’ identification while providing, at the same time, the full readability of the documents and the clear indication of the responsible judges. The “*Banca Dati di Merito*” (hereinafter referred to as “BDP”, the “Public Database”), is, as evidenced by the link provided by the Italian authorities, free, fully accessible to citizens and contains civil decisions that, in light of the

free accessibility, are anonymised to ensure the protection of personal data. In addition to the above, the Italian authorities have also created the “*Banca Dati Riservata*” (hereinafter referred to as “BDR”), a reserved database that is only accessible to ordinary magistrates currently in service and, as such, contains criminal and civil decisions that are not anonymised.

Both databases include up-to-date civil jurisdictional decisions that have been published since 1 January 2016, which comprise rulings, ordinances and decrees excluding those in the field of family law, minors and status of the person. The population of the databases takes place through the daily extraction of the acts from civil justice source systems. In line with the Circular of 13 November 2023 adopted by the Digital Transition Department of the Ministry of Justice, the BDR has become operational on 20 November 2023 and the PDP on 14 December 2023. The Italian authorities have provided a link to the BDP demonstrating the accessibility to citizens, prior to a login authentication, and its operationalisation.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-59	M1C1-59, Related Measure: Reform 1.9 Reform of Public Administration	
Name of the Milestone: Entry into force of strategic human resource management in the Public Administration		
Quantitative Indicator: Provision indicating the entry into force of the legislation for the introduction of strategic human resource management in the Public Administration.		Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context: The main objective of the public employment reform is to improve the effectiveness of the public administration at central and local levels by enhancing human capital management (selection, competences, horizontal and vertical mobility), providing support with technical experts, simplifying administrative procedures and digitalising public services.</p> <p>Milestone M1C1-59 requires the entry into force of the legislation and the delegated acts for the introduction of strategic human resource management in the Public Administration, including the definition of HR strategic plans in the context of the Integrated Activity and Organisation Plan (PIAO) for all central and regional administrations. Milestone M1C1-59 follows the implementation of the reform of public employment, which was initiated with the enabling legislation assessed under milestone M1C1-56 and fully implemented through secondary acts under milestone M1C1-58.</p> <p>Milestone M1C1-59 will be followed by Milestone M1C1-59bis due in Q2 2024, which requires the publication of the first semi-annual report on KPIs, and by Milestone M1C1-59ter due in Q2 2026, which requires the full operability and interoperability of the HR management toolkit.</p>		
<p>Evidence provided:</p> <p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii) Documents complementing the summary document with additional information on the satisfactory fulfilment of the milestone. The documents were submitted on 12 March 2024, 4 April 2024 and 16 April 2024, and provide more information about the legislation and delegated acts allowing for the introduction of strategic human resource management in the public administration, and about the extension of HR strategic plans to large municipalities and capacity building investments in small and medium municipalities; iii) Decree-Law n. 80 of 9 June 2021, converted into law n. 113 of 6 August 2021, that first introduced the Integrated Activity and Organization Plan (PIAO); 		

- iv) Ministerial Decree n. 132 of 30 June 2022 defining the content of the PIAO, including the HR strategic plan;
- v) Decree of the Head of Department of the Public Function n. ID 45821007 of 18 April 2023 approving funding for the design, development and implementation of the 'HRM Management Toolkit' (also referred to as 'sub-reform 2.3.1');
- vi) Decree of the Head of Department of Public Function n. ID 50130461 of 29 December 2023, approving funding for capacity building investments in municipalities with population between 25,000 inhabitants and 250,000 inhabitants (also referred to as 'sub-investment 2.3.2');
- vii) Law No. 197 of 29 December 2022 ('Budget law 2023') allocating funding for capacity building investments in municipalities with population lower than 5,000 inhabitants;
- viii) The Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of 1 May 2023 determining rules to access to the funding mentioned in point vii);
- ix) Decree of the Head of Department of Public Function n. ID 0017856 of 21 February 2021, approving funding for enhancing the "syllabus.gov.it" platform for public employee training (also referred to as 'sub-investment 2.3.1');
- x) Decree of the Head of Department of Public Function n. ID 48795739 of 13 October 2023, establishing the central Delivery Unit;
- xi) The Law n. 213 of 30 December 2023 (or 'Budget Law 2024'), allocating fundings for the design and development of IT systems for recruitment, training and personnel management in the Public Administration;
- xii) Copy of the Agreement between the Department of Public Function and Formez PA for the implementation of sub-reform 2.3.1 on reform of the labour market in the PA, signed on 24 July 2024.

The authorities also provided:

- xiii) Fiche describing 'sub-reform 2.3.1', and in particular the scope of the HR management toolkit;
- xiv) Fiche describing 'sub-investment 2.3.2' and list of the 135 targeted municipalities;
- xv) Fiche describing 'sub-investment 2.3.1';
- xvi) Internal Governance Rules of the Central Delivery Unit, adopted on 15 December 2023 as well as guidelines for the assessment of the quality of PIAOs.
- xvii) Link to the library of competences (<https://www.rivaproject.it>), that will be integrated with the HR management toolkit.
- xviii) Copy of the Agreement between the Department of Public Function and Formez PA for the implementation of sub-investment 2.3.2 on the improvement of administrative capacity in planning, organising, and training the labour force in the Public Administration, signed on 16 November 2023;
- xix) Directive of the Minister of the Public Administration of 24 March 2023 on the planning of training and development of functional skills for the ecological and administrative digital transition promoted by the recovery plan;
- xx) Decree of the Minister of the Public Administration of 28 June 2023 on the competency framework for non-managerial members of staff of the public administrations;
- xxi) Decree of the Minister of the Public Administration of 22 June 2023 on the establishment of the National Observatory of public employment, published on the Official Journal n. 168 of 10 July 2023.
- xxii) Decree of the Minister of the Public Administration of 22 July 2022, and published on the Official Journal on 14 September 2022, on guidelines for the identification of new professional needs by public administrations;
- xxiii) Project file (sub-investment 2.3.2) of 24 July 2023 on the improvement of administrative capacity in planning, organising, and training the labour force in the Public Administration.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The legislation and delegated acts for the introduction of strategic human resource management in the Public Administration shall include:

the definition, in the context of the Integrated Activity and Organisation Plan (PIAO), of HR strategic plans, for recruitment, career development and training, for all central and regional administrations supported by an integrated database with skills and profiles;

Italy adopted legislation and delegated acts that define, in the context of the PIAO, HR strategic plans for the recruitment, career development and training for all central and regional administrations.

In particular, Decree-Law n. 80 of 9 June 2021, converted into law n. 113 of 6 August 2021 (Art. 6, commas 2b and 2c) establishes that each administration shall include in its “integrated activity and organization plan” (PIAO – *Piano integrato di attività e organizzazione*)² a specific section indicating a strategy for recruitment of staff, as well as objectives, resources, and methodologies for staff training, together with managers and officials within the administration who are responsible for carrying out such training activities.

The Ministerial decree n. 132/2022 (Art. 4) provides the template for the PIAO, including of the section dedicated to a strategy for human resources. The Annex of the Ministerial Decree provides a ‘Guide for compilation’ for filling out the templated PIAO and, in particular, the section dedicated to human resources management plan. The plan must cover the needs of personnel for a three-year period and shall include: a quantification of the members of staff in the previous year; projections for future recruitment needs based on current professional profiles; strategic analysis of the objectives of transformation of the allocation of resources, such as horizontal and vertical mobility; a strategy of trainings to reskill employees or upgrade their skills.

In addition, Italy adopted several delegated acts that complement the Ministerial Decree n. 132/2022 and guide national and subnational administrations in the management of the career and performance of their staff in the context of PIAOs. In particular, Italy adopted:

- Art. 1 comma 43 of the Law n. 213 of 30 December 2023 (or ‘Budget Law 2024’), which provides funds for the development of IT systems for recruitment, training and personnel management in the public administration.
- Decree of Head of Department n. ID 0017856 of 21 February 2022 approving funding for enhancing the “syllabus.gov.it” platform for public employee training.
- Decree of Head of Department n. ID 45821007 of 18 April 2023 approving funding for the design, development and implementation of the ‘HRM Management Toolkit’. The ‘toolkit’ will support administrations in matching demand for and supply of skilled personnel and implement their HR strategies.

Italy adopted delegated acts that ensure that the HR strategic plans for the recruitment, career development and training are adopted by all central and regional administrations with the support of an integrated database of skills and profiles.

Decree of Head of Department n. ID 45821007 of 18 April 2023 approves funding for the development of a software application and database for strategic human resource management – also referred to as ‘HRM toolkit’. On 24 July 2023, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and FormezPA, a public entity that promotes training of civil servants, signed an agreement (“convenzione”, in line with the Italian Public Procurement Code that allows public contracting authorities and concession-granting entities to directly award in-house companies contracts for works, services, or supplies) for the development of the ‘toolkit’. The agreement provides evidence that the ‘toolkit’ will indeed support the drafting of HR strategies. According to the

agreement, the 'toolkit' will allow for:

- viewing and searching within a library of competences;
- evaluating the skills of currently employed staff, based on the abovementioned library;
- creating plans for training;
- identifying the necessary skills and plan the staff needs in terms of hiring and training, thanks to the interoperability of the 'toolkit' with the "inPA portal";
- automating recurring activities, such as screening of educational qualifications and work experience, and defining professional roles based on the identified skills needs.

As of April 2024, the library of competences is available at <https://www.rivaproject.it>. It includes 200 competences that define 22 job profiles (in line with milestone M1C1-56, previously assessed), which are characterized by common basic professional and behavioural competencies.

As part of the agreement, FormezPA will pilot the 'toolkit' with 40 administrations and is scheduled to make it available to all administrations required to prepare a PIAO by end of 2026 as per milestone M1C1-59ter.

The legislation and delegated acts for the introduction of strategic human resource management in the Public Administration shall include the creation of a central Delivery Unit coordinating and supporting the Human Resource planning system.

Italy adopted delegated acts that created the Central Delivery Unit, defined its scope in line with the CID Annex and regulated its functioning.

The Decree of the Head of Department of Public Function n. ID 48795739 of 13 October 2023 creates the Central Delivery Unit. In accordance with Article 1(1) of such Decree, the Unit's role is to coordinate and lead the implementation of the reform of public employment by ensuring the effective introduction of a strategic Human Resource planning system in the public administration, by presiding over the experimentation and implementation of the digital tools and over the dissemination of the know-how, including through guidelines and circulars.

The Decree specifies that the Unit is tasked to ensure the scientific oversight of the design, construction, testing, and development of a professional system and Human Resource planning system based on competencies, valid for all public administrations, acting as a think tank through policy papers, advancement reports, and publications.

Furthermore, the Italian authorities also adopted internal guidelines ("Regolamento interno dell'unita operativa centrale") detailing the internal governance of the Unit as well as internal guidelines for the assessment of the PIAOs.

In a second phase, HR strategic plans shall be extended to large municipalities

The relevant articles of Decree Law n. 80 of 9 June 2021 and of Ministerial Decree n. 132/2022 (mentioned above) already require large municipalities (defined as municipalities with more than 250,000 residents) to adopt three-year PIAOs. Large municipalities therefore already draft HR strategic plans in accordance with the guidance set out in Ministerial Decree n. 132/2022 and applicable to central administrations with more than 50 employees.

[In a second phase,] small and medium municipalities are the object of specific capacity building investments.

The Decree of the Head of Department of Public Function n. ID 50130461 of 29 December 2023 approves funding for a capacity building project in municipalities with a population between 25,000 inhabitants and 250,000 inhabitants (medium municipalities). According to the document detailing its scope (sections 1.2, 1.3, 2 and 3) and accompanying the decree, the project will be first piloted for a sample of 135 of these municipalities and has the following objectives:

- Process simplification and reengineering: by analyzing existing workflows and identifying inefficiencies and redundancies, the project will redesign processes to make them more streamlined, efficient, and results-oriented.
- Development of cross-functional skills of human capital: the project aims to enhance the "soft skills" of public employees, such as effective communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and time management. This will be achieved through targeted training programs and individual development paths.
- New organization and work models: more flexible and agile organizational models that promote collaboration and knowledge sharing will be explored. Additionally, innovative work models, such as smart working, will be promoted to allow for a better work-life balance and increased employee satisfaction.

A key element of the project is the creation of a management dashboard ("cruscotto direzionale") that can support the human resources planning system for the benefit of all participating administrations. Furthermore, to facilitate the sharing of best practices and mutual learning, a "community of practice" will be established, bringing together representatives from all participating administrations.

Following the pilot phase, the project plans to target other administrations, including municipalities with a population of less than 25,000 (small municipalities) (section 1.4 of the document detailing the scope of the project and accompanying the decree).

Art. 1, comma 828 of Law No. 197 of 29 December 2022 ('Budget law 2023') introduces the possibility for municipalities with a population of less than 5,000 inhabitants and implementing PNRR projects to use a portion of the resources already allocated by the first Decree PNRR (Legislative Decree No. 152 of 6 November 2021) also to support the costs of the compensation of the Chief Executive Officers ('segretari comunali') of those municipalities. The Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of 1 May 2023 establishes the procedures for accessing the funding. A total of 2,625 municipalities, representing 47.4% of Italian municipalities with a population of up to 5,000 inhabitants (very small municipalities), have expressed interest in the measure. The measure is intended to strengthen the administrative capacity of small municipalities by supporting the hiring of qualified personnel; it is temporary and is linked to the implementation of PNRR projects.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-75	M1C1-75, Related Measure: Reform 1.10 Reform of public procurement legislative framework	
Name of the Milestone: Full operation of the National eProcurement System		
Quantitative Indicator: Availability of the functions defined in the feasibility study (to be elaborated as project Task 1)		Time: Q4 2023
Evidence provided:		
In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. A link to the National eProcurement System: https://www.acquistinretepa.it; iii. Consip feasibility study of 19 December 2022; iv. Consip's report of the internal purchasing planning system of 19 December 2023, No. 0062661; v. ANAC Deliberation No. 582 of 13 December 2023 on the interoperability of the Banca Dati Nazionale dei Contratti Pubblici; vi. Consip list of interventions to update and strengthen the National eProcurement System and 		

- vii. supporting reports and testing and acceptance minutes; Consip reports No. 20230002-S01-C03 of 9 October 2023 on the update of MEPA and SDAPA to the new Public Procurement Code;
- viii. Consip Report no. 20210002-S05-C10 of 21 December 2023 on the integration with InfoCamere;
- ix. Consip Report no. L2_SVI_20210002-S05-C14 of 22 May 2023 on the integration with InIT;
- x. Testing reports No. 0062660, 0062664 and 0062667 issued by Consip on 19 December 2023 updating the National eProcurement System during the execution of contracts;
- xi. Consip reports No. G26462021 of 12 October 2022 and No. G26462021 of 21 December 2022 on the digital habilitation of economic operators;
- xii. Consip report of 21 December 2023 on auction sessions through electronic catalogues;
- xiii. Consip report of 12 December 2023 on machine learning systems in MePA;
- xiv. Consip report of 19 December 2023 on CRM solutions with chatbots for the National eProcurement System;
- xv. Consip report of 7 December 2023 on status chain functionalities for the National eProcurement System;
- xvi. Copy of Legislative-Decree No. 36 of 31 March 2023, as published in the Official Journal No. 77 of 31 March 2023.

The authorities also provided:

- xvii. Set of manuals, guidelines, presentations and intermediate reports on the implementation/digitalisation of the justice system; National eProcurement System.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italy authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

- **Availability of the functions defined in the feasibility study (to be elaborated as project Task 1)**

In line with the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision, the Italian authorities have ensured the operability of the National eProcurement System and of the relevant platforms that are part of the wider national ecosystem of digital procurement platforms as evidenced by a set of reports issued by Consip SpA, which manages the National eProcurement System platform, and ANAC, which manages the Banca Dati Nazionale dei Contratti Pubblici (hereinafter referred to as “BDNCP”, National Database of Public Contract). The functions have been indicated in the feasibility study of 19 December 2022, elaborated by Consip as the first task of the project. The Commission services have also conducted an on-the-spot check on 17 May 2024 to verify the platforms and their functionalities. The check was completed successfully, confirming that the verified functionalities are in place, as indicated below.

- **The National eProcurement System shall be operational and fully in line with EU Public Procurement Directives, and include the full digitalization of procedures up to the contract execution (smart procurement). Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, this reform also consists in making the national e-Procurement System operational by the end of 2023**

The National E-procurement System covers all the phases of the public contract life cycle as defined in Art. 21 of the Legislative-Decree No. 36 of 31 March 2023 (hereinafter referred to as the “Public Procurement Code)

In line with the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision, the Italian authorities have ensured the operability of the platform "acquistinretepa" (the “online purchasing tool of the public administration”), which constitutes the National eProcurement System. The platform is jointly

managed by the Ministry of Economy and Finance (hereinafter referred to as “MEF”) and Consip S.p.A. (the national central purchasing body, hereinafter referred to as “Consip”); “acquistinretepa” is the operational portal that enables to carry out all the activities of the Programme for rationalisation of purchases in the public sector, from tendering procedures to the habilitation of companies, from the publication of the catalogues of offers to purchases by public authorities, through direct orders or negotiations.

All phases of the life cycle of public contracts make priority use of the National Platform of eProcurement and are digitally managed, including with the integration of the services provided by the National Data Digital Platform (hereinafter referred to as “PDND”, Piattaforma Digitale Nazionale Dati, the national platform ensuring the interoperability of public administration data), which allows exchanges of data with, for example, the Banca Dati Nazionale dei Contratti Pubblici (hereinafter referred to as “BDNCP”, National Database of Public Contract). The platform also allows contracting authorities to launch tenders autonomously, while they can rely on Consip as central purchasing body.

The National eProcurement System is part of the wider national ecosystem of digital procurement platforms and services that manages the life cycle of public contracts, as indicated by Art. 22 of the Legislative-Decree No. 36 of 31 March 2023 (hereinafter referred to as “D.Lgs. No. 36/2023” or the “Public Procurement Code”), and include also other digital platforms, such as the newly created Digital Procurement Platform of Consip (hereinafter referred to as “PAD-SA”), as contracting authority, that ensures interoperability for the phases of planning and execution of contracts.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 17 May 2024 to verify the platforms and their functionalities. The check was completed successfully, confirming that the National eProcurement System is operational and include the smart procurement demonstrating the functionalities below.

More in detail, Art. 21 (paragraph 1) Part II of the Public Procurement Code on the “Digitalisation of public contracts life cycle” identifies five different phases of public contracts life cycle, for which Italian authorities and Consip have adopted the following implementing measures, both at the level of the platform “acquistinretepa” and of PAD-SA:

- *Planning phase*: Consip has created PAD-SA to manage the planning and execution phase of the contracts in its capacity of contracting authority. The “Sistema Pai – Piano Acquisti Interno (hereinafter referred to as “PAI”, Internal Procurement Planning), of PAD-SA concerns the planning phase of the public contracts’ life cycle. Such digitalised planning system allows to centrally identify the purchasing and supply needs of Consip and has been aligned with the novelties introduced by the D.Lgs. No. 36/2023, namely the new applicable national and EU thresholds and the passage from a biennial planning approach to a triennial, as evidenced by the testing report of Consip. Moreover, the publicity of Consip PAI is ensured by the Public Contract Service platform (hereinafter referred to as “PCS”) of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport. Such platform makes available to the contracting authorities functionalities of interoperability with the “BDNCP” of the Anticorruption Authority (hereinafter referred to as “ANAC”) that has realised the interventions needed to allow the interoperability of, as evidenced by ANAC Deliberation No. 582 of 13 December 2023.
- *Design, publication and award phases*: Consip has updated the functions of the National eProcurement System to strengthen the efficiency of the digitalisation of purchasing procedures and align it with the D.Lgs. No. 36/2023. Such interventions, as evidenced by Consip report No. 20230002-S01-C03 of 9 October 2023, concern the Digital Market for the Public Administration (hereinafter referred to as “MePA”, *Mercato elettronico della Pubblica Amministrazione*), which is a business-to-government marketplace where contracting authorities can directly place their orders to registered economic operators; the Dynamic Purchasing System of the Public Administration (hereinafter referred to as “SDAPA”, *Sistema Dinamico di Acquisizione della Pubblica Amministrazione*), which allows contracting authorities to autonomously negotiate

with registered economic operators; and the use of Purchasing Agreements, Framework Contracts and tenders in application service provider on the platform "acquistinretepa".

- *Execution phase:* Consip has updated the functions of the National eProcurement System to cater for the novelties introduced by the new Public Procurement Code, for instance in the areas of subcontracting and the respect of publication and transparency requirements during the execution of contracts, as evidenced by the testing reports No. 0062660, 0062664 and 0062667 issued by Consip on 19 December 2023.

Based on the foregoing considerations, it is concluded that the National eProcurement System, represented by the joint platform "acquistinretepa" (the "online purchasing of the public administration"), and Consip' Digital Procurement Platform include the full digitalisation of procedures up to the contract execution. This is evident from the System's integration into the wider national ecosystem of digital procurement platforms and services, as required by D.Lgs. No. 36/2023. The implementation of measures to align the system with the new Public Procurement Code emphasizes the digitalization of the entire procurement process, from planning to execution.

The implementing measures to align and update the National eProcurement System to the Public Procurement Code are in line with the EU Public Procurement Directives, specifically with Directive No. 2014/24/EU as it concerns public procurement in ordinary sectors. Such measures are in fact aligned with Articles 34 on the dynamic purchasing systems, Article 35 on electronic auctions and Article 36 on electronic catalogues of Directive No. 2014/24/EU. The assessment of the compliance with Directive No. 2014/24/UE for the purposes of payments from the Recovery and Resilience Facility does not prejudice the assessment by the Commission in any other proceedings regarding the conformity of the national law with the aforementioned legislation.

- **shall be interoperable with the management systems of the public administration,**

In line with the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision, the Italian authorities have ensured the interoperability of the National eProcurement System with the management systems of the public administration listed below. The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 17 May 2024 to verify the interoperability of the platforms BDNCP, PAD-SA and PDND. The check was completed successfully, confirming that the National eProcurement System is interoperable with these management systems of the public administration.

The interventions concern the following:

- the BDNCP, public database managed by ANAC that gathers all the information and activities that ensure the management of the entire life cycle of public contracts;
- the PAD-SA, the Digital Procurement Platform created and managed by Consip, as contracting authority, that ensures interoperability for the phases of planning and execution of contracts;
- the National Data Digital Platform (hereinafter referred to as "PDND", Piattaforma Digitale Nazionale Dati) managed by PagoPA on behalf of the Department of Digital Transformation of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Such platform ensures the interoperability of public administration data and allows the National eProcurement System to access the e-services provided by ANAC on such platform;
- InfoCamere portal, the digital registry of enterprises, which collects all the business information for companies not yet registered to the e-procurement platform, as evidenced by Consip Report no. 20210002-S05-C10 of 21 December 2023.
- InIT, the informatic system of the State's General National Accounting Office that supports the economic and financial accounting processes, ensuring an exchange of information between InIT and acquistinretepa, as evidenced by Consip Report no. L2_SVI_20210002-S05-C14 of 22 May 2023.

- **shall contain a digital habilitation of PO, auction sessions, machine learning to detect trends, CRMs with chatbots, digital engagement and status chain.**

In line with the requirements of the Council Implementing Decision, the Italian authorities have ensured that:

- the “Punti Ordinanti” (hereinafter referred to as “POs”, operators of the public administrations enabled to purchase) and economic operators (hereinafter referred to as “OEs”) are digitally habilitated and registered in the National eProcurement System. In this regard, Consip has made the National eProcurement System interoperable with the InfoCamere portal, the digital registry of enterprises, which collects all the business information for companies not yet registered to the e-procurement platform. Through the interoperability of the two platforms, OEs, digitally signed-in in InfoCamere, can have their main data transposed and pre-filled in “acquistinretepa” and can verify the compliance with the requirements for the registration in the National eProcurement System. Consip has also enhanced the automatic control features and the registration requirements for the OEs already present in the National eProcurement System as to monitor possible changes in their status and ensure the continuous compliance with such requirements. Such interventions are evidenced by Consip reports No. G26462021 of 12 October 2022 and No. G26462021 of 21 December 2022. The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 17 May 2024 to verify the digital habilitation of PO. The check was completed successfully, confirming that the National eProcurement System endures the digital registration and habilitation of POs and OEs.

- Auction sessions can be held within the National eProcurement System. In the course of 2023, Consip has developed a stable solution, through the use of electronic catalogues, which required firstly to conduct a feasibility study for the implementation of electronic catalogues for SDAPA, and subsequently to implement the features of the catalogue, as evidenced by the Consip report of 21 December 2023.

- machine learning systems are used to detect trends. Consip has implemented a AI/ML (“artificial intelligence/machine learning”) solution in MePA (*Mercato elettronico della Pubblica Amministrazione*), which is the digital marketplace for below EU thresholds purchases of the public administration. Such intervention has associated in MePA Watch product categories to the award of below EU threshold contracts that do not have a CPV, a common procurement vocabulary. Consip has also developed a set of indicators which have led to the design and production of a predictive model, able to broaden the analysis of OEs and CAs possible occurrence of anti-competitive behaviour on the basis of red flags and orient future interventions on MePA. Such interventions are evidenced by Consip report of 12 December 2023

- A CRM (customer relationship management tool) with chatbots is adopted and digital engagement is embedded in the “acquistinretepa” platform. Consip has implemented the following functionalities in the National eProcurement system, as evidenced by the Consip report of 19 December 2023

- A MultiChannel Campaign Management solution (MCCM) to ensure a more user-friendly experience to users;
- The provision of webinars to the different category of users of “acquistinretepa”, OEs and Public Administrations;
- The provision of chatbot services that have been integrated in the platform and make users more autonomous in the resolutions of issues linked to the use of “acquistinretepa”.

The Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 17 May 2024 to verify whether the National eProcurement system platform had chatbots functionalities. The check was completed successfully, confirming that a CRM with chatbots are in place.

- Status chain technology is embedded in the National eProcurement System for the module of tenders in Application Service Provider, which is used when contracting authorities use the platform to launch tenders autonomously. The use of Blockchain technology within the digital infrastructure of the public administration represents a

highly innovative solution, up-to-date with the latest developments for data storage and certification, allowing for example to attach a digital signature to a document, and consistent with the principle of transparency and with the security needs related to the conservation of information from citizens and businesses, as evidenced by Consip report of 7 December 2023.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-73quater	M1C1-73quater, Related Measure: Reform 1.10: Reform of the public procurement legislative framework		
Name of the Milestone: Entry into force of guidelines on below-EU threshold procurement			
Qualitative Indicator: Entry into force of guidelines on below-EU threshold procurement			Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>Milestone –M1C1-73quater is part of Reform 1.10 - Reform of the public procurement legislative framework, which is aimed at simplifying and increasing efficiency of the public procurement system, increasing legal certainty for businesses and accelerating the award and execution of public contracts.</p> <p>Following up from the adoption of the new Public Procurement Code in 2023 (Milestones M1C1-73 and M1C1-74), Milestone M1C1-73quater concerns the issuance of further guidance and clarifications on below-EU threshold procurement, through a circular to be adopted and published on the Italian Official Journal. The circular shall clarify that contracting authorities can use open and restricted procedures for below-EU threshold procurement.</p> <p>Milestone M1C1-73quater is the sixth milestone part of Reform 1.10 - Reform of the public procurement legislative framework, following milestones M1C1-70, M1C1-71 and M1C1-69, M1C1-72, M1C1-73, M1C1-74, stemming from simplification and digitalization of tendering procedures, to qualification and professionalization of contracting authorities, through reducing the fragmentation of contracting authorities, setting e-platform and the new Public Procurement Code.</p> <p>Milestone M1C1-73quater is followed by milestone M1C1-75 on the National e-Procurement System, and targets M1C1-84 and M1C1-85 which reduce the average time for the award procedures, M1C1-86, ensuring the training of a certain number of civil servants, and M1C1-87, aimed at increasing the number of contracting authorities using dynamic purchasing systems in this payment request.</p> <p>On the professionalization of civil servants, targets M1C1-98 in Q4 2024 and M1C1-98bis in Q4 2025 will also follow. Further targets are the following: Target M1C1-99 in Q4 2024 (aimed at further increasing the number of contracting authorities using dynamic purchasing systems); Targets M1C1-97 in Q4 2024 and M1C1-97bis in Q4 2024, both aimed at consolidating and increasing the reduction the average execution time; Target MC1-96 in Q4 2025, aimed at consolidating the reduction of the average award time.</p> <p>Finally, the milestones will be followed by Target M1C1-99bis, establishing that at least 50% of local contracting authorities shall have the digital competences required by the qualification (currently regulated in the Public Procurement Code).</p>			
<p>Evidence Provided:</p> <p>In line with the description of the milestone, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. Copy of the Italian Official Journal No. 274 of 23 November 2023, publishing circular No. 298, issued by the Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport on the public procurement award procedures pursuant to article 50 of Legislative-Decree No. 36 of 31 			

March 2023.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

○ **Circular on below-EU threshold procurement adopted and published in the Italian Official Journal**

The authorities have provided Circular No. 298 of 20th of November 2023 on below-EU threshold procurement, published in the Italian official journal no. 274 of 23rd of November 2023.

The circular shall clarify that contracting authorities can use open and restricted procedures for below-EU threshold procurement.

○ The Circular provides interpretative clarifications on article 50 of Public Procurement Code, which states that for below-EU threshold procurement contracting authorities use negotiated and restricted procedures (without mentioning explicitly also open procedures). The Circular makes explicit the possibility for contracting authorities to use both open and restricted procedures for below-EU threshold procurement in line with Directive 2014/24/EU. In particular, the Circular makes it now clear that contracting authorities can opt for ordinary and open tender procedures also for below threshold procurement. Article 50 of the Public Procurement Code, therefore, cannot be interpreted as forcing contracting authorities to use only direct or negotiated procedures for below thresholds awards.

○ In addition, the Circular specifies that, through the provisions of article 50 of the Public Procurement Code, the Italian legislator has also meant to follow up on the simplifications introduced by Decree-Law n. 77/2021 on urgent measures, simplification and speeding up of public procurement, adopted on 31 May 2021 (converted into Law n. 108 of 29 July 2021 and published in the Official Journal, general series, 181 of 30 July 2021, and reviewed under milestone M1C1-69 in relation to the first payment request), by allowing contracting authorities to choose the award procedures deemed more appropriate and proportionate to meet the requirements of speed and effectiveness in the selection of the economic operator, without prejudice to the fundamental principles of the Code and of the EU public procurement directives.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-84	M1C1-84, Related Measure: Reform 1.10 Reform of public procurement legislative framework		
Name of the Target: Average time between the publication and the contract award			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 139	Target: 100	Time: Q4 2023
Context: The main objective of the public procurement reform is to simplify and increase efficiency of the public procurement system, increase legal certainty for businesses and accelerate the award of public contracts. Target M1C1-84 concerns the reduction of the average time between publication and contract award for contracts above the thresholds of the EU public procurement directives. The reduction from a baseline of 139 days to 100 days shall be measured using data from the Italian National database for public contracts (BDNCP), managed by ANAC, based on the methodology adopted by the EU Official Journal (TED database). Target M1C1-84 is the first target of the Reform 1.10 of the public procurement legislative framework, and it follows the completion of M1C1-70, M1C1-71 and M1C1-69, related to the adoption of the abovementioned enabling legislation and measures in 2022			

and 2021.

Target M1C1-84 is accompanied by milestones M1C1-75 and M1C1-73^{quater}, which respectively concern the full operationalisation of the National e-Procurement System and the entry into force of guidelines on below-EU threshold procurement, and three targets. Target M1C1-86 provides that at 20 000 of civil servants shall be trained through the Buyers Professionalization Strategy and target M1C1-87 provides that at least 15% of contracting authorities shall be using dynamic purchasing systems. Target M1C1-85 concerns the reduction of the average time between contract award and realization of the infrastructure.

Target M1C1-84 will be followed in Q4 2024 by three milestones and several targets. Targets M1C1-96 and M1C1-97, in order to ensure the maintenance of the abovementioned reductions, repeat the same objectives in one-year time. Target M1C1-98 provides that at least 35% of civil servants shall be trained through the Buyers Professionalization Strategy and target M1C1-99 that at least 20% of contracting authorities are using dynamic purchasing systems. Milestone M1C1-73^{ter} envisages the introduction of incentives to the qualification and professionalisation of contracting authorities and milestone M1C1-73^{quinquies} provides for the adoption of new legal provisions on project financing aimed at enhancing efficiency and competition. M1C1-84^{bis} concerns the adoption of measures to improve decision speed in contract award of contracting authorities.

In Q4 2025, target M1C1-84 will be also followed three targets. At least 60% of civil servants shall have been trained through the Public Buyers Professionalization Strategy with a view to qualification for M1C1-98^{bis} and at least 50% of local contracting shall have the digital competencies required by the qualification for M1C1-99^{bis}. Target M1C1-97^{bis} concerns the reduction by at least 15% of the average time between the contract award and the realization of the infrastructure.

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- ii. Minutes of NRRP Coordination Unit of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers for public procurement (Cabina di Regia per il Codice dei Contratti Pubblici) of 14 December 2023 to review and assess the data transmitted by the Anti-corruption Authority (ANAC) and deliberate on the fulfilment of Targets M1C1-84 and M1C1-85;
- iii. Full database with list and information from ANAC for contracts above the thresholds of the EU public procurement directives published between July 2021 and November 2023;
- iv. Full list of works concluded between July 2021 and December 2023;
- v. List of criteria/queries and summary of the results for from ANAC's database [latest version];
- vi. the EU Official Journal (TED database) methodology and accompanying explanatory note detailing its application to ANAC database.

The authorities also provided:

- vii. Decree by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of 8 September 2024 to create the NRRP Coordination Unit for public procurement (Cabina di Regia per il Codice dei Contratti Pubblici) and appoint 11 experts as members;
- viii. Decree by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of 11 December 2023 to appoint 3 further experts (in representation of, respectively, the Regions, Provinces and Municipalities) as members of the NRRP Coordination Unit for public procurement.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italy authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

- **Based on the methods adopted by the EU Official Journal (TED database), using data from IT National database for public contracts (BDNCP), managed by ANAC, the average time between the deadline for the submission of tenders and the contract award shall be reduced to less than 100 days for contracts above the thresholds of the EU public procurement directives.**

Target M1C1-84 requires the reduction of the average time between publication and contract award for contracts above the thresholds of the EU public procurement directives from 139 days to 100 days. Such reduction has to be measured based on the methodology adopted by the EU Official Journal (hereinafter referred to as TED database) using the data stemming from the National database for public contracts (hereinafter referred to as “BDNCP”, National Database of Public Contracts), which is managed by the National Anticorruption and Public Contracts Authority (hereinafter referred to as “ANAC”). The Target measures the average award time in 2023.

The Italian authorities have carried out the calculation extracting the data from the National Public Contracts Database (BDNCP) provided by ANAC, as evidenced by the ANAC database with the list and information of contracts above the thresholds of the EU public procurement directives awarded between July 2021 and November 2023. Those calculations have been independently verified by the Commission services on the database provided by ANAC.

TED database methodology requires the use of the “Decision speed indicator” that, in line with the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, identifies the award of the contract as the last day to take into consideration for the measurement. Moreover, the Italian authorities have applied the same methodology used to calculate the average time between the deadline for the submission of tenders and the contract award as the one used for the Public Procurement Scoreboard indicator that uses the TED database (exclusion of procedures with more than 730 days, removal of repeated entries, removal of below-threshold procurement, removal of tendering procedures other than those that are open and removal of framework agreements), as evidenced by the explanatory note provided by the Italian authorities detailing the application of TED database methodology to ANAC database. The Decision period has been calculated as the difference between the day of expiration of the tender notice and the day of the award.

In order to provide the data necessary to verify the objective, ANAC has set up a query for the extraction of the data in the National Database of Public Contracts. The data set was provided by ANAC’s IT Office for Public Contracts and to the NRRP Mission Unit of the Secretary-General’s Office, within the Prime Minister’s Office.

The baseline of 139 days refers to the average time in 2020, and as such before the pandemic and the introduction of the simplification measures adopted as 2021, namely Decree-Law n. 77/2021, as converted into law by Law n. 108/2021, and of the newly adopted Public Procurement Code, Legislative-Decree No. 36/2023. The pieces of legislation have been assessed in the context of previous milestones M1C1-69, M1C1-70 and M1C1-73.

Against this baseline, the average award time from the notice publication in 2023 is 98.4 days, therefore below the 100 days required by the target..

- The milestone in the Council Implementation is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires that:
 - **For the purposes of these operational arrangement, ‘publication’ shall refer to the entire period for the submission of offers, i.e. including the last valid day indicated by the contracting authority in the call for tender for receiving offers.**

B. As indicated previously, the methodology followed by Italian authorities is based on the methods adopted by the EU Official Journal (TED database) which uses the date of submission of offers for its calculation.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-86	M1C1-86, Related Measure: Reform 1.10 Reform of public procurement legislative framework		
Name of the Target: Civil servants trained through the Public Buyers Professionalization Strategy			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 0	Target: 20 000	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>Target M1C1-86 is part of Reform 1.10 - Reform of the public procurement legislative framework, a comprehensive package of measures aimed at simplifying the Italian public procurement system, increasing its efficiency, ensuring professionalization and qualification of contracting authorities and ensuring legal certainty for businesses. Two of the main objectives of the reform are also those of accelerating the award of public contracts and their execution (i.e. the execution and completion of the works).</p> <p>Target M1C1-86 focuses on the professionalization of contracting authorities, ensuring the training of a significant portion of civil servants, including for example those registered in e-platforms such as CONSIP or central purchasing bodies.</p> <p>Target M1C1-86 is the third target of Reform 1.10 - Reform of the public procurement legislative framework. It follows several milestones (M1C1-70, M1C1-71 and M1C1-69, M1C1-72, M1C1-73, M1C1-74, M1C1-73quater, M1C1-75), stemming from simplification and digitalization of tendering procedures, to qualification and professionalization of contracting authorities, through reducing the fragmentation of contracting authorities, setting e-platform and notably adopting a new Public Procurement Code. Target M1C1-86 also follows Targets M1C1-84 and M1C1-85 in this payment request, aimed at reducing the average time for the award procedures and execution of works.</p> <p>The number of civil servants trained under Target M1C1-86 will be increased with Targets M1C1-98 in Q4 2024 and M1C1-98bis in Q4 2025. Target M1C1-86 will also be followed by the following targets: Target M1C1-87, aimed at increasing the number of contracting authorities using dynamic purchasing systems, then further increased with Target M1C1-99 in Q4 2024; Targets M1C1-97 and M1C1-97bis, which are both aimed at consolidating and increasing, in Q4 2024 and Q4 2025 respectively, the reduction the average execution time achieved with Target M1C1-85 in this payment request; Target MC1-96, aimed at consolidating, in Q4 2025, the reduction of the average award time achieved with Targets M1C1-84 in this payment request.</p> <p>Finally, the Target will be followed by Target M1C1-99bis, establishing that at least 50% of local contracting authorities shall have the digital competences required by the qualification (currently regulated in the Public Procurement Code).</p>			
Evidence provided:			
In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the target, including all the constitutive elements, was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. Dataset from the Presidency of the Council of Ministers with full list of civil servants trained through the Public Buyers Professionalization Strategy, with information on the public entity to which the civil servants belong, on the entity issuing the training, and on the type of training; iii. Decision form the Coordination Body (Cabina di Regia) of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of 3 December 2021 approving the Buyers Professionalization Strategy on public procurement. 			
The authorities also provided:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Attestations by the public procurement platform managing entities (ANAC, CONSIP, PNRR Academy, ReGiS and other regional platforms, namely SATER, SINTEL and START) that the 			

- civil servants in the dataset, as shared by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers are enrolled in the platforms they manage, together with guidelines for enrolment and profiling to the platforms attached. Namely:
- v. Database from ANAC of the list of subjects enrolled in the e-procurement platform;
 - vi. Email exchange of 10 May 2024 explaining the process for civil servants, acting as purchasing subjects, to enrol to the e-procurement platform by ANAC;
 - vii. Attestation from ANAC certifying that the subjects listed on the database transmitted are enrolled in the e-procurement platform as “Responsabile del Progetto” (RUP) or “Responsabile per l’Anagrafe Unica delle Stazioni Appaltanti” (RASA), signed on 20 May 2024;
 - viii. Guidelines for enrolment and profiling of civil servants on the e-procurement platform by managed by ANAC dated 22 December 2023;
 - ix. Database from CONSIP of the list of subjects enrolled in the e-procurement platform;
 - x. Attestation from CONSIP certifying that the subjects are enrolled in the e-procurement platform managed by CONSIP (*acquistinrete*), signed on 19 May 2024;
 - xi. Attestation from CONSIP certifying the modalities of enrolment to the e-procurement platform signed on 10 May 2024, attaching guidelines for enrolment and profiling of civil servants on the e-procurement platform managed by CONSIP (*acquistinrete*) last updated on 21 February 2024;
 - xii. Database from MEF of the list of subjects enrolled in the ReGis platform, shared on 17 May 2024;
 - xiii. Attestation from MEF certifying that the subjects listed on the database transmitted are enrolled in the ReGis platform, signed on 17 May 2024;
 - xiv. Guidelines for enrolment and profiling of civil servants on the ReGis platform managed by MEF;
 - xv. Database from the Presidency of the Council of Minister listing all subjects formed through the PNRR Academy indicating the platform on which they are enrolled among the national and regional ones (namely ANAC, CONSIP, START, SINTEL, SATER);
 - xvi. Attestation from ITACA certifying that the subject listed in the database from the Presidency of the Council of Minister listing all subjects formed through the PNRR Academy indicating the platform on which they are enrolled among the national and regional ones (namely ANAC, CONSIP, START, SINTEL, SATER) are enrolled in the PNRR Academy platform managed by ITACA, signed on 20 May 2024.
 - xvii. Attestation from Intercenter, managing the SATER platform certifying that the subjects listed in the database transmitted, and included in the database from the Presidency of the Council of Ministers listing all subjects formed through the PNRR Academy indicating the platform on which they are enrolled among the national and regional ones, are enrolled in the e-procurement platform managed by Intercenter, signed on 10 May 2024;
 - xviii. Guidelines for enrolment and profiling of civil servants on the SATER platform managed by Intercenter, dated 25 May 2023;
 - xix. Attestation from Tuscany region, managing the START platform certifying that the subjects listed in the database transmitted, and included in the database from the Presidency of the Council of Ministers listing all subjects formed through the PNRR Academy indicating the platform on which they are enrolled among the national and regional ones, are enrolled in the e-procurement platform managed by Tuscany region, signed on 10 May 2024;
 - xx. Guidelines for enrolment and profiling of civil servants on the START platform managed by Tuscany region;
 - xxi. Attestation from ARIA, managing the SINTEL platform certifying that the subjects listed in the database transmitted, and included in the database from the Presidency of the Council of Ministers listing all subjects formed through the PNRR Academy indicating the platform on which they are enrolled among the national and regional ones, are enrolled in the e-procurement platform managed by ARIA, signed on 10 May 2024;

- xxii. Guidelines for enrolment and profiling of civil servants on the SINTEL platform managed by ARIA, dated 12 February 2024.
- xxiii. Attestation from the General Secretariat of the National School of Administration (hereinafter also referred to as SNA), [signed on 24 May 2024] pursuant to the powers contained in the PCdM's decision of 3 December 2021 approving the Buyers Professionalization Strategy on public procurement certifying that "Scuola di Formazione Capitolina" is a subject entitled to carry out trainings in line with the requirements set out by the Buyers Professionalization Strategy.

In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence provided for a sample of 60 units including:

- xxiv. training certificates indicating the issuing entity;
- xxv. evidence related to the civil servant status at the time of training;
- xxvi. evidence that the issuing entity belongs to the list of entities entitled to carry out the Public Buyers Professionalization Strategy;
- xxvii. evidence on the type of training provided.

Analysis:

At least 20 000 civil servants have been trained through the Public Buyers Professionalization Strategy.

The target ensures that civil servants active in public procurement in Italian public entities increase their skills and technical knowledge on public procurement through the Buyers Professionalization Strategy (hereinafter also referred to as the "Strategy"), as approved by the RRP coordination body (the "Cabina di Regia") of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (hereinafter referred to as "PCdM") on 3 December 2021 in compliance with Milestone M1C1-71, assessed in the context of the 1st payment request.

The PCdM developed the Public Buyers Professionalization Strategy in conjunction with all main authorities involved in public contracts, such as ANAC (the national Anticorruption Authority), CONSIP (the national central purchasing body), the National School of Administration (SNA), the Ministry for Infrastructures and Transport (MIT), the Conference Regions-Autonomous Provinces, the unions of Italian Municipalities and Provinces. The Strategy contained a detailed assessment of the training needs of the officials and employees of both central public administrations and local authorities, responsible for the management and tendering of public contracts at different levels, identifying different training curricula for each specific professional category, different level of proficiency, and with different degrees of education. The Strategy also provides for the launch of several specialised mentoring initiatives to support public officials/employees, through the development of operational guidelines and a monitoring and control system.

The target for the current payment request provides that at least 20 000 civil servants had to be trained through the Strategy.

The Italian authorities provided the full list of trained civil servants with information on the public entity to which the civil servants belong, on the entity issuing the training and indicating the type of training, which was the basis for the sampling.

The trainings were issued by the following entities SNA, ITACA, IFEL, Scuola di Formazione Capitolina as well as by the PNRR Academy, all belonging to the Strategy as approved by the PCdM on 3 December 2021 (pages 13, 14 and 15 and subsequent attestations by SNA pursuant to the powers contained in the PCdM's decision).

The Italian authorities also provided a complete list of all subjects attending the trainings as well as the supporting evidence that the civil servants included in the dataset are registered on procurement platforms (ANAC, CONSIP, the PNRR Academy, ReGiS and other regional platforms, namely SATER, SINTEL, and START). In addition, the Italian authorities provided evidence on the criteria and guidelines for registration and profiling of the civil servants to the platforms.

The evidence regarding the enrolment to the platforms is complemented with certificates of services by the Administrations to which the participants to the trainings belong for the purpose of the sampling.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Italy submitted the training certificates of the sampled individuals showing the name of the entity, the type/content of the training, and the certification from the relevant public administration/entity on the civil servant status at the time of training (on top of what already provided with the main evidence for all individuals eligible for the target). The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-87	M1C1-87, Related Measure: Reform 1.10 Reform of public procurement legislative framework		
Name of the Target: Contracting authorities using dynamic purchasing systems			
Quantitative Indicator: Percentage	Baseline: 0	Target: 15	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context: Target M1C1-87 is part of Reform 1.10 [IT-C[M1C1]-R[R1.10]] whose objective is to simplify, digitise and professionalise tendering procedures. The use of dynamic purchasing systems by contracting authorities contributes to the digitalisation of tendering procedures.</p> <p>Target M1C1-87 requires that at least 15% of contracting authorities are using dynamic purchasing systems.</p> <p>Reform 1.10 [IT-C[M1C1]-R[R1.10]] contains 23 milestones and targets. Target M1C1-87 is the first step of the implementation of Reform 1.10 [IT-C[M1C1]-R[R1.10]] with regard to the use of dynamic purchasing systems by contracting authorities. Target M1C1-87 will be followed by M1C1-99, which requires that at least 20% of contracting authorities are using dynamic purchasing systems.</p>			
<p>Evidence provided: In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Report on the state of implementation of milestone M1C1-87 based on Consip DataWareHouse and ANAC National Contract Registry. 			
<p>Analysis: At least 15% of contracting authorities are using dynamic purchasing systems as per EU Directive 2014/24 (two years observation timeframe and taking into account that in Italy the use of the DPS is mainly targeted at above the threshold purchases, given that the below-the-threshold ones are mainly performed using eMarketplaces). The target refers to Central Government Contracting</p>			

Authorities (250 PA as registered per 30 April 2021 to the National e-Procurement System managed by Consip on behalf of the MEF).

66 central government contracting authorities out of 250 have used dynamic purchasing systems in the period from 1st January 2022 till 31 December 2023.

Article 32 of Decree-Law n. 36 of 30 March 2023 on the Public Procurement Code transposes article 34 of Directive 2024/24 on public procurement, which applies to the tendering procedures of central government authorities for contracts above the thresholds.

As a result, over 26% of central government contracting authorities are using dynamic purchasing systems as per EU Directive 2014/24.

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-110	M1C1-110, Related Measure: Reform 1.13 Reform of the spending review framework
Name of the Milestone: Re-classification of the general State budget, with reference to the environmental expenditure and to the expenditure that promotes gender equality	
Quantitative Indicator:	Time: Q4 2023
Context: Milestone M1C1-110 is part of Reform 1.13 whose objective is to reform the spending review framework in order to improve its effectiveness. Milestone M1C1-110 concerns the reclassification of the general State budget with reference to the environmental expenditure and to the expenditure that promotes gender equality. Milestone M1C1-110 is the fourth milestone or target of the reform, and it follows the completion of the following milestones: milestone M1C1-102, which required the publication of a report prepared by the Accounting Department of the Finance Ministry in cooperation with selected administrations assessing their practices in the formulation and implementation of saving plans and defining guidelines for all public administrations; milestone M1C1-100, which required the reform of the existing national framework for yearly spending reviews, in particular by strengthening the role of the Finance Ministry; and milestone M1C1-104, which required the adoption of savings targets for spending reviews for the aggregate central state administrations for the years 2023-2025. It will be followed by milestones M1C1-111, M1C1-115 and M1C1-122, which are related to the completion of spending reviews and the achievement of the corresponding savings for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025.	

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled in line with the requirements set out in the Council Implementing Decision;
- ii. Copy of the publication in the Official Journal of Law n. 41 of 21 April 2023, converting into Law the Law Decree n. 13 of 24 February 2023 with urgent measures for the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, of the complementary fund and cohesion policy;
- iii. Budgetary document prepared by the Accounting Department of the Ministry of economy and finance accompanying the draft 2024 Budget Law, containing the classification of the general State budget as outlined in the draft 2024 Budget Law with reference to environmental expenditure and describing the methodology used for the classification (*"Le spese ambientali del bilancio dello Stato e gli obiettivi di sviluppo sostenibile - La riforma PNRR M1C1-110 applicata al bilancio dello Stato in previsione"*);
- iv. Budgetary document prepared by the Accounting Department of the Ministry of economy and finance accompanying the draft 2024 Budget Law, containing the classification of the general State budget as outlined in the draft 2024 Budget Law with reference to expenditure that promotes gender equality and describing the methodology used for the classification (*"Le spese del bilancio dello Stato secondo la prospettiva di genere e gli obiettivi di sviluppo sostenibile - La riforma PNRR M1C1-110 applicata al bilancio dello Stato in previsione"*).

The authorities also provided:

- v. Italy's Stability Programme 2022;
- vi. Italy's Stability Programme 2023;
- vii. Decree from the Presidency of the Council of Ministers allocating across ministries the saving targets for the spending review over 2023-2025 (published on Official Journal of 9 February 2023 n. 33);
- viii. Report of the Accounting Department of the Ministry of economy and finance describing the methodology used for the reclassification of the 2021 State budget with reference to the expenditure that promotes gender equality (*"Il bilancio di genere per l'esercizio finanziario 2021"*);
- ix. Report of the Accounting Department of the Ministry of economy and finance describing the methodology used for the reclassification of the 2022 State budget with reference to the environmental expenditure (*"L'ecorendiconto dello stato – Esercizio finanziario 2022"*).

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

- **The Council Implementing Decision states that the 2024 Budget Law shall provide the Parliament with a Sustainable Development Budget consisting in the classification of the general State budget with reference to the environmental expenditure and to the expenditure that promotes gender equality.**
 - According to the national legal framework related to the budgetary process and the submission of laws to the Parliament, it is for the government to make a proposal in order to provide the Parliament with the draft budget law and enable a discussion. In this respect, the Council Implementing Decision is clear in its intention to enable a discussion in the Parliament. Against this backdrop, the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision to provide the Parliament with a classification of the general State budget with reference to the environmental expenditure and to the

expenditure that promotes gender equality shall be intended with reference to the draft 2024 Budget Law for the State.

- The Accounting Department of the Ministry of economy and finance has prepared two budgetary documents (evidence (iii) and (iv) in the list above) accompanying the draft 2024 Budget Law classifying the general State budget as outlined in the draft 2024 Budget Law with reference to the environmental expenditure and to the expenditure that promotes gender equality. The two budgetary documents were transmitted to the Parliament on 30 November 2023. The requirement to provide a “sustainable development budget” is addressed as part of the requirement "The classification shall be consistent with the criteria underlying the definition of Sustainable Development Goals and the targets of the Agenda 2030", which is assessed below. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.
- Furthermore, Article 51-bis of Law n. 41 of 21 April 2023, entered into force on 22 April 2023, converting into Law the Law Decree n. 23 of 24 February 2023, entered into force on 25 February 2024, which was provided as evidence by the Italian authorities (evidence (ii) in the list above), provides for the inclusion in the standard budgetary process of the classification of the general State budget, with reference to the environmental expenditure and to the expenditure that promotes gender equality. In particular, based on the Law the Ministry for Economy and Finance will transmit to the Parliament, within 30 days from the transmission of the draft Budget Law, analytical annexes giving account, for the three years covered by the Budget Law, of expenditures for the promotion of gender equality via public policies and for the protection, restoration and management of natural resources. The annexes will have to be prepared based on the procedures set by Law n. 196 of 31 December 2006, Art. 36, comma 6, and Art. 38-septies, comma 2, which sets that the methodology for identifying environmental expenditure is coherent with relevant EU guidelines and regulations.
- **The classification shall be consistent with the criteria underlying the definition of Sustainable Development Goals and the targets of the Agenda 2030. The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which establishes the same requirement that the classification shall be consistent with the criteria underlying the definition of Sustainable Development Goals and the targets of the Agenda 2030.**
- The budgetary documents transmitted to the Parliament (evidence (iii) and (iv) in the list above) illustrate the methodology used for the reclassification of the general State budget, explaining in detail how it is consistent with the criteria underlying the definition of Sustainable Development Goals and the targets of the Agenda 2030. In particular, the document related to environmental expenditure (evidence (iii) above) presents in section 2.3 the classification of environmental expenditure of the 2024 draft Budget Law for the State across the 17 Sustainable Developments Goals outlined in the Agenda 2030. The document related to expenditure that promotes gender equality (evidence (iv) above) presents in section 2.4 the classification of the expenditure of the 2024 draft Budget Law for the State that promotes gender equality across the 5 pillars of the Sustainable Developments Goals outlined in the Agenda 2030.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-113	M1C1-113, Related Measure: Reform 1.12: Reform of the tax administration (1)
Name of the Target: Higher number of "compliance letters"	

Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 2150908	Target: 3011271	Time: Q4 2023
Context:			
<p>Target M1C1-113 requires to increase the number of “compliance letters”, providing early communication to taxpayers for which anomalies are detected, by at least 40% compared to 2019. The target is related to target M1C1-114 of the same payment request, which requires the increase in the tax revenue generated by "compliance letters". Target M1C1-113 is an intermediate step in the implementation of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestones M1C1-101 and M1C1-103, related to the implementation of several provisions for encouraging tax compliance and improving tax audits and controls, as well as of target M1C1-105, which required to increase the number of “compliance letters” by at least 20% compared to 2019, target M1C1-106, which required the decline in the number of “false positive” compliance letters, target M1C1-107, which required the increase in the tax revenue generated by "compliance letters", and target M1C1-109, related to the transmission of pre-populated VAT tax returns to at least 2.3 million taxpayers for the tax year 2022. It is accompanied by target M1C1-114, and it will be followed by target M1C1-112, related to the increase of the staff of the Revenue Agency by 4113 units in order to improve its operational capacity; and targets M1C1-116 and M1C1-121, related to the reduction of tax evasion, as defined by the indicator "propensity to evade", in all taxes excluding property taxes and excises, by 5% and 15% compared to 2019, respectively.</p>			
Evidence Provided:			
<p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Report from the Ministry of economy and finance and the Revenue Agency certifying the number of “compliance letters” sent to taxpayers during the relevant period; ii. Anonymised list of “compliance letters” sent during the relevant period, with indications concerning the relevant date and the type of irregularity. <p>The authorities also provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Explanatory report from the Revenue Agency providing detailed explanations related to compliance with targets M1C1-113 and M1C1-114; iv. Report from the Ministry of economy and finance explaining compliance with target M1C1-113 aligned with the format of standard explanatory reports transmitted by Italy for compliance with milestones and targets. <p>In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence provided for a sample of 60 units including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> v. Certification from the partner SOGEI confirming the transmission of the compliance letters; vi. For each of the 60 sample units: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the compliance letter sent to the taxpayer; b. copy of the internal interface of the digital platform of the Revenue Agency displaying the occurred transmission to the taxpayer. 			
Analysis:			
<p>The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target.</p> <p>In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of “compliance letters”, providing early communication to taxpayers for which anomalies are detected, shall be increased by at least 40% compared to 2019. 			

- The Council Implementing Decision reports as indicative timeline for completion of the target Q4-2023. In order to assess the achievement of the target, the Commission took into account letters sent over the twelve-month period November 2022-October 2023, which is in line with the indicative timeline reported in the Council Implementing Decision as well as with the assessment period considered for targets M1C1-105, M1C1-106 and M1C1-107 (which all concerned “compliance letters”). The report from the Ministry of economy and finance and the Revenue Agency certifies that the number of “compliance letters” sent to taxpayers between November 2022 and October 2023 amounts to 3 248 431, thus exceeding the goal of 3 011 271 by 237 160 letters.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Italy submitted a certification from the partner SOGEI confirming the transmission of the compliance letters, the compliance letters sent to the taxpayers and copies of the internal interface of the digital platform of the Revenue Agency displaying the occurred transmission to the taxpayer, demonstrating that “compliance letters” providing early communication have been transmitted to the taxpayers by the Revenue Agency during the relevant period, and that the letters concerned anomalies detected by the Revenue Agency on the tax declarations of recipients. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-114	M1C1-114, Related Measure: Reform 1.12: Reform of the tax administration (2)		
Name of the Target: Increase in the tax revenue generated by "compliance letters"			
Quantitative Indicator: Euro	Baseline: 2130000000	Target: 2769000000	Time: Q4 2023
Context: Target M1C1-114 requires to increase the tax revenue generated by “compliance letters” by 30% with respect to 2019. The target is related to target M1C1-113 of the same payment request, which requires the increase in the number of “compliance letters”. Target M1C1-114 is an intermediate step in the implementation of the reform, and it follows the completion of milestones M1C1-101 and M1C1-103, related to the implementation of several provisions for encouraging tax compliance and improving tax audits and controls, as well as of target M1C1-105, which required to increase the number of “compliance letters” by at least 20% compared to 2019, target M1C1-106, which required the decline in the number of “false positive” compliance letters, target M1C1-107, which required the increase in the tax revenue generated by "compliance letters", and target M1C1-109, related to the transmission of pre-populated VAT tax returns to at least 2.3 million taxpayers for the tax year 2022. It will be followed by target M1C1-112, related to the increase of the staff of the Revenue Agency by 4113 units in order to improve its operational capacity; and targets M1C1-116 and M1C1-121, related to the reduction of tax evasion, as defined by the indicator "propensity to evade", in all taxes excluding property taxes and excises, by 5% and 15% compared to 2019, respectively.			
Evidence Provided: In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Report from the Ministry of economy and finance and the Revenue Agency certifying the increase in tax revenues generated by “compliance letters” over the relevant period and indicating the corresponding increase in aggregated tax revenues reported in the monthly bulletin published by the Financial Department of the Ministry of economy and finance. 			

The authorities also provided:

- ii. Explanatory report from the Revenue Agency providing detailed explanations related to compliance with targets M1C1-113 and M1C1-114;
- iii. Report from the Ministry of economy and finance explaining compliance with target M1C1-114 aligned with the format of standard explanatory reports transmitted by Italy for compliance with milestones and targets;
- iv. Monthly bulletins published by the Financial Department of the Ministry of economy and finance including the aggregated tax revenues for 2019 and for each month of the relevant period for the assessment of the target.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target.

In particular:

- **Increasing the tax revenue generated by “compliance letters” by 15% compared to 2019.**
 - The Council Implementing Decision reports as indicative timeline for completion of the target Q4-2023. In order to assess the achievement of the target, the Commission took into account tax revenue generated by “compliance letters” over the twelve-month period November 2022-October 2023, which is in line with the indicative timeline reported in the Council Implementing Decision as well as with the assessment period considered for targets M1C1-105, M1C1-106 and M1C1-107 (which all concerned “compliance letters”). The report from the Ministry of economy and finance and the Revenue Agency certifies that tax revenue generated by “compliance letters” between November 2022 and October 2023 amounts to EUR 3 827 318 953, thus exceeding the goal of EUR 2 769 000 000 by EUR 1 058 318 953. The report from the Ministry of economy and finance and the Revenue Agency also indicates that the higher revenues generated by “compliance letters” during the relevant period compared to 2019 contributed by 1.7% to the increase in overall tax revenues recorded over the same period as reported in the relevant monthly bulletin published by the Financial Department of the Ministry of economy and finance.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-126	M1C1-126, Related Measure: Investment 1.4 Digital services and citizen experience		
Name of the Target: Adoption scale up of PagoPA platform services T1			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 9 000	Target: 11 450	Time: Q4 2023
Context:			
The objective of investment 1.4 is to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures. The objective of sub-investment 1.4.3 is to foster the adoption of the digital application for payments between citizens and public administrations (PagoPa) for a wide range of local public administrations (including municipalities, regions, local healthcare authorities and schools/universities).			
The objective of target M1C1-126 is to ensure that at least 2 450 additional local public administrations adopt a digital solution (PagoPa) for payments between citizens and public administrations.			
M1C1-126 is accompanied by target M1C1-127, also due for Q4 2023, which aims at adoption of IO eGovernment app by 4 300 additional public administrations.			

Target M1C1-126 will be followed by target M1C1-149, due by Q2-2026, which aims at the adoption of PagoPa by 2 650 additional local public administrations and by target M1C1-150, also due by Q2 2026, aiming at the adoption of IO app by additional 7 100 public administrations.

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- ii. An excel file containing the list of all the administrations having adopted the PagoPA digital payment solution, namely:
 - a. A list of all public administrations in the baseline (worksheet “Allegato A”);
 - b. A list of all public services integrated in the PagoPA platform by public administrations in the baseline, including services in the baseline and new services (“Allegato B”);
 - c. A list of all new public administrations having activated Pago PA payment solution (“Allegato C”);
 - d. A list of all public services for which the new public administrations have activated the PagoPA payment solution (“Allegato D”).

The authorities also provided:

- iii. A certificate by the PagoPa Director General certifying the number of services and public administrations being integrated in the PagoPa platform issued on 20 December 2023.
- iv. Call for grants of 4 April 2022 for adoption of PagoPa by Municipalities;
- v. Call for grants of 12 September 2022 for adoption of PagoPa by Regions, Local Healthcare Authorities, Hospitals, Universities and Research Institutes;
- vi. Call for grants of 12 September 2022 for adoption of PagoPa by Municipalities;
- vii. Call for grants of 30 May 2022 for adoption of PagoPa by Regions, Local Healthcare Authorities, Hospitals, Universities and Research Institutes;
- viii. Call for grants of 11 May 2023 for adoption of PagoPa by Municipalities;
- ix. Call for grants of 13 October 2023 for adoption of PagoPa by Regions, Local Healthcare Authorities, Hospitals, Universities and Research Institutes;
- x. Agreement of 5 August 2022 between the Department of Digital Transformation (DTD) of the Presidency of Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Education and Merit (MIM) for the adoption of PagoPa by schools.

In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence provided for a sample of 60 units including:

- xi. A Virtual On-The-Spot Check conducted on 26 March 2024 by the Commission services with the help of Italian authorities.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

- **Ensure an increase in the number of services integrated in the platform for public administrations already in the baseline (9 000 entities)**

The excel list provided by Italy shows that the public administrations in the baseline are 9 358 (Annex A) and the number of new services for which the public administrations in the baseline have been integrated into the PagoPA platform in the period from 31 March 2021 to 31 December 2023 (i.e. beyond the baseline date) is equal to 179 091 (Annex B of the list).

- **Ensure an increase in the number of services integrated in the platform for new public**

administrations joining the platform (2 450 new entities).

The excel list provided by Italy shows that the number of public administrations joining the PagoPA platform in the period from 31 March 2021 to 31 December 2023 (i.e. beyond the baseline date) is equal to 6 678 (Annex C), exceeding the goal of the target (2 450 new entities).

The excel list provided by Italy shows that the number of services integrated in the platform for new public administrations joining the platform from 31 March 2021 to 31 December 2023 (i.e. beyond the baseline date) is equal to 60 986 (Annex D).

Therefore, according to the evidence provided, Italy ensured an increase in the number of new public administrations joining the PagoPA platform equal to 6 678 units, thus exceeding the goal of target M1C1-126 by 4 228 units.

- **In both cases, the total number of services of the public administrations joining the platform shall have to increase by at least 20% compared to the 2021 services baseline (31.03.2021).**

The excel list provided by Italy shows that the number of services with PagoPa solution already available at the threshold date for the baseline (31 March 2021) is equal to 25 548 (Annex B of the list). On the converse, the number of services integrated into the Pago PA platform at the target date (31 December 2023) is equal to 265 625, namely the sum of baseline services (25 548), and new services both from baseline public administrations (179 091) and from new public administrations (60 986). This constitutes an increase equal to 939% in the number of services integrated in the PagoPA platform which is beyond what was required by the Council Implementing Decision.

- **The number of services that shall be integrated depend on the type of administration (the final 2026 goal is to have an average of 35 services for Municipalities, 15 services for Regions, 15 services for health authorities, 8 services for schools and universities).**

Although the average number of services per category of public administration mentioned in the CID refers to the goal that is to be achieved in 2026, at the completion of the PagoPA investment, the current average well reflects the current progress toward it. The average number of services that each type of public administration has currently integrated into the PagoPA platform is equal to 29 for municipalities, 14 for regions, 6 for health authorities and 6 for schools and universities.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, the Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 26 March 2024 to verify, by inspecting the back office dashboard of the PagoPA platform, that 60 public administrations integrated the services specified in Annex B and D on the PagoPA platform. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the integration of the above-mentioned services and public administrations in the PagoPA platform.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure,

- **The measure shall: [...] (iii) foster the adoption of the digital application for payments between citizens and public administrations (PagoPa) (...) (Investment 1.4.3 - Adoption scale up of PagoPA platform services and the "IO" app).**

In order to foster the adoption/scale-up of PagoPA services, both the six call for grants and the DTD-MIM agreement envisage lump-sum financial amounts to public authorities in exchange for the integration of their services into PagoPa platform. The amounts are proportional to the number of services integrated and (for some types of Pas) on population served.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-127 [M1C1-127, Related Measure: Investment 1.4 Digital services and citizen](#)

experience			
Name of the Target: Adoption scale up of "IO" app T1			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 2 700	Target: 7 000	Time: Q4 2023
Context:			
<p>The objective of investment 1.4 is to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures. The objective of sub-investment 1.4.3 is to foster the adoption of the digital application for payments between citizens and public administrations (PagoPa) for a wide range of local public administrations (including municipalities, regions, local healthcare authorities and schools/universities).</p> <p>The objective of target M1C1-127 is to ensure that at least 4 300 additional local public administrations adopt the IO eGovernment app for one or more of their public services.</p> <p>M1C1-127 is accompanied by target M1C1-126 also due for Q4 2023, which aims at the adoption of PagoPA digital payment solution by 2 450 additional public administrations.</p> <p>Target M1C1-126 will be followed by target M1C1-149, due by Q2-2026, which aims at the adoption of PagoPa by 2 650 additional local public administrations and by target M1C1-150 also due by Q2-2026 aiming at the adoption of IO app by additional 7 100 public administrations.</p>			
Evidence provided:			
<p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. An excel file containing the list of all the administrations having adopted the eGovernment "IO" app, namely: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A list of all public administrations in the baseline (worksheet "Allegato A"); b. A list of all public services activated in the "IO" app by public administrations in the baseline, including services in the baseline and new services ("Allegato B"); c. A list of all new public administrations having activated the eGovernment "IO" app for some of their services ("Allegato C"); d. A list of all public services for which the new public administrations have activated the eGovernment "IO" app ("Allegato D"). <p>The authorities also provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Certificate by the PagoPa Director General certifying the number of services and public administrations being integrated in the "IO" app issued on 20 December 2023; iv. Call for grants of 4 April 2022 for adoption of the "IO" app by Municipalities; v. Call for grants of 30 May 2022 for adoption of the "IO" app by Regions, Local Healthcare Authorities, Hospitals, Universities and Research Institutes; vi. Call for grants of 12 September 2022 for adoption of the "IO" app by Regions, Local Healthcare Authorities, Hospitals, Universities and Research Institutes; vii. Call for grants of 12 September 2022 for adoption of the "IO" app by Municipalities; viii. Call for grants of 22 November 2023 for adoption of the "IO" app by Municipalities; ix. Agreement of 5 August 2022 between the Department of Digital Transformation (DTD) of the Presidency of Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Education and Merit (MIM) for the adoption of the "IO" app by schools. <p>In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence provided for a sample of 60 units including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> x. A Virtual On-The-Spot Check conducted on 4 April 2024 by the Commission with the help of Italian authorities. 			
Analysis:			

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

- **Ensure an increase in the number of services integrated in “IO” app for public administrations already in the baseline (2 700 entities)**

The excel list provided by Italy shows that the public administrations in the baseline are 3 042 (Annex A) and the number of new services for which the public administrations in the baseline have been integrated into the “IO” app in the period from 31 March 2021 to 31 December 2023 (i.e. beyond the baseline date) is equal to 56 135 (Annex B of the list).

- **Ensure an increase in the number of services integrated in “IO” app for new public administrations joining the platform (4 300 new entities).**

The excel list provided by Italy shows that the number of public administrations joining the “IO” app in the period from 31 March 2021 to 31 December 2023 (i.e. beyond the baseline date) is equal to 10 675 (Annex C), beyond the requirements of the target (4 300 new entities).

The excel list provided by Italy shows that the number of services integrated in the platform for new public administrations joining the “IO” app from 31 March 2021 to 31 December 2023 (i.e. beyond the baseline date) is equal to 188 828 (Annex D).

Therefore, according to the evidence provided, Italy ensured an increase in the number of new public administrations joining the “IO” app equal to 10 675 units, thus exceeding the goal of Target M1C1-127 by 6 375 units.

- **In both cases, the total number of services of the public administrations joining the platform shall have to increase by at least 20% compared to the 2021 services baseline (31.03.2021).**

The excel list provided by Italy shows that the number of services that joined the “IO” app at the threshold date for the baseline (31 March 2021) is equal to 8 698 (Annex B of the list). On the converse, the number of services which joined the “IO” app at the target date (31 December 2023) is equal to 253 661, namely the sum of baseline services (8 698), and new services both from baseline public administrations (56 135) and from new public administrations (188 828). This constitutes an increase equal to 2816% in the number of services joining the “IO” app which is beyond what was required by the Council Implementing Decision.

- **The number of services that shall be integrated depend on the type of administration (the final 2026 goal is to have an average of 35 services for Municipalities, 15 services for Regions, 15 services for health authorities, 8 services for schools and universities).**

Although the average number of services per category of public administration mentioned in the CID refers to the 2026, at the completion of the “IO” app investment, the current average well reflects the current progress toward it. The average number of services that each type of public administration has currently integrated into the “IO” app is equal to 21 for municipalities, 11 for regions, 4 for health authorities and 17 for schools and universities.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, the Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 4 April 2024 to verify, by inspecting the back office dashboard of the “IO” app, that 60 public administrations integrated the services specified in Annex B and D in the “IO” app. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the integration of the above-mentioned services and public administrations in the “IO” app.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure,

The measure shall: [...] (iii) foster the adoption (...) of the “IO” app as the key digital touchpoint between citizens and administration for a wide range of services (including notifications) in line

with the “one stop shop” logic (Investment 1.4.3 - Adoption scale up of PagoPA platform services and the “IO” app).

In order to foster the adoption/scale-up of the “IO” app, both the five call for grants and the DTD-MIM agreement envisage lump-sum financial amounts to public authorities in exchange for the integration of their services into the “IO” app. The amounts are proportional to the number of services integrated and (for some types of PAs) on population served.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-128	M1C1-128, Related Measure: Investment 1.4 - Digital services and citizen experience		
Name of the Target: Adoption scale up of digital public notices T1			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 0	Target: 800	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>The objective of investment 1.4 is to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures. The objective of sub-investment 1.4.5 is the creation of a Digital Notification Platform (DNP) for the sending of notifications with legal value to citizens/enterprises and fostering the adoption of this platform among public administrations.</p> <p>The objective of target M1C1-128 is to ensure that at least 800 administrations join the SPN for one or more of their public services. M1C1-128 will be followed by target M1C1-151, due by Q2-2026, which aims at having additional 5 600 public administrations joining the DNP.</p>			
<p>Evidence provided:</p> <p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; The summary document contains also the link to the Digital Notification Platform "SEND" (https://notifichedigitali.pagopa.it); ii. An excel file containing the list of all new public administrations having joined the Digital Notification Platform called (“Allegato A”). <p>The authorities also provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Certificate by the PagoPa Director General certifying the number of public administrations being integrated in the DNP issued on 20 December 2023; iv. Certificate by the PagoPa Director General certifying that the Ministry of the Interior has joined the DNP issued on 23 May 2024; v. Call for grants of 12 September 2022 for adoption of the DNP by Municipalities; vi. Decree Law no. 76 of 16 July 2020 on "<i>Urgent provisions on simplification and digital innovation</i>" converted with amendments into Law No. 120 of 11 September 2020. <p>In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence provided for a sample of 60 units including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> vii. A Virtual On-The-Spot Check conducted on 10 April 2024 by the Commission with the help of Italian authorities. 			
<p>Analysis:</p> <p>The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 800 Central Public Administrations and Municipalities, with respect to Digital Notification Platform (DNP), shall provide digital legally-binding notices to citizens, legal entities, associations and any other public or private entities. 			

The Digital Notification Platform SEND (<https://notifichedigitali.pagopa.it>) takes charge of sending legally binding notifications to citizens, legal entities, associations and other public or private entity on behalf of public administrations that have subscribed to the platform. The notifications sent are either digital, in case the receiver has indicated a digital address in a public registry or paper-based, in case it hasn't.

The certificates by PagoPA Director General and the excel list provided by Italy show that 1 798 Central Public Administrations and Municipalities have subscribed to the Digital notification Platform and have sent at least a notification by Q4 2023 as shown by Columns "IUN" and "Data Attivazione" of the excel list "Allegato A", thus exceeding the goal of Target M1C1-128 by 998 public administrations providing legally-binding notices to citizens, legal entities, associations and other public or private entity. The legally binding nature of digital notifications sent through the DNP has been established by Art. 26 Par. 3 of Decree Law No. 76 of 16 July 2020.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, the Commission services conducted an on-the-spot check on 10 April 2024 to verify, by inspecting the back office dashboard of the Digital Notification Platform SEND, that 60 public administrations have subscribed to the Digital Notification Platform. This check was completed successfully, confirming the integration of the above-mentioned public administrations in the SEND platform for the sending of digital notifications.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure,

develop a single platform for notifications (Investment 1.4.5 - Digitization of public notices);

The Commission services have verified on 10 April 2024 whether, on the website at the following address <https://notifichedigitali.pagopa.it>, it is possible to access the Digital Notification Platform SEND and to sign-up to receive digital notifications from public administrations. This check was completed successfully, confirming that the single platform for notifications was operational.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-129	M1C1-129, Related Measure: Investment 1.6.1 - Digitization of the Ministry of the Interior		
Name of the Target: Ministry of the Interior - Fully re-engineered and digitized processes T1			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 0	Target: 7	Time: Q4 2023
Context:			
<p>The objective of this investment is to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures. As regards the Ministry of Interior, the project envisages (i) the digitization of services for citizens and the re-engineering of the underlying internal processes; (ii) the development of internal applications and management systems to develop an internal centralized verification system of physical and digital identity and related attributes, allowing public officers (e.g., Police) to perform real-time remote verification of the personal documents and licenses (e.g. health card, driving license, etc.) owned by citizens and associated with CIE; (iii) personnel upskilling to strengthen digital capabilities (1.6.1 - Digitization of the Ministry of the Interior).</p> <p>Target M1C1-129 is the first target aiming to fully re-engineer and digitize 7 internal procedures and processes until 31 December 2023. Such processes (such as office automation, mobility services and e-learning) shall be entirely completed online. The second and last target M1C1-152 aims to increase the number of re-engineered processes to 45 indicatively by Q2-2026.</p>			
Evidence provided:			
<p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) 			

was satisfactorily fulfilled.

- ii. Certificates of work completion signed by the contractor and the competent authority demonstrating projects have been completed and are operational.

The authorities also provided:

- iii. A cooperation agreement dated 15.11.2023 between the Ministry of Interior and the Department of Digital Transformation (DTD), and the relative Decree n.22/2021 approving such cooperation;
- iv. The Ministry of Interior's "Operational Plan" (Piano Operativo) including the description of the projects, the general objective, the internal departments concerned, governance and the monitoring mechanisms;
- v. Agreements between the Ministry of Interior and the provider of IT services relating to the definition of a digital strategy and the carrying out of an exhaustive mapping of digital services; analysis and redesign of services and processes; and the complete digitalisation of the services provided by the Ministry of the Interior in carrying out specific institutional activities;
- vi. For each of the seven processes: i) a summary document providing a brief description of the digitized processes; ii) Screenshots showing that the processes can be entirely completed online; iii) conformity verification certificate; (iv) digitalization completion certificate; (v) approval decree of the sole person responsible for the procedure ("RUP").

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target.

- **Internal procedures and processes fully re-engineered (7 processes in total until 31 December 2023) and that can be entirely completed online (such as office automation, mobility services and e-learning).**
 - The documents by the Minister of Interior, in particular the certificates of verification and completion show that 7 procedures and processes have been fully re-engineered, are operational and can be entirely completed online. These internal procedures and processes all relate to office automation and are:
 1. The software "Gestione Vittime del Dovere", which enables users to make the relevant administrative request online and check the status of such request (digitalization completion certificate as Document 7.5 and conformity verification certificate as Document 7.4 as part of the documents submitted by Italy);
 2. The software "Gestione del flusso di protocollazione", which enables public officers to protocol incoming and outgoing files digitally (digitalization completion certificate as Document 8.4.3 and conformity verification certificate as Document 8.4.2 as part of the documents submitted by Italy);
 3. The software "Pagamento tramite PagoPA delle sanzioni amministrative Codice della Strada", which enables citizens to pay penalty for infringement to the traffic laws via PagoPA (digitalization completion certificate as Document 9.4.3 and conformity verification certificate as Document 9.4.2 as part of the documents submitted by Italy);
 4. The software "Richiesta di accesso agli atti al Dipartimento dei Vigili del Fuoco", which enables citizens to request access to documents to the fire department online, in particular by relying on their digital identity (digitalization completion certificate as Document 10.6 and conformity verification certificate as Document 10.7 as part of the documents submitted by Italy);
 5. The software "Corsi ed esami per addetti antincendio" (Courses and exams for fire fighters), which enables users to enrol online to the relevant courses, as well as check the status of their applications using their digital identity (digitalization completion

certificate as Document 11.6 and conformity verification certificate as Document 11.7 as part of the documents submitted by Italy);

6. The software "Corsi ed esami professionisti antincendio" (Courses and exams for fire prevention professionals), which enables users to enrol online to the relevant courses, as well as check the status of their applications using their digital identity (digitalization completion certificate as Document 12.6 and conformity verification certificate as Document 12.7 as part of the documents submitted by Italy);

7. The software "Servizi tecnici a pagamento", which enables users to request paid technical services and check the status of such requests (digitalization completion certificate as Annex 13.6 and conformity verification certificate as Annex 13.7 as part of the documents submitted by Italy).

- The Council Implementing Decision states that internal procedures and processes are fully re-engineered (7 processes in total until 31 December 2023) and can be entirely completed online (such as office automation, mobility services and e-learning). The earlier working version of the Council Implementing Decision provides the list of internal procedures and process as examples, by using the wording "(e.g. office automation, mobility services or e-learning)". Italy has showed that all these internal procedures and processes relate to office automation. The use of the phrase "e.g." (exempli gratia), followed by the enumeration of the internal procedures and processes in the earlier working version of the Council Implementing Decision thus indicates that the intention behind the list of internal procedures and processes was to provide examples, and not to create a binding or comprehensive list of such procedures and processes. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

- **Internal procedures and processes fully re-engineered (7 processes in total until 31 December 2023)**

- The documents by the Minister of Interior, in particular the certificates of verification and completion, show that 7 internal procedures and processes have been fully re-engineered by 31 December 2023.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure:

- **As regards the Ministry of Interior, the project envisages (i) the digitization of services for citizens and the re-engineering of the underlying internal processes;**

- The certificates of verification and completion submitted by the Minister of Interior, together with the screenshots for each of the 7 internal procedures and processes, show the digitization of processes and procedures.
- The software systems "Gestione Vittime del Dovere", "Gestione del flusso di protocollazione", "Pagamento tramite PagoPA delle sanzioni amministrative Codice della Strada", "Richiesta di accesso agli atti al Dipartimento dei Vigili del Fuoco", "Corsi ed esami per addetti antincendio", "Corsi ed esami professionisti antincendio", "Servizi tecnici a pagamento" provide digital services for citizens, businesses and public administrators enabling them to complete relevant procedures online. As described above, these software systems enable to make administrative requests online, protocol files digitally, pay penalty online, request access to documents, enrol online to courses, request online technical services. Moreover, these software systems have facilitated the digital re-engineering of internal processes, including but not limited to monitoring the status of procedures, of relevant protocol documents, checking the payment of traffic penalties, as well as streamlining the procedures for online courses and exams.
- The software systems "Gestione Vittime del Dovere", "Gestione del flusso di protocollazione" relate to digitized services provided by the Department of Public Safety.

The software systems "Pagamento tramite PagoPA delle sanzioni amministrative Codice della Strada", "Richiesta di accesso agli atti al Dipartimento dei Vigili del Fuoco", "Corsi ed esami per addetti antincendio", "Corsi ed esami professionisti antincendio" relate to digitized services provided by the Fire Department. The Department of Public Safety and the Fire Department are two key departments of the Ministry of Interior. All the conformity verification certificates are signed by personnel from the Ministry of Interior and state that the services relate to either Department of Public Safety or the Fire Department.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-130	M1C1-130, Related Measure: Investment 1.6.2 - Digital transformation of large central administrations		
Name of the Target: Digitized judicial files T1			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 0	Target: 3 500 000	Time: Q4 2023
Context:			
<p>Investment 1.6 "Digital transformation of large central administrations" aims to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures. As regards the Judicial system, investment 1.6.2 "Digitization of the Ministry of Justice" foresees (i) the digitization of the last twenty years (01/01/2006 – 30/06/2026) of archives (7 750 000 Court records) related to civil and criminal proceedings of lower and appeal courts as well as records of other specialised courts; (ii) the creation of a Data Lake (software layer) acting as a single point of access to the entire set of raw data produced by the judicial system.</p> <p>Target M1C1-130 provides for the digitalization of 3 500 000 judicial files pertaining to the last 20 years (01/01/2006 - 30/06/2026) related to completed or ongoing trials of judicial courts. It is accompanied by milestone M1C1-131, which provides for the start of execution of the contract for the realization of six new Data Lake knowledge systems.</p> <p>Target M1C1-130 and milestone M1C1-131 are the first step of the implementation of investment 1.6.2. They are followed by two targets due by Q2 2026: (i) target M1C1-153, which provides for the digitalization of 7 750 000 judicial files, therefore an additional 4 250 000 compared to target M1C1-130, pertaining to the last 20 years (01/01/2006 - 30/06/2026) related to completed or ongoing trials of judicial courts and (ii) target M1C1-154, which provides for the implementation of six new Data lake knowledge systems.</p>			
Evidence provided:			
<p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <p>Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled. This document included as an annex the following documentary evidence and elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. A list provided by the Ministry of Justice and Department of Digital Transition (DTD) including the official reference to the digitalised judicial files pertaining to the last ten years of civil trials of lower courts ("Tribunali"); ii. A list provided by the Ministry of Justice and DTD including the official reference to the digitalised judicial files pertaining to the last ten years of Courts of Appeal; iii. A list provided by the Ministry of Justice and DTD including the official reference to the digitalised judicial files pertaining to the last ten years of acts related to legitimacy processes issued by the Supreme Court ("Corte di Cassazione"). <p>The authorities also provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> iv. The agreement between the Ministry of Justice and DTD dated 14 December 2021; v. The administrative act starting the negotiated procedures to carry out the investment 			

divided in 15 allotments relating to lower courts, Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court, dated 16 February 2022;

- vi. For each of the 15 allotments: the award notice, the agreement with the contractor, the detailed list of all digitized judicial files with relevant dates, III trimester 2023 work progress status document ("SAL"), certificate of verification.
- vii. In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence was provided for a sample of 60 judicial files:
 - o Screenshots on 60 randomly selected judicial files showing the accessibility of several documents for each judicial files through relevant digital IT platform.

In relation to the documents within each judicial file, the Ministry of Justice clarified that, in line with circular no. 21611.U, dated 27.6.2018, "for judicial data, the ownership of which, pursuant to the aforementioned provision of the art. 4 (of the GDPR), belongs to the judicial office". On such basis, access to the single documents, including personal data and info relating to specific trials, was not provided.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target.

- **Digitalization of 3 500 000 judicial files pertaining to the last 20 years (01/01/2006 - 30/06/2026) related to completed or ongoing trials of judicial courts.**
 - o The documents provided by the Italian authorities contain the list of 3 584 672 judicial files being digitalized, thus exceeding the goal of 3 500 000 by 85 672 number of the overachievement – the difference between the goal and what the Member State actually achieved. In particular:
 - 3 334 339 digitalised judicial files pertaining to the civil trials of lower courts ("Tribunali ordinari");
 - 228 624 digitalised judicial files pertaining to Courts of Appeal;
 - 21 709 digitalised judicial files pertaining to legitimacy processes issued by the Supreme Court ("Corte di Cassazione").
 - o Italy provided for each of the 15 allotments a document listing all judicial files with identification number, relevant local court in charge of the proceedings, the object of the judicial file, relevant dates. The excel files provided containing the details of the files subject to digitization and related attestation (user and date) have been generated through the application systems of the Ministry of Justice (e.g. SICID).
 - o Italy further provided for each of the 15 allotments the award notice, the agreement with the contractor III trimester 2023 work progress status document ("SAL") and certificate of verification showing that the judicial files have been digitized before December 2023.
 - o For each judicial file, the dates when the file was created and its last update clearly show that the file pertains to the last period between 01/01/2006 - 30/06/2026 (that is, the last 20 years, as required by the Council Implementing Decision). In particular, in the list of digitalized judicial files, there are two columns on the date in which the judicial file was created and the date in which the judicial file was last updated. Since the judicial files relate to the last 20 years and are still being updated, it is concluded that they pertain to either completed or ongoing trials of judicial courts.
 - o Consultation of the digitized judicial files is also a service offered through the digital platform [Portale dei Servizi Telematici del Ministero della Giustizia | Servizi](#) "Telematic Services Portal from the Ministry of Justice" which allows the public consultation of civil trials and Supreme Court registers. Such service allows lawyers to access such registries.

Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, the Commission has checked the availability

of sampled judicial files in the Telematic Services Portal platform. Italy further submitted for each judicial file screenshots showing the relevant court in charge of the judicial file, number, date, object of each document within the judicial file, the name of the judge and of the user accessing the relevant IT tool (e.g., SICID), the search function within the IT tool as proof of recording and accessibility in the appropriate digital repository. The availability in the IT platform and the further evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirement of the target has been met.

The documents sent by Italy, including the screenshots of each of the 60 randomly selected judicial files show that the files are available in the relevant IT tool (e.g., SICID). In particular, first, the number and year of the judicial files correspond to the one indicated in the relevant list. Second, for each judicial file there are several documents available in the platform. Third, all documents within each judicial file related to the judicial files selected pertain to the period 2015-2024, which confirms that the selected judicial files pertain to the period indicated in the Council Implementing Decision. Finally, the Commission checked the availability of selected judicial files on the digital platform [Portale dei Servizi Telematici del Ministero della Giustizia | Servizi](#) “Telematic Services Portal from the Ministry of Justice”.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure:

- **As regards the Judicial system, the project foresees (i) the digitization of the last twenty years (01/01/2006 – 30/06/2026) of archives (7 750 000 Court records) related to civil proceedings of lower courts (Tribunali ordinari), the Courts of Appeal, and to the Supreme Court’s judicial files, Justices of the Peace of district capitals, Juvenile Offices, Criminal Sections of Courts and Courts of Appeal, and Public Prosecutors' Offices;**
 - As described above, the documents sent by Italy, including the sampling, show that judicial files pertaining to the last 20 years (01/01/2006 - 30/06/2026) have been digitalized. Such files relate to 15 different allotments including Tribunali ordinari, Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-131	M1C1-131, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations	
Name of the Milestone: Justice Data Lake knowledge systems T1		
Qualitative Indicator: Report testifying the start of execution of the contract		Time: Q4 2023
Context:		
Investment 1.6 “Digital transformation of large central administrations” aims to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures. With regard to the Judicial System, the sub-investment 1.6.2 “Digitization of the Ministry of Justice” foresees the management and monitoring of processing times of activities performed by judicial offices, including the digitization of judicial files and the creation of a Data Lake.		
Milestone M1C1-131 and target M1C1-130 are the first step of the implementation of the investment. Milestone M1C1-131 foresees the starting of execution of the contracts for the realization of six new Data Lake knowledge systems for the digitalization of the Ministry of Justice and target M1C1-130 provides for the digitalization of judicial files, aiming to the creation of a Data Lake (software layer) acting as a single point of access to the entire set of raw data produced by the judicial system. They will be followed by targets M1C1-154 and M1C1-153. Target M1C1-154 relates to Justice Data Lake knowledge systems T2. Target M1C1-153 relates to judicial files.		

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- ii. "Starting execution" acts for the realization of six new Data Lake knowledge systems. Executive orders of purchase by the Ministry of Justice for the acquisition of the services necessary for the implementation of the Data Lake Project Justice, as signed by the Single Responsible of the Project (RUP) on the 15th of June 2022.

The authorities also provided:

- iii. Executive contracts ("*contratti esecutivi*") from the Ministry of Justice and the Digital Transition Department for the award concerning the acquisition of the necessary services for the implementation of the Data Lake justice project by way of supply order under the framework agreement for PMO services – in relation to service batches 1 and 4, as signed by the contractor and Single Responsible of the Project (RUP) for the administration respectively on 14th and 15th March 2022 after the reception of the Operational Plans ("*Piani Operativi*") relating to the necessary service for Data Management.
- iv. Framework agreements ("*accordi quadro*") for the award of data management services for public administration concluded by Consip – batch 1 and 4, after the identification of the needs through the requirement plans ("*piani dei fabbisogni*").
- v. Decrees of Approval and execution of the executive contract by the Ministry of Justice, relating to the implementation of the Data Lake Justice Project (batch 1) and for the acquisition of a Program Management Office (PMO) services (batch 4) – and participation to the Framework Agreement concerning the award of data management application services and PMO services for public administrations – batches 1 and 4, signed respectively on the 28th March and 6th April 2022.
- vi. Report testifying the start of the execution of activities of the Data Lake Justice contract by the Ministry of Justice, as signed by the RUP on 24th March 2023.
- vii. "Atto di Determina a Contrarre" (decision to contract) by the Ministry of Justice for batch 1 and 4, as signed respectively on 14th and 15th March 2022.
- viii. Work plans ("*Piani di Lavoro*") and proposal by the contractors for the project subject of the milestone description.
- ix. Equal opportunity certificates of all contractors, self-declaration of contractors relating to the DNSH compliance and checklists of self-assessment for the selection procedures of contractors by the Ministry of Justice and Digital Transformation Department (DTD) of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

- **Start of execution of the contract for the realization of six new Data Lake knowledge systems: 1) Anonymization system of civil and criminal sentences 2) Integrated management system 3) Management and analysis system for civil trials 4) Management and analysis system for criminal trials 5) Advanced statistics system on civil and criminal trials 6) Automated system for identification of victim-guilty relationship.**

The Council Implementing Decision states the start of execution of the contract for the realization of six new Data Lake knowledge systems. Instead of starting the execution of a single contract for the realization of six new Data Lake Knowledge systems, the Italian authorities have provided evidence

demonstrating that two execution contracts have been signed and that their execution started on 28th of March and 6th of April 2022. The start of the execution of two contracts instead of a single contract is justified by the fact that the executive contracts cover all realization of activities as described by the milestone description. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

The authorities provided the executive contracts ("*contratti esecutivi*") and the Decrees of approval and execution of the executive contracts for the acquisition of the services required to implement the Data Lake knowledge system justice project. The Decrees of approval and execution of the executive contract signed by the Ministry of Justice on 28th of March and 6th of April 2022 make the executive contracts "approved and executed". These services were acquired through supply orders under the framework agreement for PMO services, covering two batches; namely batch 1 and 4. Batch 1 concerns the implementation of the Data Lake Justice Project and batch 4 concerning the acquisition of a Program Management Office (PMO) services related to the Data Lake project. The contracts were signed by the contractor and Single Responsible of the Project (RUP) on 14th and 15th March 2022 respectively, following the receipt of the Operational Plans ("*Piani Operativi*") for the services necessary for Data Management. The Operational Plans were prepared by contractors and were annexed to each executive contract.

The executive contracts have been signed in the context of the framework agreements ("*accordi quadro*") for the award of data management services for public administration. The framework agreements were concluded between Consip, for the authorities, and the contractors – batch 1 and 4, after identifying the requirements plan ("*piani dei fabbisogni*"), as explicated in Art. 3(6) of the framework agreements.

Additionally, a decision to contract act ("*Atto di Determina a Contrarre*") was evidenced by the Ministry of Justice for batch 1 and 4, as signed respectively on 14th and 15th March 2022. The Ministry provided evidence for the work plans ("*Piani di Lavoro*") and proposal by the contractors for the project subject of the milestone description.

As specified in the Operational Plans of batches 1 and 4, especially in the Operational Plan of batch 1, the realization of the Data infrastructure refer to the realization of six new Data Lake knowledge systems. In particular:

1. Anonymization system of civil and criminal sentences, as it is specified in paragraph 3.1.1 of Operational Plan batch 1, aiming to realize an anonymisation system capable masking personal data (both structured and unstructured), in order to make impossible to identify the entities to which they relate; and all data which, by means of operations of deduction, correlation or identification, may lead to identification of the entity;
2. Integrated management system, as specified in paragraph 3.1.2 of Operational Plan batch 1, aiming to implement a business-process management control system, also in order to improve the latter, through tools to support the capacity of checking the time taken to process the procedures, for a better use of human and instrumental resources reserved;
3. Management and analysis system for civil trials, as specified in paragraph 3.1.3 of Operational Plan batch 1, aiming to enable the Civil judge to perform a rapid tracing of the information within the Judicial Office (judgments, minutes, judicial documents), also digitally available (PDF searchable), in order to speed up the decision making process;
4. Management and analysis system for criminal trials, as specified in paragraph 3.1.5 of Operational Plan batch 1, aiming to enable the Criminal judge to perform a rapid tracing of the information within the Judicial Office (judgments, minutes, judicial documents), also digitally available (PDF searchable), in order to speed up the decision making process;
5. Advanced statistics system on civil and criminal trials, as specified in paragraph 3.1.8 of Operational Paln batch 1 aiming to realize a statistical detection system that provides in a

timely manner the judicial statistics with high quality of data and able to process information also coming from heterogeneous sources;

6. Automated system for identification of victim-guilty relationship, as specified in paragraph 3.1.9 of Operational Plan batch 1, aiming to develop an automated system which, by drawing on the *Sistema informativo della cognizione penale* (SICP), on the *Fascicolo del processo* and on the *Sistema Informativo Cognizione Ordinaria Civile Distrettuale* (SICID), could identify the victim-guilty relationship who can also be useful for the purposes of prevention of further criminal offences.

- **The execution of every public contract starts by a specific administrative act of the responsible of the procedure, named “starting execution”**

The execution of all executive contracts signed has started on 28th of March and 6th of April 2022. Furthermore, the commencement of every contract is marked by a specific administrative act issued by the responsible authority referred to as “starting execution”.

For the executive contracts signed, 2 “starting execution” acts have been issued by the Ministry of Justice for the realization of six Data Lake knowledge systems. Additionally, the executive orders of purchase for the acquisition of the services necessary for the implementation of the Data Lake Project Justice, as signed by the Single Responsible of the Project (RUP) on the 15th of June 2022, confirm the allocation of resources for the purchase of the necessary services for the implementation of the Data Lake Project Justice.

The Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the Department of Digital Transition has provided a report of the start of execution of the contracts. It aims to complement the information included in the contracts and starting execution acts, clarifying that the project is implemented by the administration since 15 June 2022 for the launch of analysis and development activities aimed at carrying out all six Data Lake systems in line with the CID description and two additional sub-initiatives in the civil and criminal field, namely:

- Anonymisation of civil and criminal judgments;
- Monitoring of the work of judicial offices;
- Analysis of case-law guidance in civil matters;
- Analysis of case-law guidance in criminal matters;
- Advanced statistics on civil and criminal trials;
- Identification of victim-author relationship;
- [sub-initiative] Giudici di pace – on civil statistics;
- [sub-initiative] Recidiva – related to criminal statistics;

The report sets out the main steps that led to the start of project activities, with the references to the evidence provided by the Italian authorities to the Commission, as signed by the Single Responsible of the Project (RUP) on 24th March 2023.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-132	M1C1-132, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations		
Name of the Target: INPS - “One click by design” services/contents T2			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 35	Target: 70	Time: Q4 2023
Context:			
Investment 1.6 “Digital transformation of large central administrations” aims to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to			

increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures (including the National Social Security Institute and the National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work, the Judicial system, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, and the Finance Police). Sub-investment 1.6.3 (Digitization of National Social Security Institute (INPS) and National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work (INAIL)) focuses on INPS's evolution of its digital touchpoints with residents, firms and other public administrations, aiming at providing users with a seamless digital experience.

The objective of target M1C1-132 is to deploy 35 additional services on INPS's institutional website. The functionalities of the services shall include the digital submission of requests for services, the check of the requirements for accessing benefits, the status monitoring of the practice by users, the proactive proposal of services based on user's needs, the automatic renewal of benefits without the need for new applications.

Target M1C1-132 is accompanied by two other targets also due by Q4 2023. Target M1C1-133 on the improvement of digital skills for at least 4250 additional INPS employees. Target, M1C1-134, which provides for the achievement of 53 re-engineered institutional processes and services at INAIL to make them fully digitized. The last target associated to investment 1.6.3., M1C1-155 aims to increase the number of re-engineered institutional processes and services at INAIL to 82 by Q2-2026.

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. A summary document duly justifying how the target, including all the constitutive elements, was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- ii. 58 institutional messages by INPS Director General from 31/01/2022 to 29/11/2023 detailing the characteristics of the newly activated services;
- iii. A list (in excel format) of 95 online services (including the 37 services deployed under M1C1-123) deployed by INPS in the period 2021-2023; The list includes also a short description for each service, a hyperlink where the service may be accessed), a description of the type of service and a mention of the institutional area to which it belongs;
- iv. Screenshots showing that the 58 additional INPS online services have been deployed.

The authorities also provided:

- v. An action plan detailing the ICT strategy for INPS for the period 2020-2022;
- vi. A powerpoint presentation describing the monitoring dashboard of digital services implemented by INPS ("quadro di controllo dei servizi PNRR").

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

- **35 additional services deployed on Inps's institutional web site (www.inps.it).**

The list of online services, the documents by INPS Director General, as well as the screenshots provide sufficient evidence that 58 additional services (in addition to the 37 already assessed for target M1C1-123) have been deployed on INPS institutional website since 1 February 2020.

- **The services shall be accessible on the institutional site through appropriate profiling logics (the system shall suggest services of possible interest based on age, work characteristics, perceived benefits, and user history).**

As shown by the INPS ICT strategy document, the user, when accessing the INPS website with his/her profile, has an initial presentation of services based on personal and work characteristics, and navigation history. This has also been tested by navigating the website and using the mobile

app. The Commission services conducted a check on 11 April 2024 to verify whether the services are accessible on the institutional site through appropriate logic and whether the system suggests services of possible interest based on age, work characteristics, perceived benefits and user history. The check was completed successfully, confirming that an appropriate profiling logic applies when accessing the services through the institutional site.

- **The 35 services are related to the following INPS institutional areas:**

- **Pensions benefits**
- **Social Shock Absorbers**
- **Unemployment benefits**
- **Disability benefits**
- **Redemptions**
- **Company collection of contribution**
- **Agriculture workers services**
- **Anti-fraud, corruption and transparency services**

As shown in the institutional messages detailing their characteristics as well as by the screenshots and by the check conducted by Commission services on 11 April 2024, it is concluded that services related to the following institutional areas can be accessed online:

- Pension benefits (19 services, for example claim for postponement of retirement, new pension dashboard for the worker);
- Social Shock Absorbers (19 services, for example claim for subsidised mortgages, claim for new minimum income allowance);
- Unemployment benefits (1 service, unemployment benefit's monitoring of status of claim);
- Disability benefits (6 services, for example child disability allowance's claim, online submission of medical evidence for disability benefits);
- Redemptions (2 services, contributions for psychotherapy sessions);
- Company collection of contribution (1 service, submission of certificate of temporary employment for show business workers);
- Agriculture workers services (3 services, for example the extension of the INPS dashboard to agriculture sector's employers and workers);
- Anti-fraud, corruption and transparency services (7 services, for example risk analysis indicators to fight irregular work, online check by the worker of employer's compliance with respect to social contributions payments)

- **In the listed institutional areas, the services that shall be implemented will concern the digital submission of requests of services,**

As shown by the corresponding institutional messages by INPS Director General (message no. 45, 66) describing their characteristics, the following services allow the digital submission of requests of services: booking of web meetings with INPS services for foreign-resident users; allowance for disabled children.

- **the check of the requirements for the benefit,**

As shown by the corresponding institutional messages by INPS Director General (no. 88, 90) describing their characteristics, the following services allow the check of the requirements for the benefit: social contributions exemption for workers below 36 of age; survivorship allowance for orphan students in young age;

- **the status monitoring of the practice by users,**

As shown by the corresponding institutional messages by INPS Director General (no. 59, 61 and 70) describing their characteristics, the following services allow the monitoring of the practice by users: the creche allowance claim, the maternity benefits claims, the status of the employers' compulsory declarations to INPS concerning domestic workers.

- **the proactive proposal of services based on user's needs,**

As shown by the corresponding institutional messages by INPS Director General (no. 44 and 56) describing their characteristics the following services are proposed proactively to the users based on their needs: the by INPS' Director (no. 44), a video for pensioners describing their duties in terms of income declaration and instructing on how to complete the declaration; a new personalised home page highlighting the services deemed more relevant for the identified user.

- **the automatic renewal of benefits without the need for new applications.**

As shown by the corresponding institutional messages by INPS' Director (no. 73) describing its characteristics the following service has an automatic renewal of benefits without the need for new applications, the new child allowance would be automatically bestowed to parents with an updated income and wealth indicator (ISEE), without necessity to renew their application for the allowance.

- **Finally, there shall be monitoring dashboards that allow both the monitoring by INPS of the benefits provided and data driven support to policy makers' decisions.**

The presentation on the "quadro di controllo PNRR" provided by Italian authorities, describes the monitoring dashboard implemented by INPS. This dashboard provides, for each service implemented by INPS, information on number of accesses, number of times the service has been provided and the degree of satisfaction of users (through the feedback tool).

- **Furthermore in line with the description of the measure: as regards INPS (...), the project encompasses a major review of their internal systems and procedures as well as the evolution of their digital touchpoints with residents, firms (...), in order to provide users with a seamless digital experience.**

The development of these additional digital services with the addition of the features described in the previous points like pro-active services, check of requirements of the benefits or status monitoring of the practice by the users provide the users with a seamless digital experience, constituting an evolution of INPS' digital touchpoints with its users. Some examples of those evolved digital services, incorporating the above-mentioned features are the creche allowance claim (for residents), submission of certificate for temporary workers for show business workers (firms) and INPS portal for tax consultants (other public administrations).

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-133	M1C1-133, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations
Name of the Target: INPS - Employees with improved Information and Communication	

Technologies (ICT) skills T2			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 4 250	Target: 8 500	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>Investment 1.6 “Digital transformation of large central administrations” aims to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures (including the National Social Security Institute and the National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work, the Judicial system, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, and the Finance Police). Sub-investment 1.6.3 (Digitization of National Social Security Institute (INPS) and National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work (INAIL)) focuses on INPS's evolution of its digital touchpoints with residents, firms and other public administrations, aiming at providing users with a seamless digital experience.</p> <p>The objective of target M1C1-133 is to improve the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) skills of at least 4 250 additional INPS employees in one of the areas of the European e-Competence Framework. Target M1C1-133 follows target M1C1-124, that was due by Q4 2022 and foresaw the improvement of at least 4250 INPS employees in one of the areas of the European e-Competence Framework.</p> <p>Target M1C1-133 is accompanied by two other targets also due by Q4 2023. Target M1C1-132, which provides for the deployment of 35 additional services on INPS’s institutional website and target M1C1-134, which aims to achieve 53 re-engineered institutional processes and services at INAIL to make them fully digitized. The last target associated to investment 1.6.3. M1C1-155 aims to increase the number of re-engineered institutional processes and services at INAIL to 82 by Q2 2026.</p>			
<p>Evidence provided:</p> <p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A summary document duly justifying how the target, including all the constitutive elements, was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. 14 summary fiches on training courses on digital skills held at INPS describing their content, their target group and the mapping with respect to the European e-Competence Framework; iii. The list of the additional INPS employees having followed a training course on digital competences, in excel format, with the indication of the course(s) each employee followed. <p>The authorities also provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. The agreement of 10 December 2021 between the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and INPS for the implementation of the investment. <p>In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence was provided for a sample of 60 units including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. A certificate confirming that the 60 sampled persons were indeed INPS employees at the time of attending the training(s); vi. For each sample unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A certificate of training course(s) completion. 			
<p>Analysis:</p> <p>The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional 4 250 INPS employees assessed with certified improved skills in the following areas of the European e-Competence Framework: (i) Plan; (ii) Build; (iii) Run (iv) Enable; (v) Manage. The areas for improvement of competences shall be identified according to the target group of learners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ According to the summary document submitted by Italian authorities, INPS has 			

implemented a total of 14 digital skills' training courses in the period going from October 2021 to September 2023, with a total of 5 878 INPS employees attending one or more courses. For each course, the Italian authorities provided a summary fiche describing the content of the training, the target group in terms of job types and the mapping of the course coverage in terms of the areas of the European e-Competence Framework.

- An assessment of the 14 summary fiches on training courses provided by Italian authorities led to the exclusion of one of them, since the description of its content did not match the proposed e-Competence area(s) vis-à-vis the corresponding description in the European e-Competence Framework and neither seem to possess additional ICT content. Therefore, this course, entitled “*Master Universitario di II livello in “Management e Politiche delle Pubbliche Amministrazioni” (MAMA)*”, was considered as not in line with the Council Implementing Decision requirements. The assessment took into consideration also the target group of learners for each one of the training courses, since the matching of skills required for some of the dimensions vary according to the job profiles, and concluded that the areas for improvement of competences had been identified according to the target group of learners. The exclusion of the training course led to the reduction of the population to be sampled from 5 878 to 5 875 INPS employees.
- To confirm that all the employees followed the digital skills training courses in the areas of the European e-Competence Framework indicated in the Council Implementing Decision, Italy provided a list of employees that followed the courses, including an indication of the course(s) each employee completed.
- Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Italy submitted individual certificates proving that the training programmes have been completed by the sampled INPS employees. In addition, Italy submitted a certificate confirming that, at the time of the training's completion, the sampled persons were indeed INPS employees. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met and that all INPS employees were certified with improved skills in one or more areas of the European e-Competence Framework, thus exceeding the goal of 4 250 additional INPS employees assessed with certified improved skills by 1 625 units.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-134	M1C1-134, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations		
Name of the Target: INAIL - Fully re-engineered and digitized processes/services T1			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 29	Target: 53	Time: Q4 2023
Context:			
The objective of this investment is to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures. As regards INAIL, the project encompasses a major review of its internal systems and procedures as well as the evolution of their digital touchpoints with residents, firms and other public administrations, in order to provide users with a seamless digital experience (1.6.3 - Digitization of National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work (INAIL)).			
Target M1C1-134 is the first target aiming to fully achieve 53 re-engineered institutional processes and services in order to make them fully digitized. The involved areas with expected targets in brackets are: Insurance (8), Social and Health services (18), Prevention and safety work (9), Certifications and verifications (18).			
The second and last target M1C1-155 aims to increase the number of re-engineered institutional processes and services to 82 [Insurance (26), Social and Health services (29), Prevention and safety work (9), Certifications and verifications (18)] indicatively by Q2-2026.			

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- ii. Activity completion Certificates signed by the contractor of each specific service and the competent authority, INAIL;
- iii. A detailed list organized per area of the new digitalized processes and services, including a brief description (Document 2).

The authorities also provided:

- iv. A cooperation agreement dated 15.11.2023 between INAIL and the Department of Digital Transformation (DTD) outlining the terms of such cooperation (Document 4);
- v. Screenshots of the relevant services showing the 24 fully digitized and re-engineered additional INAIL online services.

Analysis:

The Commission considers that there is a clerical error in the text of the Council Implementing Decision as regards the description of this milestone and has undertaken the assessment on this basis.

The quantitative indicator for the target in the Council Implementing Decision is formulated in terms of absolute numbers (unit of measure, baseline and goal). However, the description of the target and sub-targets also include 'percentages' which are not fully consistent with the quantitative indicator expressed in absolute numbers. As such, the Commission considers that the Council Implementing Decision is clear in its intention to define the target in terms of absolute numbers and that the percentages are included for illustrative purposes. Therefore, for the purpose of the assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of the target, only the absolute numbers are taken into account.

Against this background, the justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

- **The target is to achieve 53 (52%) re-engineered institutional processes and services in order to make them fully digitized.**

In addition to the 29 baseline processes and services redesigned and digitized before 9 December 2021, 24 processes or services have been fully digitised to achieve the final target of 53 re-engineered institutional processes and services that are fully digitized. The baseline refers to 29 processes and services which were digitalised before 9 December 2021.

For each of the additional 24 re-engineered processes and services, Italy provided a document describing the process titled "description of the process", an activity completion certificate and a document with screenshots for each process and service demonstrating the full digitisation of the process or service following their re-engineering. These newly re-engineered processes and services are as follows:

- Safety and prevention rating calculation, which allows users to access the application "Rating di sinistrosità e prevenzione" to check and assess the safety and prevention risks (document 05.a-all.1 describing the process, document 05.a as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "05.ra")
- Evaluation of rate fluctuations and accident trends, which consists in including and assessing data on accidents and generating simulation scenarios (document 06.a-all.1 describing the process, document 06.a as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "06.ra")

- Monitoring Supervision activities, which relates to the process of managing and monitoring the assigned inspection tasks and the results achieved in carrying out the insurance inspection supervisory activity in order to identify any deviations from the set objectives and activate the appropriate corrective actions (document 07.a-all.1 describing the process, document 07.a as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "07.ra")
- Generation of inspection task lists, which consist in a procedure assigning inspection tasks based on the assessment of relevant data, focusing inspections in areas presenting higher fraud risks (document 08.a-all.1 describing the process, document 08.a as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "08.ra")
- Public notice of training and information about reintegration into work, which has the objective of managing online and digitally the process on financing projects on training and information about reintegration to work (document 12.ss-all.1 describing the process, document 12.ss as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "12.ps")
- Management of reimbursement to entities in the state budget, which consists in managing digitally the process to reimburse expenses for services made by INAIL to employees of entities in the state budget, such as school and public administrations (document 13.ss-all.1 describing the process, document 13.ss as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "13.ps")
- Accident practices, which relates to the management of administrative practices (receipt of injury reports) and the activation of the injury/relapse assessment procedure (document 14.ss-all.1 describing the process, document 14.ss as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "14.ps")
- Occupational disease practices, which traces the management of administrative procedures (receipt of reports of occupational disease) and activation of the procedure for ascertaining the occupational disease/relapse (document 15.ss-all.1 describing the process, document 15.ss as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "15.ps")
- INPGI performance management, which allow users to manage online the procedure to report incidents for journalists, and back-office to verify the completeness and correctness (document 16.ss-all.1 describing the process, document 16.ss as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "16.ps")
- One-time performance monitoring of mesotheliomas for non-professional, which relates to the management and monitoring process of economic benefits, paid by the Asbestos Victims Fund, to beneficiaries (patients/heirs) of non-professional victims affected by mesothelioma. (document 17.ss-all.1 describing the process, document 17.ss as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "17.ps")
- Services for the Employer (social and health services), which allow users (employers) to report and assess data on harmful events of their employees and obtain relevant certificates (document 18.ss-all.1 describing the process, document 18.ss as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "18.ps")
- Public notice on Information for prevention, which has the objective of managing online and digitally the process on the financing of information campaigns regarding the promotion and development of culture regarding health and safety at work aimed at subjects involved in the prevention system (document 04.ps-all.1 describing the process, document 04.ps as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "04.pr")
- Notice for training, which has the objective of managing online and digitally the process on the financing of the national campaign to strengthen the training required by current legislation on health and safety at work (document 04.ps-all.1 describing the process, document 04.ps as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "05.pr")
- Public notice for financing training projects for housewives, which has the objective of managing online and digitally the process on the financing of trainings for housewives, including the national information campaign aimed at implementing awareness-raising

actions on the accident risks present in the home (document 06.ps-all.1 describing the process, document 06.ps as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "06.pr")

- Development of operational guidelines, assistance, monitoring of employers' obligations regarding prevention pursuant to Legislative Decree 81/2008 and subsequent amendments, which consists in developing such guidelines and making them available online and digitally (document 07.ps-all.1 describing the process, document 07.ps as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "07.pr")
- ISI ("Incentivi di Sostegno alle Imprese" – Business support incentives) notice, which consists in the process of assessing and granting financing for projects to improve health and safety levels in the workplace, and for which an application can be made online (document 08.ps-all.1 describing the process, document 08.ps as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "08.pr")
- Dispute ISI Notice, which allows the management of judicial appeals relating to the ISI Notice through a digital application, including back-office activities (document 09.ps-all.1 describing the process, document 09.ps as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "09.pr")
- Approval of modular generators, which relates to the procedure to manage checks and other control activities aimed at approving modular generators (document 12.cv-all.1 describing the process, document 12.cv as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "12.ri")
- Registration of Persons Qualified for periodic checks in the INAIL regional registers, which allows users to register themselves digitally in the Registry of Persons Qualified for periodic checks (document 13.cv-all.1 describing the process, document 13.cv as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "13.ri")
- Approval of equipment with electrical parts (e.g. SF6 stations), which allows employers to digitally request INAIL data on the performance relating to approval of equipment with electrical parts (document 14.cv-all.1 describing the process, document 14.cv as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "14.ri")
- Reporting/transmission of periodic checks referred to in the Ministerial Decree of 11 April 2011, which allows reporting and transmission of data in line with relevant legislation through the relevant digital portal (document 15.cv-all.1 describing the process, document 15.cv as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "15.ri")
- Periodic requalification of Liquefied petroleum gas ("LPG") tanks of up to capacity at 13 m3 EA method, which entails a procedure involving a statistical approach by carrying out EA tests on sample tanks representative of homogeneous batches in terms of manufacturing characteristics, capacity, orientation and type of lining. (document 16.cv-all.1 describing the process, document 16.cv as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "16.ri")
- PED (pressure equipment directive) certifications (ON0100), which consists in the online procedure relating to the inspection procedure on the making available on the market of pressure equipment in line with the Directive PED 2014/68/UE (document 17.cv-all.1 describing the process, document 17.cv as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "17.ri")
- TPED (transportable PED) certifications (ON0100), which consists in the online procedure relating to the inspection procedure on the making available on the market of transportable pressure equipment in line with the Directive TPED 2010/35/UE (document 18.cv-all.1 describing the process, document 18.cv as activity completion certificate, screenshots at document "18.ri")
- **The involved areas of INAIL are: Insurance, Social and Health services, Prevention and safety work, Certifications and verifications. In particular, the expected target for each**

area is expressed above:

▪ **Insurance: 8 (25%);**

For the insurance sector, Italy has re-engineered and fully digitised eight processes and services: 1. Management of DURC requests, 2. Review of the Ordinary Premium Rate, 3. Actuarial statistical analyses and evaluations – Rates, 4. Request for instalment payments for insurance premiums, 5. Safety and prevention rating calculation, 6. Evaluation of rate fluctuations by trend accident, 7. Monitoring Supervision activities, 8. Generation of inspection task lists.

The former four processes and services are part of the baseline. The latter four processes and services have been newly re-engineered to become fully digitised, for example by allowing users to access digital applications or having a digital system to assess data on incidents.

For each of the additional four re-engineered processes and services, Italy provided a document describing the process titled “description of the process”, an activity completion certificate and a document with screenshots for each process and service demonstrating the full digitization of the process or service following their re-engineering.

▪ **Social and health services: 18 (50%);**

For the social and health services sector, Italy has re-engineered and fully digitized eighteen processes and services have been positively re-engineered or digitalised: 1. Request for radiographic tests, 2. Performing radiographic tests, 3. Acquisition of patient CDs, 4. Analysis and evaluation of radiological reports and images, 5. Burning patient CD, 6. Practice for the recognition of social security benefits for exposure to asbestos, 7. Planning of research and experimentation activities, 8. Training of internal and external healthcare professionals, 9. Payment of suppliers/affiliated structures, 10. New FKT Rehabilitation Plan, 11. Reimbursements, 12. Public notice of training and information about reintegration into work, 13. Management of reimbursement to entities in the state account, 14. Accident practices, 15. Occupational disease practices, 16. INPGI performance management, 17. One-time performance monitoring of mesotheliomas for non-professional, 18. Services for the Employer (social and health services).

The former eleven processes and services are part of the baseline. The latter seven processes and services have been newly re-engineered to become fully digitised, for example by enabling the digital process of administrative practices, management of procedures online to report incidents or health cases.

For each of the additional seven re-engineered processes and services, Italy provided a document describing the process titled “description of the process”, an activity completion certificate and a document with screenshots for each process and service demonstrating the full digitization of the process or service following their re-engineering.

▪ **Prevention and safety work: 9 (80%);**

For the Prevention and Safety at Work sector, Italy has re-engineered and fully digitized nine processes and services: 1. Training on health and safety at work, 2. Management of the coding of causes and circumstances of accidents, 3. Coordination and monitoring of the activities of the structures Territorial, 4. Public notice on information for prevention, 5. Notice for training 6. Public notice of financing of training projects for housewives, 7. Processing of operational addresses, assistance, monitoring of employers' obligations regarding prevention pursuant to Legislative Decree 81/2008 and subsequent amendments, 8. ISI Notice, 9. ISI Notice Dispute.

The former three processes and services are part of the baseline. The latter six processes and services have been newly re-engineered to become fully digitised, for example by managing online and digitally the process on the financing of communication campaigns or trainings, or assessing or granting financing for projects or managing judicial appeals.

For each of the additional six re-engineered processes and services, Italy provided a document

describing the process titled “description of the process”, an activity completion certificate and a document with screenshots for each process and service demonstrating the full digitization of the process or service following their re-engineering.

▪ **Certifications and verifications: 18 (80%).**

For the certification and verification sector, Italy has re-engineered and fully digitized eighteen processes and services have been positively re-engineered or digitalised: 1. First periodic check GVR, SC and SP Ex art. 71 TU 81-08, 2. Checks heating systems, 3. Check compliance of protection systems earthing atmospheric discharges, 4. Repair of pressure equipment, 5. Research projects, 6. Approval of heating system project, 7. Safety valve calibration checks, 8. Authorized body communication (art. 7-bis Presidential Decree 462/2001), 9. Exemption from the authorized operation of steam generators and superheated hot water, 10. Homologation checks on pressure systems and equipment, 11. PPE certification, 12. Approval of modular generators, 13. Registration of Persons Qualified for periodic checks in the INAIL regional registers, 14. Approval of equipment with electrical parts (e.g. SF6 stations), 15. Reporting/transmission of periodic checks referred to in the Ministerial Decree of 11 April 2011, 16. Periodic requalification of LPG tanks of up to capacity at 13 m3 EA method, 17. PED certifications (ON0100), 18. TPED certifications (ON0100).

The former eleven processes and services are part of the baseline. The latter seven processes and services have been newly re-engineered to become fully digitised, for example by allowing employers to ask INAIL to perform administrative procedures or by setting up online procedure for products to be made available on the market in line with EU law.

For each of the additional five re-engineered processes and services, Italy provided a document describing the process titled “description of the process”, an activity completion certificate and a document with screenshots for each process and service demonstrating the full digitization of the process or service following their re-engineering.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure,

As regards [...] INAIL, the project encompasses a major review of their internal systems and procedures as well as the evolution of their digital touchpoints with residents, firms and other public administrations, in order to provide users with a seamless digital experience

The development of these additional digital services with the addition of the features described in the previous points (for example, managing internal process online and digitally, or enabling users to access and assess data) constitutes an evolution of INAIL’ digital touchpoints with its users. Some examples of those evolved digital services, incorporating the above-mentioned features, are the digital registration procedure of persons qualified for periodic checks (for residents), the online procedure to make products available in the market (firms) and the procedure relating to judicial appeals with administrative courts (other public administrations).

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-135	M1C1-135, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations		
Name of the Target: Ministry of Defence - Digitalisation of procedures T1			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 4	Target: 15	Time: Q4 2023
Context: Investment 1.6 “Digital transformation of large central administrations” aims to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures (including the National Social Security Institute and the National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work, the Judicial system, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, and the Finance Police). With			

regards to the Ministry of Defence, sub-investment 1.6.4 “digitization of the Ministry of Defence” encompasses the security enhancement of three fundamental sets of information (personnel, administrative documentation, internal and external communications), and the migration of all systems and applications to an open-source paradigm, compliant with the security policies defined by the reference regulatory framework.

Target M1C1-135 foresees the digitization of 15 procedures related to the management of Defence’s personnel, starting from a baseline of 4 already digitized procedures. Target M1C1-135 is part of the first step of the implementation of the sub-investment and is accompanied by three other milestones and targets also due by Q4 2023. Target M1C1-136, which envisages the digitalisation of additional 260 000 identity certificates issued by the Ministry of Defence; milestone M1C1-137, which concerns the development and implementation of institutional web portals and intranet portals; and target M1C1-138, which envisages the initial migration and operational availability of non-mission critical applications to new open-source infrastructure.

These four milestones and targets are followed by three targets. Target M1C1-141, which envisages the digitalization of 5 additional procedures related to the management of Defence’s personnel; target M1C1-142, which envisages the digitalisation of additional 300 000 identity certificates issued by the Ministry of Defence; and target M1C1-143, which envisages the completion of the migration and operational availability of non-mission critical applications to new open-source infrastructure.

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Explanatory document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- ii. A detailed list and a brief description of the 15 procedures related to the management of Defence’s personnel;
- iii. 15 certificates of work completion signed by the contractor (Almaviva Digitaltec S.r.l.) and the competent authority (Ministry of Defence).

The authorities also provided:

- iv. A copy of the Agreement between the Department for Digital Transformation and the Ministry of Defence on the realisation of sub-investment 1.6.4 through the operational plan (“*Piano Operativo*”) n. D81B20001980006 (i.e. the project’s unique code, CUP), signed on 24 December 2021;
- v. A copy of the operational plan (“*Piano Operativo*”) n. D81B20001980006 on the rationalization and consolidation of the Defence’s digital infrastructure, based on open-source technological solutions for the digitalisation of processes related to personnel management (Investment 1.6.4);
- vi. A copy of the executive contract n. 565/2021 of 24 June 2021 on the development of a centralized system for the digital management of documents of military personnel;
- vii. A copy of the certificate of work completion of executive contract n. 565/2021, signed on 22 May 2023 between the competent authority (Ministry of Defence) and the contractor;
- viii. A copy of the executive contract n. 569/2021 of 2 July 2021 on the digital transformation of defence and the management of military personnel;
- ix. A copy of the certificate of work completion of executive contract n. 569/2021, signed on 22 May 2023 between the competent authority (Ministry of Defence) and the contractor;
- x. A copy of the executive contract n. 673/2022 of 19 July 2022 on the digitalization of military procedures;
- xi. A copy of the certificate of work completion of executive contract n. 673/2022, signed on 10 July 2023 between the competent authority (Ministry of Defence) and the contractor;
- xii. A copy of the Order contract (“*Ordinativo*”) n. 7295343/2023 signed on 30 May 2023 on

- specialised support for the realisation of the digitalization of the procedures;
- xiii. A copy of the certificate of regular execution of Order contract n. 7295343/2023 of 27 November 2023;
- xiv. A screenshot for each of the 15 procedures showing their operability and digitalization;
- xv. A document mapping each digitized procedure to the corresponding executive contract and the type of intervention (digitalization, automation, and revision);
- xvi. A link to procedure n. 6, "Online Competitions": <https://concorsi.difesa.it/default.aspx>

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

- **Digitization, revision, and automation of 15 procedures related to management of Defence's personnel (such as recruiting, employment and retirement, employees' health) starting from a baseline of four already digitized procedures.**

The evidence provided by Italy shows that, starting from a baseline of 4 already digitized procedures, the Ministry of Defence further proceeded to the digitization, revision, and automation of 11 procedures related to the management of Defence's personnel, including but not limited to recruiting, employment, retirement, and employee's health.

For each procedure, the Ministry of Defence provided (i) certificates of work completion signed by the contractor (Almaviva Digitaltec S.r.l.) and the competent authority (Ministry of Defence) and (ii) screenshots, as evidence of their effective digitization and operability, given that each procedure is only available via internal INTRANETS. For procedure n. 6, "Online competitions", which is open to both internal and external users, a link was additionally provided (<https://concorsi.difesa.it/default.aspx>).

The four baseline procedures already digitized are:

1. **General leave from work:** the request for time off work can be submitted by military personnel through a software that manages all the relevant administrative procedures;
2. **Termination:** the software manages all the procedures and technical and administrative activities necessary for 'leaving the service for military personnel';
3. **Honorary awards:** examples of honours managed by this software are the *Lungo Command* (Medal of Long Command Merit, Cross by seniority of military service, Air Force Medal of Long Navigation Air Force, Medal of Honour for Long Navigation) and *Mauritius* (Mauritius Medal of Merit for Ten Military Careers);
4. **Salary calculation:** the software manages all the procedures and technical and administrative activities necessary to prepare the salary calculation of military personnel.

The 11 additional digitized, revised and automated procedures, which were previously carried out on paper and/or using Excel spreadsheets and local databases, are:

1. **Leave from work** (former law n. 266/1999 and Decree of the President of the Republic n. 461/2001): digitization of some aspects of the management of leave requests for military personnel (including leave due to permanent illness and pension rights);
2. **Online competitions:** digitization and automation of the external recruitment process through the creation of an "Online competition" platform that offers all services related to wide-ranging competition procedures. This also includes the integration of the Portal itself into the IO App, and the creation of a repository that centralises the application status of each candidate across different branches of the administration;
3. **Criminal and disciplinary proceedings:** digitization of the procedures aimed at analysing the criminal and disciplinary records of military personnel for the purpose of possible adoption

of a state measure. The digital procedure provides a single, centralized system capable of managing the file from its creation to its filing, and reduces the time required for the exchange of information between the different Defence departments involved in the procedure;

4. **Benefits:** digitization of administrative procedures related to the benefits of military personnel. The digital procedure provides a single, centralized system capable of managing the file from its creation to its filing, and reduces the time required for the exchange of information between the different Defence departments involved in the procedure;
5. **Food provisioning services:** digitization and automation of the Food Service Management (Ge.Se.V. platform). The development of the digital procedure, in addition to providing a single, centralized system, has digitized all the processes of the victualling service, including the documentation for accounting returns. This procedure interoperates with other personnel management-related information systems (e.g. GOPERS to enable the evaluation to access meal vouchers);
6. **Working time recording:** digitization of the system to record the working time of personnel (*'Governo del Personale'*, i.e. Go.Pers platform) and the access to many online infrastructures of the Defence departments (Access Control System, i.e. ACS). The digitization of this procedure has made it possible to manage every aspect pertaining to personnel life within a centralized system, which allows to keep track of every application submitted by the person concerned, to observe its progress and forward that request to the relevant hierarchical line in an immediate and secure manner;
7. **Recruitment:** digitization of the internal procedures on recruitment of military personnel through the IMPERS software. This digital procedure, previously paper-based, provides a single and centralised system for the management of practises relating to the use of joint force areas of personnel and reduces the time necessary for the exchange of information between Defence departments involved in the employment proceedings;
8. **Performance evaluation:** digitization of the procedure on the creation of documents for the evaluation of the performance of military personnel (*"Gestione Documentazione Caratteristica"*, i.e. Ge.Do.C platform). This software significantly reduces administrative times, as the act can be instantly generated and digitally signed. In addition, in the case of remote working, the hierarchy can still access the platform with their online credentials;
9. **Military justice:** the digitization of the management and coordination system for the penal proceedings of military personnel (*"Sistema Informativo della Giustizia Militare"*, i.e. platform SIGMIL 2). The architectural and application component were re-engineered, providing for the introduction of new features and for a simplification review of existing functions;
10. **Centralised platform and interoperability:** digitization and centralisation of internal management systems (*"Anagrafe Centralizzata della Difesa"*, i.e. A.Ce.D platform), whose data sources were previously not interconnected via a unique system. This platform is configured by interfacing the different 'parties involved' in an administrative procedure as a single point of reference capable of aggregating and harmonizing information based on predefined ICT standards, centralising the entire administration's data;
11. **Career progression:** digitization of the procedure regarding career progressions for managerial positions (*"Collocamento in aspettativa per riduzione di quadri"*, i.e. A.R.Q). This digital procedure provides a single, centralized system capable of managing the file from its creation to its filing, and reduces the time required for the exchange of information between the different Defence departments involved in the procedure.

Based on the justifications and evidence provided, a total of 15 procedures related to the management of Defence's personnel are satisfactorily digitized, revised, and automated.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure:

- **The objective of this investment is to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures. The Central Administrations concerned include: (i) the National Social Security Institute (INPS) and National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work (INAIL), (ii) the Judicial system, (iii) the Ministry of Defence, (iv) the Ministry of Interior, (v) the Finance Police.**
 - This target further re-engineers and digitizes 11 procedures within the Ministry of Defence to increase its efficiency and simplify its procedures.
- **As regards the Ministry of Defence, the project encompasses (i) the security enhancement of three fundamental sets of information (personnel, administrative documentation, internal and external communications) [...].**
 - This target concerns procedures related to the security enhancement of personnel (e.g. through the recruitment of members of staff via a centralised platform - IMPERS software); administrative documentation (e.g. through the digitization and centralisation of the internal management systems - A.Ce.D platform - that centralises the entire administration's data); and internal and external communication (e.g. through both the centralisation of the career progressions mechanism for internal managerial positions and the online competitions platform to externally apply for new roles).

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-136	M1C1-136, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations		
Name of the Target: Ministry of Defence - Digitalisation of certificates T1			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 190 000	Target: 450 000	Time: Q4 2023
Context:			
<p>Investment 1.6 “Digital transformation of large central administrations” aims to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures (including the National Social Security Institute and the National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work, the Judicial system, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, and the Finance Police). With regards to the Ministry of Defence, sub-investment 1.6.4 “digitization of the Ministry of Defence” encompasses the security enhancement of three fundamental sets of information (personnel, administrative documentation, internal and external communications), and the migration of all systems and applications to an open-source paradigm, compliant with the security policies defined by the reference regulatory framework.</p> <p>Target M1C1-136 concerns the digitalisation of 450 000 identity certificates issued by the Ministry of Defence and running onto the infrastructure complemented by a disaster recovery site starting from a baseline of already digitalized 190 000 certificates. Target M1C1-136 is part of the first step of the implementation of the sub-investment and is accompanied by three other milestones and targets also due by Q4 2023. Target M1C1-135, which envisages the digitization of 15 procedures related to the management of Defence’s personnel, starting from a baseline of 4 already digitized procedures; milestone M1C1-137, which concerns the development and implementation of institutional web portals and intranet portals; and target M1C1-138, which envisages the initial migration and operational availability of non-mission critical applications to new open-source infrastructure.</p> <p>These four milestones and targets are followed by three targets. Target M1C1-141, which envisages the digitalization of 5 additional procedures related to the management of Defence’s personnel; target M1C1-142, which envisages the digitalisation of additional 300 000 identity certificates issued</p>			

by the Ministry of Defence; and target M1C1-143, which envisages the completion of the migration and operational availability of non-mission critical applications to new open-source infrastructure.

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the target, including all the constitutive elements, was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- ii. A list from the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Digital Transformation indicating the official references of the additional digitized identity certificates issued by the Ministry of Defence.

The authorities also provided:

- iii. Executive contract No. 709 of 9 November 2022 between the Ministry of Defence and the temporary grouping of enterprises formed by Leonardo S.p.A., IBM S.p.A., Sistemi Informativi S.p.A. and Fastweb S.p.A. for the “Acquisition of development and maintenance activities of the PKI (Public Key Infrastructure) of Defense and of the CMD portal of the Single Card Management System (CMS)”;
- iv. A copy of the Agreement between the Department for Digital Transformation and the Ministry of Defence on the realisation of sub-investment 1.6.4 through the operational plan (“*Piano Operativo*”) n. D81B20001980006 (i.e. the project’s unique code, CUP), signed on 24 December 2021;
- v. A copy of the operational plan (“*Piano Operativo*”) n. D81B20001980006 on the rationalization and consolidation of the Defence’s digital infrastructure, based on open-source technological solutions for the digitalisation of processes related to personnel management (Investment 1.6.4);
- vi. A copy of direct order no. 9.6 22-321 of 15 November 2022 for the purchase of n. 219 655 personalized cards from the State Mint and Polygraphic Institute (“*Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato S.p.A.*”) and a copy of the conformity verification certificate of 22 November 2023 for the provision of 21 155 ATe cards;
- vii. A screenshot of the “ATE portal” of the Ministry of Defence.

In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence was provided for a sample of 60 units including:

- viii. For each sample unit:
 - a. A screenshot from the Ministry of Defence’s Certification Authority (PKI) portal;
 - b. A screenshot containing an extraction from the so-called “Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP)” of the PKI of the Ministry of Defence;
 - c. A screenshot containing an extraction from the “Operating Database” (“*Database di esercizio*”) and the disaster recovery database (“*Database di Disaster Recovery*”).
- ix. A note by the Ministry of Defence presenting the functioning of the Public Key Infrastructure and its architecture and the Public Key Infrastructure applications (LDAP, CRL, Oracle database) from which the sampling screenshots were extracted.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

- **Number of digitized identity certificates (450 000) issued by the Ministry of Defence and running onto the infrastructure complemented by a disaster recovery site starting from a baseline of 190 000 already digitized certificates.**
 - To confirm that all digitized identity certificates were issued by the Ministry of Defence and

running onto the infrastructure complemented by a disaster recovery site, Italy provided a list of 453 780 digitized identity certificates issued by the Ministry of Defence. The list provided by the Italian authorities presents, on the one hand, the 190 000 already digitized certificates part of the baseline, and, on the other hand, the 263 780 additional certificates that were digitized to fulfil target M1C1-136 as of 5 December 2023 and from which a sample of 60 units was requested.

- Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, for each sampled unit Italy submitted three screenshots from the applications of the Ministry of Defence 'Public Key Infrastructure' (PKI), which is the eIDAS accredited infrastructure - hosted by 'Comando per le Operazioni in Rete' (COR) acting as the "Certification authority" of the Ministry of Defence - which allows creating, managing, storing, distributing and revoking public key certificates, made available through the so-called "ATe cards":
 - A screenshot from the Ministry of Defence's Certification Authority administration web interface (Primekey EJBDA software) (i) containing the sampled certificate serial number; (ii) demonstrating that the "ISSUER DN" field is equal to "Ministero della Difesa"; (iii) containing the date of issuance and the expiry date of the certificate as well as the "Fingerprint SHA-1" field associated to the certificate.
 - A screenshot containing an extraction either from the so-called "Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP)" or "Active Directory" of the Ministry of Defence or from the "Certificate Revocation List" (CRL) of the PKI demonstrating that the sampled certificates are integrated in the PKI;
 - A screenshot containing an extraction from the Oracle "Operating Database" ("*Database di esercizio*") and the Oracle disaster recovery database ("*Database di Disaster Recovery*") demonstrating that the sampled digitized identity certificates are integrated in the both databases given that their "Fingerprint SHA-1" field is present in both databases;
 - In addition, Italy provided a note by the Ministry of Defence presenting the functioning of the Public Key Infrastructure and its architecture and the Public Key Infrastructure applications (LDAP, CRL, Oracle database) from which the sampling screenshots were extracted.
- The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met, thus exceeding the goal of 260 000 additional digitized certificates by 3 780 units. The evidence confirmed in particular that all sampled digitized identity certificates were:
 - (i) issued by the Ministry of Defence;
 - (ii) running onto the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) of the Ministry of Defence.
 - (iii) integrated within the disaster recovery site.
- The evidence provided highlighted that, whilst all sampled digitized identity certificates were active on 5 December 2023 when the 263 780 additional digitized certificates to fulfil target M1C1-136 were extracted from the Public Key Infrastructure, 5 digitized certificates had been revoked in the period until the selection of the random sample of 60 units and the transmission of the associated evidence by Italy.
- The Commission considers that the fact that some of the sampled certificates were subsequently revoked does not put into question the fulfilment of the target given that revoked certificates continue fulfilling the requirements of the target. This is because, in the event of revocation of the certificate by the Certification Authority - due to malfunction or damage of the chip, loss of the smartcard, termination of employment, retirement or death - the revoked certificate serial number is recorded within the CRL of the PKI - which is a necessary part of the PKI, as it allows avoiding mistakes in certificate vetting and key management - and the certificate status on the Oracle database of the 'Online Certificate Status Protocol' (OCSP) system is updated from 'active' to 'revoked'. Therefore, revoked certificates also continue to be integrated and managed within the PKI of the Ministry of

- Defence in order to ensure checks on their validity through OCSP or CRL.
- Nonetheless, to avoid any ambiguity, the Commission asked the authorities to provide additional evidence on the number of certificates that had been revoked after 5 December 2023 among the population of 263 780 active certificates on 5 December 2023. The additional evidence provided indicated that, in the period between 5 December 2023 and 29 May 2024, 12 622 certificates had been revoked in total, representing 2.8% of the overall population of certificates on 5 December. In the meantime, at least additional 15 790 certificates had been issued.
- In this context, where the Commission considers that revoked certificates are still valid as evidence for the satisfactory fulfilment and as any contrary interpretation would not impact the satisfactory fulfilment of the target, the Commission considers the target as satisfactory fulfilled.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure:

- **The objective of this investment is to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures. The Central Administrations concerned include: (i) the National Social Security Institute (INPS) and National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work (INAIL), (ii) the Judicial system, (iii) the Ministry of Defence, (iv) the Ministry of Interior, (v) the Finance Police.**
- The digitalization of additional 263 780 identity certificates by the Ministry of Defence allows for the complete digitization of most of the administrative and managerial processes and procedures of the Ministry of Defence and therefore contributes to increase the efficiency of the Ministry and simplify its procedures.
- **As regards the Ministry of Defence, the project encompasses (i) the security enhancement of three fundamental sets of information (personnel, administrative documentation, internal and external communications).**
- In relation to point (i) above, the implementation of a secure access to the Ministry of Defence domain and the univocal, certain and immediate recognition of the users through digital signatures have allowed the Ministry to automate a large part of the internal processes and to increase the security of data and information. The digitalization of identity certificates and their integration within the so-called “ATe cards model” is complementary to the procedures created and digitized within the different targets included under sub-investment 1.6.4 “digitization of the Ministry of Defence” as it allows personnel to access the functions provided by the digitized procedures, portals and applications implemented in the context of the sub-investment while guaranteeing information security. The interaction between the ATe model and the implemented software takes place thanks to a series of functions to “defend” information security, such as the ‘CNS Authentication certificate’ (“Carta Nazionale dei Servizi”), which allows for a secure recognition of the user, and the Digital Signature certificate (“certificato di Firma Digitale”), which ensures the “non rejection” of the digitally signed document, as well as the timestamp, which allows assigning a certain date to an electronic document.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-137	M1C1-137, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations
Name of the Milestone: Ministry of Defence - Commissioning of institutional web portals and intranet portals	
Quantitative Indicator: Institutional web portals and intranet web portals fully	Time: Q4 2023

operational	
Context:	
<p>Investment 1.6 “Digital transformation of large central administrations” aims to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures (including the National Social Security Institute and the National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work, the Judicial system, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, and the Finance Police). With regards to the Ministry of Defence, sub-investment 1.6.4 “digitization of the Ministry of Defence” encompasses the security enhancement of three fundamental sets of information (personnel, administrative documentation, internal and external communications), and the migration of all systems and applications to an open-source paradigm, compliant with the security policies defined by the reference regulatory framework.</p>	
<p>Milestone M1C1-137 concerns the development and implementation of institutional web portals and intranet portals. It is part of the first step of the implementation of the sub-investment and is accompanied by three other targets also due by Q4 2023. Target M1C1-135, which envisages the digitization of 15 procedures related to the management of Defence’s personnel, starting from a baseline of 4 already digitized procedures; target M1C1-136, which envisages the digitalisation of additional 260 000 identity certificates issued by the Ministry of Defence; and target M1C1-138, which envisages the initial migration and operational availability of non-mission critical applications to new open-source infrastructure.</p>	
<p>These four milestones and targets are followed by three targets. Target M1C1-141, which envisages the digitalization of 5 additional procedures related to the management of Defence’s personnel; target M1C1-142, which envisages the digitalisation of additional 300 000 identity certificates issued by the Ministry of Defence; and target M1C1-143, which envisages the completion of the migration and operational availability of non-mission critical applications to new open-source infrastructure.</p>	
Evidence provided:	
<p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Explanatory document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. 16 certificates of work completion signed by the contractor (Almaviva Digitaltec S.r.l.) and the competent authority demonstrating that each intranet portal has been completed, is operational and accessible on Ministry of Defence’s website; iii. One certificate of work completion signed by the contractor (Almaviva Digitaltec S.r.l.) and the competent authority demonstrating that each of the five institutional web (internet) portal has been completed, is operational and accessible on the Ministry of Defence’s website; iv. Links to the Ministry of Defence and Armed Force’s institutional web (internet) portals. 	
<p>In particular, the authorities also provided:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. A copy of the Agreement between the Department for Digital Transformation and the Ministry of Defence on the realisation of sub-investment 1.6.4 through the operational plan (“<i>Piano Operativo</i>”) n. D81B20001980006 (i.e. the project’s unique code, CUP), signed on 24 December 2021; vi. A copy of the operational plan (“<i>Piano Operativo</i>”) n. D81B20001980006 on the rationalization and consolidation of the Defence’s digital infrastructure, based on open-source technological solutions for the digitalisation of processes related to personnel management (Investment 1.6.4); vii. A copy of the executive contract n. 691/2022 of 14 September 2022 on the development of a centralized system for the digital management of documents of military personnel; viii. A copy of the certificate of work completion of executive contract n. 691/2022 for 	

“Institutional web portals for Defence and Armed Forces”, signed on 30 November 2023 between the competent authority (Ministry of Defence) and the contractor;

- ix. A copy of the certificate of regular execution of executive contract n. 691/2022, signed on 24 July 2023 between the competent authority (Ministry of Defence) and the contractor;
- x. A copy of the Order contract (“*Ordinativo*”) n. 7295343/2023 signed on 30 May 2023 on specialised support for the realisation of the digitalization of the procedures;
- xi. A copy of the certificate of regular execution of Order contract n. 7295343/2023 of 27 November 2023;
- xii. A screenshot for each of the 16 intranet portals showing their completion, operability and accessibility.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

- **Development and implementation of (i) institutional web portals and (ii) intranet portals for specific needs of internal communication.**

- The certificates of work completion signed by the contractor (Almaviva Digitaltec S.r.l.) and the competent authority demonstrate that five institutional web portals, fifteen intranet web portals for specific needs of internal communication and additional mini-intranet portals have been developed and implemented and are fully operational. All the portals have been either created or further developed, allowing for a more efficient standardisation and harmonization of the processes, which were previously paper-based or relied on poorly cyber-secured local databases.

- The **institutional web portals** developed and implemented are:

- 2. **Defence** website: <https://www.difesa.it/>
- 3. **Army** website: <https://www.esercito.difesa.it/>
- 3. **Navy** website: <https://www.marina.difesa.it/Pagine/default.aspx>
- 4. **Air Force** website: <https://www.aeronautica.difesa.it/>
- 5. **Military justice** website: <https://www.difesa.it/giustizia-militare/index.html>

These portals, and the social media channels linked to them, offer adequate visibility to the main operational missions carried out by the Armed Forces, and provide citizens with access to information such as assignments, organisation charts, and offices’ subdivisions.

The intranet **portals for specific internal communication needs** developed and implemented are:

- 1. **Archimede**: portal used for internal communication, and available to the various branches of defence to optimise the management of internal information concerning the activities and projects within the remit of each Ministry’s Division;
- 2. **GE.PA.D.D (‘Management of the State Property of Defence’)**: portal used for administrative documentation, and necessary to provide a detailed overview of the state heritage of the Ministry;
- 3. **Budget**: portal used for administrative documentation by the Genodife Technical Directorate to support investment and operational programmes for managing the infrastructure interventions of the Ministry’s buildings;
- 4. **ISPEDIFE**: portal used for administrative documentation by the Central Office for carrying out administrative and accounting inspections and for verifying the correct application of the reference rules;
- 5. **SARAT 2**: portal used for administrative documentation enabling staff of the General Office of the head of State Maggiore of Defence (CaSMD) and the Office of the Deputy Head of State (SCaSMD) to track the flow of specific working documents;
- 6. **IRAD**: portal for members of staff enabling IRAD (Institute for Research and Analysis of Defence) to manage selection calls for temporary assignments for research projects and/or Doctorates;
- 7. **JTAC**: portal for member of staff enabling the Operational Command of the InterForce

Summit (COVI) to manage all personnel processes with the qualification 'Joint Terminal Attack Controller' in accordance with the instructions provided by NATO documentation 'STANAG 3797';

8. **Spatial operations**: portal used for internal communication by the Spatial Operations Command (COS) to have an updated overview of space features (e.g. satellites, sensors and similar assets, ...);
9. **STAN.AG**: portal used for administrative documentation to manage the workflow of ratification and implementation processes of documents sent by NATO;
10. **G.I.MO.S** ('Digitized management of sustainable mobility'): portal used by members of staff to promote the use of alternative and less environmentally harmful mobility systems;
11. **A.MI.STA.D.D**: portal used for administrative documentation by Geniodife to have a digital archive of standard projects and documentation, useful as reference for the implementation of new State-Owned projects
12. **SI.CA.D (Defence information system for dead soldiers')**: portal used and updated by the historical statistical Directorate of the Office for the protection of culture and remembrance of Defence, constituting the database from which information for publications on the Defence Internet Portal on these topics is collected;
13. **Whistleblowing**: portal enabling the reporting of unlawful conduct under the legislation in force;
14. **Military justice**: portal used for communication with the Council of the Military Magistracy ('*Magistratura*') and for the publication of resolutions and judgements;
15. **SO.GE.CO**: portal created to improve and simplify the management of contractual processes by the technical Directorate TELEDIFE;
16. **Mini portals and app**: additional platforms used to standardise the technology used to create new content, such as internet sites, across the Ministry. For example, a new application, i.e. CONFIDESA, updates the users in the Armed Forces on any new agreements entered into force through a specific push notification.

Based on the justifications provided, five institutional web portals and 16 intranet portals for specific needs of internal communication have been satisfactorily developed and implemented and are fully operational.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure:

- **The objective of this investment is to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures. The Central Administrations concerned include: (i) the National Social Security Institute (INPS) and National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work (INAIL), (ii) the Judicial system, (iii) the Ministry of Defence, (iv) the Ministry of Interior, (v) the Finance Police.**
 - This target further re-engineers and digitizes five institutional web portals and 16 (intranet) portals for internal communication within the Ministry of Defence to increase its efficiency and simplify its procedures.
- **As regards the Ministry of Defence, the project encompasses (i) the security enhancement of three fundamental sets of information (personnel, administrative documentation, internal and external communications) [...].**
 - This target concerns procedures related to the security enhancement of both personnel (e.g. through IRAD portal for temporary assignments for research projects); administrative documentation (e.g. through the SARAT 2 portal to track the flow of specific working documents); and internal and external communication (e.g. through the Archimede and the Spatial Operations Command portals).

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C1-138	M1C1-138, Related Measure: Investment 1.6 – Digital transformation of large central administrations		
Name of the Target: Ministry of Defence - Migration of non-mission critical applications into Solution for Complete Information Protection by Infrastructure Openness (S.C.I.P.I.O.) T1			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 0	Target: 10	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>Investment 1.6 “Digital transformation of large central administrations” aims to re-engineer and digitize a set of priority processes, activities and services within main Central Administrations to increase the efficiency of these administrations and simplify procedures (including the National Social Security Institute and the National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at work, the Judicial system, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, and the Finance Police). With regards to the Ministry of Defence, sub-investment 1.6.4 “digitization of the Ministry of Defence” encompasses the security enhancement of three fundamental sets of information (personnel, administrative documentation, internal and external communications), and the migration of all systems and applications to an open-source paradigm, compliant with the security policies defined by the reference regulatory framework.</p> <p>Target M1C1-138 envisages the initial migration and operational availability of non-mission critical applications to new open-source infrastructure. It is part of the first step of the implementation of the sub-investment and is accompanied by three other milestones and targets also due by Q4 2023. Target M1C1-135, which envisages the digitization of 15 procedures related to the management of Defence’s personnel, starting from a baseline of 4 already digitized procedures; target M1C1-136, which envisages the digitalisation of additional 260 000 identity certificates issued by the Ministry of Defence; and milestone M1C1-137, which envisages the development and implementation of institutional web portals and intranet portals.</p> <p>These four milestones and targets are followed by three targets. Target M1C1-141, which envisages the digitalization of 5 additional procedures related to the management of Defence’s personnel; target M1C1-142, which envisages the digitalisation of additional 300 000 identity certificates issued by the Ministry of Defence; and target M1C1-143, which envisages the completion of the migration and operational availability of non-mission critical applications to new open-source infrastructure.</p> <p>Evidence provided:</p> <p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Explanatory document duly justifying how the target (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. A list of migrated non- mission critical applications into S.C.I.P.I.O, including a brief description of the migrated applications and their type (hardware environment implementation, installation of middleware open source components, and the re-engineering of applications). <p>The authorities also provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. A copy of the Agreement between the Department for Digital Transformation and the Ministry of Defence on the realisation of sub-investment 1.6.4 through the operational plan (“<i>Piano Operativo</i>”) n. D81B20001980006 (i.e. the project’s unique code, CUP), signed on 24 December 2021; iv. A copy of the operational plan (“<i>Piano Operativo</i>”) n. D81B20001980006 on the rationalization and consolidation of the Defence’s digital infrastructure, based on open-source technological solutions for the digitalisation of processes related to personnel management (Investment 1.6.4); v. A copy of executive contract n. 630 of 13 December 2021 for the "Rationalization and consolidation of the digital infrastructure of the Defence based on open source 			

technological solutions";

- vi. A copy of the certificate of work completion of executive contract n. 630 for the "Rationalization and consolidation of the digital infrastructure of the Defence based on open source technological solutions", signed on 22 May 2023 between the competent authority (Ministry of Defence) and the contractor;
- vii. A copy of Order contract ("*Ordinativo*") n. 6977680/2022 of 18 October 2022 for the "Purchase through MEPA of SUSE licenses";
- viii. A copy of the conformity verification certificate of 14 December 2022 related to Order contract n. 6977680/2022 of 18 October 2022 for the "Purchase through MEPA of SUSE licenses";
- ix. A copy of the Order contract ("*Ordinativo*") n. 7295343/2023 signed on 30 May 2023 on specialised support for the realisation of the digitalization of the procedures;
- x. A copy of the certificate of regular execution of 27 November 2023 related to Order contract n. 7295343/2023 of 30 May 2023;
- xi. A copy of the Order contract ("*Ordinativo*") n. 7311978/2023 signed on 26 June 2023 for the purchase of "NeuVector for Rancher, 10 Nodes licences";
- xii. A copy of the conformity verification certificate of 18 July 2023 related to Order contract n. 7311978/2023 of 26 June 2023 for the purchase of "NeuVector for Rancher, 10 Nodes licences";
- xiii. Copies of 10 certificates of work completion signed by the contractor (Almaviva Digitaltec S.r.l.) on 31 November 2023 and by the competent authority on 6 December 2023 and demonstrating that each of the 10 non-mission critical applications were migrated into Solution for Complete Information Protection by Infrastructure Openness (S.C.I.P.I.O.);
- xiv. Screenshots of the non-mission critical applications migrated into Solution for Complete Information Protection by Infrastructure Openness (S.C.I.P.I.O.);
- xv. A copy of version 0.4 of 13 December 2021 of the study entitled "Reference open source architecture for the Ministry of Defence".

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the target.

- **Initial migration and operational availability of non-mission critical applications to new open-source infrastructure. The further specifications in the Operational Arrangements also stipulate that:**
- **The migration has to be completed in order to ensure operational availability of non-mission critical applications to new open source infrastructure.**
 - The certificates of work completion signed by the contractor (Almaviva Digitaltec S.r.l.) and the competent authority and the screenshots provided by the Italian authorities demonstrate that, as required by the target, 10 non-mission critical applications have been reengineered and have completed the migration to the new open-source infrastructure called 'Solution for Complete Information Protection by Infrastructure Openness' (S.C.I.P.I.O.) and that these are operational.
 - The 10 non-mission critical applications for which the migration has been completed are:
 1. **General leave from work:** this application is devoted to the submission of request for time off work by military personnel and allows managing all the relevant administrative procedures;
 2. **Termination:** this application manages all the procedures and technical and administrative activities necessary for 'leaving the service for military personnel';
 3. **Honorary awards:** This application concerns activities relating to the granting of rewards, patents and professional certifications, honorifics and distinctions for all military personnel. Examples of honours managed by this application are the *Lungo Command* (Medal of Long Command Merit, Cross by seniority of military service, Air

Force Medal of Long Navigation Air Force, Medal of Honour for Long Navigation) and *Mauritius* (Mauritius Medal of Merit for Ten Military Careers);

4. **Salary calculation for Officers:** the application manages all the procedures and technical and administrative activities necessary to prepare the salary calculation of Officers;
 5. **Salary calculation for non-commissioned Officers:** the application manages all the procedures and technical and administrative activities necessary to prepare the salary calculation of non-commissioned Officers.
 6. **Salary calculation for Graduates:** the application manages all the procedures and technical and administrative activities necessary to prepare the salary calculation of Graduates;
 7. **Advancement for Officers:** The application manages all the necessary administrative procedures, starting from the determination of the rate, to the definition of the advancement framework and promotion to the higher grade for Officers;
 8. **Advancement for non-commissioned Officers:** The application manages all the necessary administrative procedures, starting from the determination of the rate, to the definition of the advancement framework and promotion to the higher grade for non-commissioned Officers;
 9. **Advancement for Graduates:** The application manages all the necessary administrative procedures, starting from the determination of the rate, to the definition of the advancement framework and promotion to the higher grade for Graduates;
 8. **Enrolment:** The application manages the activities carried out following the decree approving the ranking of the winners of a competition up to the assignment of the assignment and the inclusion in the roles of the Military in Permanent Service. The application created allows you to adequately manage the activities connected with the different types of recruitment.
- Based on the justifications provided by the Italian authorities, and in particular the certificates of work completion signed by the contractor (Almaviva Digitaltec S.r.l.) on 31 November 2023 and by the competent authority on 6 December 2023 and the screenshots of the applications, the 10 non-mission critical applications presented above have been satisfactorily migrated and are operational within the new open-source infrastructure S.C.I.P.I.O.
 - **This encompasses hardware environment implementation, installation of middleware open-source components, and the re-engineering of applications.**
 - As presented in the study of 13 December 2021 provided by the Italian authorities entitled "*Reference open source architecture for the Ministry of Defence*", the S.C.I.P.I.O. open-source infrastructure is composed of various layers decoupled from each other: (i) a presentation layer, implemented based on a SPA (Single Page Application). In this hardware environment, pages are designed with a modular architecture and oriented towards individual features in order to provide the user with only the data that is necessary for his request. This layer is also based on a "responsive" template to ensure compatibility with all both mobile and desktop devices and guarantee a better user experience; (ii) a business layer, implemented using a microservices architecture. Microservices are part of a recent approach to development and to the organization of software architectures according to which the latter are made up of services and functionalities, small independent entities that communicate with each other via well-defined interfaces, called Application Programming Interface (API). The use of a microservices architecture provides two main guarantees: on the one hand, greater flexibility and resilience, since any issue with a service does not affect the other services; on the other hand, greater scalability as the microservices can adapt to

the workload of the application and be distributed across multiple servers; (iii) the infrastructure is based on a VMWare virtualized environment on which the orchestration platform that hosts all containers of applications. The orchestration platform is based about Kubernetes technology.

- Based on the justifications provided by the Italian authorities, the 10 non-mission critical applications presented above have been reengineered and migrated within the new open-source infrastructure S.C.I.P.I.O., whose development has required hardware environment implementation and the installation of middleware open-source components.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure:

- **As regards the Ministry of Defence, the project encompasses [...] (ii) the migration of all systems and applications to an open-source paradigm, compliant with the security policies defined by the reference regulatory framework (Investment 1.6.4 - Digitization of the Ministry of Defence).**
 - In relation to point (ii) above, this target concerns the migration of applications to an open-source paradigm, compliant with the security policies defined by the reference regulatory framework. Section 2.2. of the study of 13 December 2021 provided by the Italian authorities and entitled “Reference open source architecture for the Ministry of Defence” outlines the reference regulatory framework for the project, namely the "Digital Administration Code" foreseen under Legislative Decree n. 82 of 7 March 2005 and the “Guidelines on the acquisition and reuse of software for public administrations published” by the Italian Agency for Digital AGiD, adopted with Decision n. 115 of 9 May 2019 and published on the Official Journal n. 119 of 23 May 2019. The "Digital Administration Code" and the AGiD guidelines foresee the resort by public administration to open source solutions, therefore to software released under an open license - also with a view to their own "reusability". Section 3.3. of the study of 13 December 2021 provided by the Italian authorities presents the software product quality model defined by standard ISO/IEC 25010 as the reference standard used to assess the software features, in line with AgID “Technical guide to using metrics for application software developed on behalf of public administrations”. The ISO/IEC 25010 standard identifies the following five sub-features within the "security" feature: confidentiality, integrity, non-repudiation, accountability and authenticity and this product quality model has been used in the study to assess the security features of the selected open source solutions.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C2-4	M1C2-4, Related Measure: Reform 1: Reform of the Industrial Property System	
Name of the Milestone: Entry into force of a Legislative Decree aimed at reforming the Italian industrial property code and the relevant implementing acts		
Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the new Industrial property code and provision in the related implementing acts indicating their entry into force		Time: Q3 2023
Context: The objective of this reform is to adapt the industrial property system to modern challenges and ensure that the innovation potential effectively contributes to the country’s recovery and resilience, through the reform of the Italian industrial property code. Specifically, it aims to pursue the following objectives: enhancing the industrial property protection system; encouraging industrial property use and dissemination, especially by SMEs; facilitating access to and sharing of intangible assets, while ensuring a fair return on investments; guaranteeing a more rigorous respect for industrial property; and strengthening Italy's role in European and international fora on industrial property.		

Milestone M1C2-4 requires the amendment of the Italian industrial property code (Legislative Decree n. 30 of 10 February 2005) and covers the following areas as a minimum: (i) review of the regulatory framework to strengthen the protection of industrial property rights and simplify procedures, (ii) strengthen the support to companies and research institutions, (iii) enhance skills and competences development, (iv) facilitate knowledge transfer, (v) strengthen innovative services promotion.

Milestone M1C2-4 is the only milestone of this reform.

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- Law No. 102 of 24 July 2023, published in the Official Journal No. 184 of 8 August 2023, concerning amendments to the Industrial Property Code, referred to in Legislative Decree No. 30 of 10 February 2005;
- Interministerial Decree of 28 September 2023 of the Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy (MIMIT) in agreement with the Minister of University and Research (published in the Official Journal no. 257 of 3 November 2023), which adopts Guidelines setting out the principles and specific criteria for the regulation of contractual relations between research facilities and the entities financing research activities.

The authorities also provided:

- MIMIT Circular No. 625/2023, concerning the adjustment of the amounts due as stamp duty to allow its payment in digital mode, published on the Ufficio Italiano Brevetti e Marchi's (UIBM) institutional website;
- MIMIT Circular No. 626/2023, concerning the possibility of claiming a foreign priority when filing a national application for a patent, trade-mark or design by sending to UIBM the DAS (Digital Access Service) code provided by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- WIPO, that is uniquely associated with the foreign priority application, published on UIBM's institutional website;
- MIMIT Circular No. 627/2023, concerning the possibility, limited to national patent applications, to pay the filing fees within one calendar month from the filing date of the application, keeping the filing date unchanged, published on the UIBM's institutional website;
- MIMIT Circular No. 628/2023, concerning European patent applications validated in Italy, published on the UIBM's institutional website;
- The link to the Master in Intellectual Property: [Intellectual Property Valorisation for Knowledge Exchange & Impact — Master II livello \(unibo.it\)](https://www.unibo.it/it/en/master-in-intellectual-property)

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

i. The new Legislative Decree shall amend the Italian industrial property code (Legislative Decree n. 30 of 10 February 2005)

Law No. 102 of 24 July 2023 concerning amendments to the Industrial Property Code, amending Legislative Decree n. 30 of 10 February 2005 on the Industrial Property Code, was published in the Official Journal No. 184 of 8 August 2023 and entered into force on the same day.

The Law provides for the digitalization and simplification of industrial property procedures and for

the protection and transferability of industrial property rights.

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ii. Law No. 102 of 24 July 2023 covers the following areas as a minimum:

Review of the regulatory framework to strengthen the protection of industrial property rights and simplify procedures:

Law No. 102 of 24 July 2023 reviews the Industrial Property Code (the “IPC”), referred to in Legislative Decree No. 30 of 10 February 2005, to strengthen the protection of industrial property rights and simplifying procedures.

Law No. 102 of 24 July 2023 strengthens the protection of industrial property by reinforcing trademark protection. Article 1 of the Law, which supplements Article 14(1)(b) of the Industrial Property Code, prohibits the registration as trademarks of signs capable of misleading the public, evocative, usurpative or imitative of geographical indications and designations of origin protected under national or European Union law, including international agreements to which Italy or the European Union are parties.

Law No. 102 of 24 July 2023 strengthens the protection of industrial property by reinforcing the protection of designs. Article 2 of the Law, which inserts in the IPC a special Article 34-bis, establishes that anyone who is interested may apply for temporary protection of designs and models appearing in an exhibition (fair, show), either official or officially recognised, held in the territory of the State or in the territory of a foreign State that accords reciprocal treatment.

Law No. 102 of 24 July 2023 strengthens the protection of industrial property by reinforcing patent protection. Article 5 of the Law, amending Article 59 para. 1 of the IPC specifies that when, for the same invention, an Italian patent and a European patent valid in Italy (or a European patent with unitary effect) have been granted to the same inventor (or his/her successor in title with the same filing date or priority date), the Italian patent maintains its effects and coexists with the European patent even in the event of the subsequent annulment or lapse of the European patent, giving equal effect to the protection conferred by both the Italian patent and the European patent validated in Italy or the European patent with unitary effect. Articles 6 and 8 of the Law respectively strengthen sanctions and controls on patents and patent requests in foreigners' offices.

Law No. 102 of 24 July 2023 reviews the Industrial Property Code, referred to in Legislative Decree No. 30 of 10 February 2005, to simplify procedures of payments of patent applications, renewals, appeals and access to the profession of patent attorney. Article 7 of the Law, amending and supplementing the regulations contained in Article 148 of the IPC, introduces the possibility to pay the patent application filing fees not only at the same time as filing, but also afterwards, within one month, keeping the filing date. Article 9 of the Law, which amends Article 135, paragraph 3 of the IPC extends the term of office of the Board of Appeals against the measures of the Italian Patent and Trademark Office (UIBM) from 2 to 4 years, ensuring effectiveness and continuity in the work of the Board of Appeals and reducing the administrative burden resulting from the renewal procedure. Article 10 of the Law, amending Article 136 *quinquies* of the IPC, reduces the number of days necessary for the parties to be summoned to a hearing from 40 to 30 days in order to speed up the time of proceedings before the Board of Appeal. Article 18 of the Act, amending Article 207 of the IPC, simplifies the procedures for authorisation to pursue the profession of patent attorney, reducing the number of members of the Examination Committee from eight to seven and the compulsory period of training for admission to the qualification examination, from 18 to 20 months.

Strengthen the support to companies and research institutions:

Law No. 102 of 24 July 2023 reviews the Industrial Property Code, referred to in Legislative Decree No. 30 of 10 February 2005, to strengthen support to companies and research institutions. Article 3 of the Law, which reviews Article 65 of the IPC, establishes that the rights deriving from inventions between companies and universities are defined by contractual agreements drafted through guidelines adopted by MIMIT-MUR interministerial decrees. Article 4 of the Law, which introduces Article 65-bis in the IPC, provides that university institutions and institutions of higher artistic musical and choreographic education, public research bodies and institutes for hospitalisation and care of a scientific nature, may set up, within the scope of their autonomy, a Technology Transfer Office with the function of promoting the valorisation of industrial property rights, also through the promotion of collaborations with enterprises. Therefore, the amended IPC aims to facilitate collaborations between companies and universities, as well as promote the valorisation of industrial property rights through the establishment of Technology Transfer Offices. This strengthens the support to companies and research institutions by enhancing knowledge exchange and innovation, and by fostering a more conducive environment for collaboration, research and innovation.

MIMIT-MUR interministerial decree (Interministerial Decree of 28 September 2023 of the Minister of Enterprise and Made in Italy in agreement with the Minister of University and Research) implementing Article 3 of the IPC, which reviews Article 65 of the IPC, lays down the principles and criteria for the conclusion of contracts between research facilities and enterprises, notably with regard to research paid for by enterprises.

Enhance skills and competences development

Law No. 102 of 24 July 2023 reviews the Industrial Property Code, referred to in Legislative Decree No. 30 of 10 February 2005, to enhance skills and competences development. Article 4 of the Law, which introduces Article 65-bis into the IPC, requires personnel working in technology transfer offices to have appropriate professional qualifications to undertake activities in the area industrial property. Complementary to this, in order to foster competence development a new master in “ Intellectual property valorisation for knowledge exchange & impact” has been launched by UIBM and partner universities. The first edition of the master started in April 2022 and has been complemented by the provision of 20 scholarships provided by UIBM.

Facilitate knowledge transfer

Law No. 102 of 24 July 2023 reviews the Industrial Property Code, referred to in Legislative Decree No. 30 of 10 February 2005, to facilitate knowledge transfer.

Law No. 102 of 24 July 2023 reviews the current industrial property system, allowing research structures to freely dispose their patents. Article 3 of the law amends Article 65 of the IPC and establishes that the rights arising from the invention belong to the structure to which the inventor belongs and not to the inventor himself/herself, thus eliminating the so called “professor privilege”. This encourages knowledge sharing and transfer within the research institutions, as the benefits of the invention directly accrue to the institution. Therefore, the Law promotes knowledge transfer within research structures.

MIMIT-MUR interministerial decree (Interministerial Decree of 28 September 2023 of the Minister of Enterprise and Made in Italy in agreement with the Minister of University and Research) implementing Article 3 of the IPC, which reviews Article 65 of the IPC, lays down the principles and criteria for the conclusion of contracts between research facilities and enterprises, notably with regard to the regulation of intellectual property rights.

Strengthen innovative services promotion.

Law No. 102 of 24 July 2023 reviews the Industrial Property Code, referred to in Legislative Decree No. 30 of 10 February 2005, to strengthen innovative services promotion. Article 11 of the Law, amending Article 139 of the IPC, provides for the direct effect of the entry in the European Patent Register of acts relating to a European application or patent, and the deletion of the transcript at the Italian Patent and Trademark Office (UIBM).

Article 12 of the Law, amending Article 147 of the IPC, provides for the elimination of the obligation to submit paper documents and simplifies the procedures for accessing and using electronic filing at the Italian Patent and Trademark Office. The amendments streamline the registration process in the European Patent Register, and the simplification of electronic filing procedures promotes digitalization and efficiency. Therefore, by enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of the patent registration process, Law No. 102 fosters a more conducive environment for innovation and promotes the growth of innovative services.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C2-9	M1C2-9, Related Measure: Reform R2 – Annual Competition Laws	
Name of the Milestone: Entry into force of the Annual Competition Law 2022		
Quantitative Indicator: Provision indicating the entry into force of the Annual Competition Law 2022.		Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>Milestone M1C2-9 is part of the Annual Competition Laws Reform package, which aims at liberalizing several sectors or strengthening the principle of competition therein, including electricity, gas, local public services, waste, ports, railways, highways and pharmaceuticals. The Reform package also aims at harmonizing Italian merger control rules with EU rules, strengthening the market surveillance system in Italy, simplifying and speeding up the rules for starting a business. The Reform provides for the entry into force each year of an Annual Competition Law, covering some of the sectors addressed by the overall Reform package.</p> <p>More specifically Milestone M1C2-6, M1C2-7 and M1C2-8, all assessed under the third payment request, addressed the following sectors: electricity (including flanking measures to ensure the uptake of competition in the retail market), gas, waste management, ports, railways, local public services, antitrust (merger control), starting a business and market surveillance.</p> <p>Milestone M1C2-9 requires the entry into force of the Annual Competition Law 2022. The milestone concerns the following sectors: electricity, antitrust (merger control), retail activities and pharmaceuticals.</p> <p>Milestone M1C2-9 is the third milestone of the reform and is followed by milestone M1C2-10, related to the entry into force of all implementing measures, if necessary, for the effective implementation and application of the measures stemming from the Annual Competition Law 2022. Milestones M1C2-9 and M1C2-10 are linked to each other, are due by Q4 2023 and related to this payment request.</p> <p>As part of the Annual Competition Laws Reform, milestone M1C2-9 will also be followed by</p>		

milestones M1C2-11 and M1C2-12 in the 7th payment request (covering other important sectors such as highways and insurances), M1C2-13 and target M1C2-14 in the 9th payment request (requiring the installation of at least 33 million 2G smart meters).

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone, including all the constitutive elements, was satisfactorily fulfilled.
- ii. Law n. 214 of 30 December 2023 titled “Annual Law for the market and competition for 2022” , published on the Official Journal n. 303 of 30 December 2023.
- iii. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (hereinafter referred to as “MASE”) n. 435 of 22 December 2023, approving and adopting the Electricity Network Development Plan presented by Terna on 18 May 2021, published on MASE’s website on 22 December 2023 and on the Official Journal, general series n. 16 of 20 January 2024.
- iv. Articles 16 and 36 Legislative Decree n. 93 of 1 June 2011, implementing EU Directives 2009/72/CE, 2009/73/CE e 2008/92/CE concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity, gas and concerning transparency of prices for final customers and businesses, with comparison text before and after the amendment of Law 214/2023.
- v. Article 15 of Legislative Decree No 114 of 31 March 1998 (on the reform of retail sector) with comparison text before and after the amendment of Law 214/2023.
- vi. Article 68, paragraph 1, letter c of Legislative Decree No 30 of 10 February 2005 (Industrial Property Code) with comparison text before and after the amendment of Law 214/2023.
- vii. Ministerial Decree No. 315 of 31 August 2022 on shift to from the regulated regime to the free retail market for electricity and gas, published on the Official Journal, general series n. 224 of 24 September 2022.
- viii. Ministerial Decree n. 169 of 18 May 2023 on further measures regulating the shift from the regulated to the free market regime for electricity, published on the Official Journal, general series n. 116 of 19 May 2023.

The authorities also provided:

- ix. Detailed minutes of the meeting of the Chamber of Deputies of 19 December 2023 to discuss and approve the text of the Annual Competition Law (Draft Law S. 795, already approved by the Senate)
- x. Law-Decree n. 181 of 9 December 2023 on urgent measures on energy security and promotion of renewable sources, converted into Law n. 11 of 2 February 2024 (published in the OJ n. 31 of 7 February 2024); [**Not yet uploaded into Fenix**, but submitted by Italy on 20 May 2024]

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Entry into force of the 2022 Annual Competition Law

Milestone M1C2-9 requires the entry into force of the Annual Competition Law 2022. Law n. 214 of 30 December 2023 titled “Annual Law for the market and competition for 2022” (hereinafter referred to as the “ACL 2022”). This- was published on the Official Journal n. 303 of 30 December 2023. According to its article 22, the ACL 2022 entered into force on 1 January 2024. The Law

contains provisions covering the sectors provided by Milestone M1C2-9: electricity, antitrust (merger control), retail activities and pharmaceuticals.

The Annual competition law shall include, at least, the following key elements, whose implementing measures and secondary legislation (if necessary) shall be adopted and enter into force no later than 31 December 2023.

- i. Establish a clear procedure for the adoption, within predetermined deadlines and in any event by 31 December of the relevant period (every two years), of the Electricity Network Development Plan for the next decade which ensures completion of the procedure and simplifying the approval process.**

Article 1 of the ACL 2022, by modifying articles 16 and 36 of Legislative Decree n. 93 of 1 July 2011 (which regulates the procedure for the approval of the Electricity Network Development Plan by the transmission system operator, in compliance with Directives 2009/72/CE, 2009/73/CE and 2008/92/CE), provides for a new, simplified and quicker procedure for the adoption, every two years, of the Electricity Network Development Plan (hereinafter referred to as the “ENDP”) for the next decade.

More specifically, Article 1, paragraph b) of the ACL 2022 envisaged that Terna S.p.A. (the Italian electricity transmission system operator) prepares every two years the Electricity Network Development Plan, based on the objectives regarding the development of renewable energy sources, decarbonization and adequacy and security of supply in the energy system established in the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (hereinafter referred to as “PNIEC”), and transmits it by 31 January of every two years to the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (hereinafter referred to as “MASE”) and the Energy Regulator (hereinafter referred to as “ARERA”). MASE adopts the Plan within 18 months from Terna’s submission, thus by 31 December of the two-year period indicated pursuant to Article 1 of the ACL 2022.

The new process also provides for further predetermined deadlines and shorter procedures that simplify the approval process of the ENDP. More specifically, Article 1 (1) (b) of the ACL 2022 amends Article 36 (12) and (13) of Legislative Decree n. 93 of 1 July 2011, as to introduce stricter intermediate steps, during the assessment period of the MASE, and in particular a period of 60 days, from the request from MASE, for opinions to be delivered by the Regions and of the autonomous Provinces affected by the planned measures. In case of inaction by the Regions/Provinces, the Ministry shall nevertheless approve the ENDP. In addition, during the assessment period, the ACL 2022 provides for a period of six months for ARERA to provide its assessment on the ENDP, also based on the result of a public consultation by ARERA to solicit comments from the businesses and interested parties. These deadlines, previously not present in Italian legislation, significantly contribute to ensure that MASE can adopt the ENDP within 18 months from Terna’s proposal. Such 18-month period must also include the strategic environmental assessment of the ENDP and of the investments planned therein.

In terms of further simplification, Article 1 of the ACL 2022 also envisages a new procedure for the adoption of possible additions to the ENDP, providing that Terna may supplement the plan with proposals for changes in case of specific, urgent and proven needs for works or interventions of the electricity system that cannot be deferred. The adoption of changes follows the same procedure as for the adoption of the ENDP but with half the time for all deadlines. Finally, in order to allow proper monitoring and prepare the ground for the next biannual ENDP, each year Terna submits to MASE and ARERA a report on the status of the network development measures that, based on the ENDP, need to be carried out over the next three years and the state of play of the measures included in the previous plans (Article 1 (1) (b) of the ACL 2022).

No further implementing acts are identified as necessary by the ACL 2022.

The 2021 Electricity Network Development Plan had to be adopted by 31 December 2023.

The 2021 ENDP has been adopted by MASE with Ministerial Decree n. 435 of 22 December 2023, which approved and adopted the 2021 ENDP presented by Terna on 18 May 2021, published on MASE's website and entered into force on 22 January 2023 pursuant to articles 1 and 2 of the Decree. The Decree was also published on the Official Journal, general series n. 16 of 20 January 2024. No further implementing acts was necessary to adopt the ENDP.

ii.promote the deployment of 2nd generation smart electricity meters;

Furthermore, in accordance with the description of the measure, for background, it is recalled that as further assessed under milestone M1C2-10, which is part of the current payment request, the promotion of 2nd generation smart metering has been carried out through information campaigns and through the issuance of guidelines for distribution companies. More specifically, MASE has adopted Ministerial Decree No. 315 of 31 August 2022 and Ministerial Decree n. 169 of 18 May 2023 (regulating the shift from the regulated to the free market regime, assessed in the context of the 3rd payment request) to implement information campaigns, *inter alia*, on transparency and comparability of data, the dissemination of second generation smart electricity meters as well as on the possibility to use consumption data to obtain better offers. ARERA has issued decisions to regulate the obligations on distribution companies to inform customers about the functionalities of smart meters (see further under M1C2-10). As a result of these action, 30 million of 2nd generation smart meters have already been installed (around 70% of the total, source ARERA).

Additionally, in line with the requirement of the CID, Article 2 of the ACL 2022 contains provisions aimed at implementing and consolidating the measures undertaken by MASE and ARERA in 2022 and 2023 to promote transparency, comparability of data and energy saving, including through information campaigns to explain and promote the use of second-generation smart electricity meters.

The ACL in that regard has also the scope to systematize and divide competences more clearly, in order to simplify the regulatory environment and allow potentially further actions by MASE and ARERA or further clarifications on the dissemination of consumers' data. In particular, Article 2 paragraph 1 provides that the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security, in cooperation with ARERA, is in charge for promoting further information campaigns for businesses and consumers on the beneficial effects of second generation smart meters, while Article 2, paragraph 2 of the ACL 2022 provides that ARERA is in charge of the definition of obligations for distribution companies to give customers information on the features and functionalities of smart meters. No further implementing acts are necessary.

Antitrust:

iii.increase the duration for the assessment by the Italian Competition Authority (*Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato*) of concentrations that may significantly impede effective competition pursuant to Article 6 of Law 287/1990, from 45 days to 90 days.

Article 17 of the ACL 2022 changes Article 16 of Law No. 287 of 10 October 1990 (rules on protection of competition and the market) as to increase from 45 to 90 days the mandatory time limit for the communication by the Italian Competition Authority (the *Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato*) of its conclusions of the merger investigations (namely the "Phase II investigations") on concentrations that may significantly impede effective competition pursuant to Article 6 of Law 287/1990.

No further implementing acts are identified as necessary by the ACL 2022.

Retail:

iv.simplification of authorization procedures for promotional sales by undertakings holding outlets in different municipalities.

Article 12 of the ACL 2022 changes the rules on promotional and below-cost sales, in order to make it easier for companies to carry out promotions at the same time in a number of retail stores, including those located in several municipalities. In particular, Article 12 paragraph 2 of the ACL 2022 amends Article 15 of Legislative Decree No 114 of 31 March 1998 (on the reform of retail sector) as to introduce uniform criteria throughout the national territory for compliance with the reporting obligations for promotional sales in several retail outlets (Article of the extraordinary sales referred to in Article 15, paragraphs 4 and 7 of Legislative Decree 114/1998, as amended by the ACL 2022)).

The new rules provide that, where an undertaking intends to carry out at the same time in a number of retail stores, including in several municipalities, promotional or below-cost sales, it may transmit electronically through a one-stop shop, namely a single IT system (the SUAP, the Single Gateway for Production Activities) through the access point of the municipality where the company has its registered offices, a single communication with the dates and details of all the stores involved. According to this requirement, the receiving SUAP will forward the communication to the competent offices of the territories where the stores are located. The changes introduced by the ACL 2022, therefore, not only simplify the authorization procedures and harmonize the rules throughout the territory but also significantly decrease the administrative burden for companies and businesses when communicating the promotional activities.

No further implementing acts are identified as necessary by the ACL 2022.

Pharmaceuticals:

v.ensure proportionality of authorization requirements for the sale of galenic pharmaceuticals.

Article 16 of the ACL 2022 provides for changes to Article 68, paragraph 1, letter c of Legislative Decree No 30 of 10 February 2005 (Industrial Property Code) as to now delete the sentence “provided that no industrially developed principles are used” in relation to pharmaceutical products realized through “extemporary preparations” and more specifically the hand-made preparation, by pharmacies, of pharmaceutical products based on the doctors’ prescription, the so called “galenic pharmaceuticals”. Such products are particularly important where it is necessary to meet the needs of the individual patient, who may need a different dosage, or may be allergic to the excipient used for the medicinal product sold by the pharmaceutical companies. The new rules recognize upfront the possibility for pharmacist to ‘unpack’ the industrially produced medicines and pharmaceutical products in order to use the relevant active ingredient in the preparation of a magistral galenic formula, thus significantly simplifying and speeding up the authorization process and making it more proportionate for pharmacies. As a result, pharmacies will no longer have to go through complicated license requests from pharmaceutical companies with long and costly procedures and unequal/disproportionate bargaining powers. The change introduced by the ACL has thus the effect of now also allowing the use of industrially produced principles in galenic preparations (on presentation of a doctor’s prescription) putting the pharmacist on an equal footing with companies and businesses producing equivalent pharmaceuticals.

No further implementing acts are identified as necessary by the ACL 2022.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled
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Number: M1C2-10	M1C2-10, Related Measure: Reform R2 – Annual Competition Laws
Name of the Milestone: Entry into force of all implementing measures (included secondary legislation, if necessary) for the effective implementation and application of the measures stemming from the 2022 Annual Competition Law	
Quantitative Indicator: Entry into force of all secondary legislation, including all necessary regulations for measures stemming from the 2022 Annual Competition Law	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>Milestone M1C2-10 is part of the Annual Competition Laws Reform package, which aims at liberalizing several sectors or strengthening the principle of competition therein, including electricity, gas, local public services, waste, ports, railways, highways and pharmaceuticals. The Reform package also aims at harmonizing Italian merger control rules with EU rules, strengthening the market surveillance system in Italy, simplifying and speeding up the rules for starting a business. The Reform provides for the entry into force each year of an Annual Competition Law, covering some of the sectors addressed by the overall Reform package.</p> <p>Milestone M1C2-10 is part of the implementation of the Annual Competition Law 2022 package and requires the entry into force of all implementing measures (included secondary legislation, if necessary) for the effective implementation and application of the measures stemming from the 2021 Annual Competition Law (M1C2-9). The milestone concerns the following sectors: electricity, antitrust (merger control), retail activities and pharmaceuticals.</p> <p>Milestone M1C2-10 is the fourth milestone of the Competition Laws Reform. Milestones M1C2-9 and M1C2-10 are linked to each other, are due by Q4 2023 and related to this payment request.</p> <p>As part of the Annual Competition Laws Reform milestone M1C2-10 will also be followed in the next payment requests by milestones M1C2-11, M1C2-12, M1C2-13 and target M1C2-14 (requiring the installation of at least 33 million 2G smart meters).</p> <p>Evidence provided:</p> <p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone, including all the constitutive elements, was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. Decision by the Energy Regulator (ARERA) n. 105/2021/R/eel of 16 March 2021, on the modalities and requirements for the deployment of 2nd generation smart metering and for the protection of final consumers; iii. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (hereinafter referred to as “MASE”) n. 435 of 22 December 2023, approving and adopting the Electricity Network Development Plan presented by Terna on 18 May 2021, published on MASE’s website on 22 December 2023 and on the Official Journal, general series n. 16 of 20 January 2024; iv. Electricity Network Development Plan submitted by Terna to the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security on 18 May 2021; xi. Ministerial Decree No. 315 of 31 August 2022 on shift to from the regulated regime to the free retail market for electricity and gas, published on the Official Journal, general series n. 224 of 24 September 2022. xii. Ministerial Decree n. 169 of 18 May 2023 on further measures regulating the shift from the 	

regulated to the free market regime for electricity, published on the Official Journal, general series n. 116 of 19 May 2023.

The authorities also provided:

- v. Law-Decree n. 181 of 9 December 2023 on urgent measures on energy security and promotion of renewable sources, converted into Law n. 11 of 2 February 2024 (published in the OJ n. 31 of 7 February 2024);
- vi. Decision by the Energy Regulator (ARERA) n. 158/2024/R/com of 23 April 2024, on the procedure to give to third parties information on clients' consumption of electricity and gas;
- vii. Decision by ARERA n. 724/2022/R/EEL of 27 December 2022, on the update for 2023-2025 of the calculation of costs for 2nd generation electricity smart metering;
- viii. Decision by ARERA n. 306/2019/R/EEL of 16 July 2019, on the update for 2020-2022 of the calculation of costs for 2nd generation electricity smart metering;
- ix. Decision by ARERA n. 646/2016/R/EEL of 10 November 2016 on the calculation of costs for 2nd generation electricity smart metering;
- x. Extracts from ARERA's database on the installation of 2nd generation smart-metering.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities cover all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Entry into force of all secondary legislation (if necessary), including all necessary regulations for the effective implementation and application of all the aforementioned measures stemming from the 2022 Annual Competition Law.

Milestone M1C2-10 should be considered in conjunction with milestone M1C2-9 where all the specific constitutive elements to be reached in each sector by 2023 are specified. The analysis of milestone M1C2-10 should take into account the assessment of the Annual Competition Law 2022 carried out above for milestone M1C2-9 in the context of this payment request. For the sectors covered by milestone M1C2-9, the ACL 2022 does not delegate to the government the adoption of implementing measures as the law includes provisions that cover all the constitutive elements of milestone M1C2-9 and are directly applicable, thus not requiring further implementing acts for the purpose of their effective implementation and application.

With specific regard to electricity, the Electricity Network Development Plan (ENDP) required to be adopted through a decree by MASE. As already analysed under milestone M1C2-9, the 2021 ENDP has in fact been adopted by MASE on 22 December 2023 through Ministerial Decree n. 435, which approved and adopted the 2021 ENDP presented by Terna on 18 May 2021. Therefore, no further action is required.

With regard to the 2nd generation smart metering, the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security has promoted information campaigns for businesses and consumers on the beneficial effects of second generation smart meter, while ARERA had defined the obligations for distribution companies to give customers information on the features and functionalities of smart meters. With regard to the first set of actions, pursuant to MASE's Ministerial Decree No. 315 of 31 August 2022 and Ministerial Decree n. 169 of 18 May 2023 (regulating the shift from the regulated to the free market regime, assessed in the context of the 3rd payment request) information campaigns have been adopted, *inter alia*, on transparency and comparability of data, the dissemination of second generation smart electricity meters as well as the possibility to use consumption data to obtain

better offers and towards the sustainable, conscious and rational consumption of electricity. Furthermore, hard-copy and digital materials have been produced (brochures and informative videos) for various communication initiatives.

With regard to ARERA’s actions, the Authority has regulated the obligations on distribution companies to inform customers about the functionalities of smart meters. Since 2021, by Decision 105/2021/R/eel, ARERA issued guidelines and instructions on communication plans that distribution companies had to adopt to inform final customers on smart metering. Such guidelines define criteria to ensure the greatest possible amount of information to consumers and ensure their consumers’ involvement and awareness in the process of replacing the meter. In particular, under paragraph 4.1 (a) of Decision 105/2021/R/eel, the distributor is required to warn the customer that it is planning to replace his/her meter by highlighting its purpose, the expected benefits of the next generation meter, and the fact that the transaction is free of charge. Decision 105/2021/R/eel also provides for parallel information from the distributor to the electricity seller, which can then also act promptly with the final customer with appropriate information and assistance. This provision has made it possible to strengthen and standardize the content of the information plans for end customers regarding the functionality of the 2G systems.

Subsequently, ARERA adopted Decision 724/2022/R/eel of 27 December 2022 concerning the update for the three-year period 2023-2025 of the criteria for the recognition of the costs of 2G smart metering systems for the measurement of low voltage electricity. All distribution and electricity companies that were required by law to submit communication and roll-out plans have submitted them in time and ARERA has approved them. Data on the roll-out and installation of 2G smart meters is available on ARERA’s website.

Based on the above, no further secondary legislation or implementing act is necessary.

It should also be noted that, on 2nd generation smart meters, the ACL 2022 has also simplified the regulatory environment and clarified the repartition of tasks between different entities, by consolidating and formalizing the powers/competences that MASE and ARERA have been carrying out over the past two years (also in conjunction with previous milestones). Article 2, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the ACL 2022 provide that it is a competence of the MASE to promote information campaigns for businesses and consumers, while it is a competence of the ARERA to define the information obligations for distribution companies. These clarifications will help avoiding future conflicts between different Ministries and/or authorities. The consolidation of such competences might also allow for further campaigns, promotion or transparency actions to be undertaken, and to contextualize such actions in the context of the Annual Competition Law reform as provided by the Italian NRRP.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C2-29	M1C2-29, Related Measure: Investment 5.2 – Competitiveness and resilience of supply chain		
Name of the Target: Development Contracts approved			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 0	Target: 40	Time: Q4 2023
Context:			
This target concerns investment 5 of component M1C2 “Industrial supply chain policies and internationalization”, which aims at strengthening industrial supply chains. In particular, the target relates to the second line of intervention of said investment, represents the final step of the			

intervention and consists in the approval of financial support to enterprises through the instrument of the Development Contract for projects related to key strategic value chains.

The target concerns the approval of at least 40 Development Contracts and the activation of at least EUR 1.5 bn of investments.

This target follows milestone M1C2-28, which was positively assessed in the second payment request and envisaged the entry into force of decree including the investment policy of the Development Contracts.

M1C2-29 is the final target related to this investment.

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- ii. List of the 51 development contracts approved with a project description ;
- iii. For each of the 51 development contracts approved, the evidence of the formal approval of the development contract. The formal approval consists of either:
- iv. Decision (“delibera”) of Invitalia Spa’s Board of Directors approving the financing of the development projects. This evidence is provided when Invitalia Spa granted a financing for more than 5 000 000 EUR;
- v. Relation on the investigation process (“Relazione Istruttoria”) including detailed technical specification of the development contracts concerning their approval as they are signed by the chief executive officer of Invitalia Spa. This evidence is provided when Invitalia Spa granted a financing for less than 5 000 000 EUR;
- vi. For each of the 51 development contracts, the relation on the investigation process -including detailed technical specification as well as information of the strategic value chain where the development contract operates;

The authorities also provided:

- vii. Extract of the Decision of Invitalia Spa’s Board of Directors of 8 July 2022 conferring the power of managing all the activities related to financial operations for an amount up to 5 000 000 EUR to the chief executive officer of Invitalia Spa;
- viii. Ministerial Decree of 13 January 2022, published in the Official Journal n. 36 of 12 February 2022 establishing the investment policy of the Development Contracts
- ix. Decree of the Director-General of the Ministry of Economic Development of 25 March 2022 on the launch of the call for proposals;
- x. Agreement of 30 March 2022 between the Ministry of Economic Development and the entrusted entity (“National Agency for the Attraction of Investments and Business Development S.p.A.” – Invitalia), including on the application of the DNSH principle

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

At least 40 Development Contracts approved, in line with their investment policy.

- As assessed in the context of Milestone M1C2-28, the Ministerial Decree of 13 January 2022 of the Ministry of Made in Italy encompasses the investment policy of Development Contracts. Article 3 defines the scope of the development contracts and the strategic value chains to be financed via development contracts. Namely, they include agroindustry, design, fashion and interior design, automotive, microelectronics and semiconductors, electromechanics and chemistry/pharmaceutical.

- Italy provided a list of 51 development contracts approved by

Invitalia Spa with the corresponding evidence of formal approval. Invitalia Spa is the entrusted entity by the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy for the implementation of the line of intervention “*Competitiveness and resilience of supply chains*” of Investment 5.2. Therefore, Invitalia Spa has the power of attorney to formally approve the development contracts to which financing will be granted.

- Depending on the amount financed by Invitalia Spa, the process of development contracts’ approval differs. For financing up to an amount to 5 000 000 the formal approval is given by the signature of the relation on the investigation relation of the development contracts by the chief executive officer of Invitalia Spa. Instead, for amounts higher than EUR 5 000 000, the approval of financing depends by the decision of the Invitalia Spa’s Board of Directors. To proof the validity of this evidence as formal approval, Italy has provided an extract of the Decision of Invitalia Spa’s Board of Directors of 8 July 2022. The Decision formally confers to the chief executive officer of Invitalia Spa the power of managing all the activities related to financial operations for an amount up to 5 000 000 EUR.

- For 34 of the approved development contracts, the financing was granted for an amount higher than 5 000 000 EUR. Therefore, for each of them, as evidence of formal approval, the Decision (“*delibera*”) of Invitalia Spa’s Board of Directors was provided. The Decision clearly reports the name of the beneficiary enterprise and the amount of investment activated with the Development Contract.

- For 17 of the approved development contracts, the financing was granted for an amount lower than 5 000 000 EUR. For each of them, as evidence of formal approval, the relevant relation on the investigation process concerning the approval of the financing of development contract signed by the chief executive officer of Invitalia Spa was provided. The relation clearly reports information on the name of the beneficiary enterprise and the amount of investment activated with the Development Contract.

- All the 51 development contracts were in line with the investment policy: Italy has provided a relation on the investigation process for all the 51 development contracts. The relation includes a detailed description of the development contracts, including information on the strategic value chain where the enterprise receiving the financing operates. Based on the relation, all the development contracts were included under one of the strategic value chains as spelled out in Article 3 of the Ministerial Decree No of 13 January 2022 encompassing the investment policy of Development Contracts

- **The satisfactory fulfilment of the target also depends on the activation of at least EUR 1 500 million of investments.**

- The acts approving the financing of the Development Contracts (ie the Decision or the relation of the investigation process signed by the executive board of directors of Invitalia Spa) report information on the amount of development contracts financed as well as the corresponding amount of investment active.

- Based on this information, EUR 1 588 932 370 of investments were activated, thus overachieving the target of activating at least EUR 1.5 billion of investments.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C3-4	M1C3-4, Related Measure: Investment 1.3 – Improve energy efficiency in cinema, theatres and museums		
Name of the Target: Interventions on State museums and cultural sites, theatrical halls and cinemas concluded (first batch)			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 0	Target: 80	Time: Q3 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>This investment supports the cultural and creating sector by promoting the energy efficiency renovation of cinemas, theatres, and museums.</p> <p>Target M1C3-4 requires the completion of 80 energy efficiency renovation projects as proved by the certification of regular execution of the works.</p> <p>Target M1C3-4 is the intermediate step of the implementation of investment 1.3 and it will be followed by the final target M1C3-5 concerning the completion of 420 energy renovation projects. It follows Milestone M1C3-11 which concerned the entry into force of the Ministry of Culture decree for the allocation of resources.</p>			
<p>Evidence provided:</p> <p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the target was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. Copies of the energy audits (diagnosi energetica) or the ex-ante and ex-post Energy Performance Certificates (APEs); iii. 80 certificates of regular execution of works (Certificati di Regolare Esecuzione). <p>The authorities also provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. List of the 80 energy renovation projects completed with information on the type of asset redeveloped and intervention completed, the date of work completion, and the energy savings achieved; v. The call for projects No. 1972 of 22 December 2021 for the improvement of energy efficiency of theatres and cinemas; vi. Copy of the Ministerial Decree No. 452 of 7 June 2022 allocating the resources to improve energy efficiency in places of cultures, including as attachments the lists of the financed interventions (Annex A on state museums and cultural sites; Annex B1 on public and private theatres; Annex B2 on public and private cinemas); vii. For each project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of the selected project with attachments; • Copy of the energy audit or the ex-ante and ex-post Energy Performance Certificates (APEs); • Ex-ante cost estimate (Computo metrico estimativo; Quadro tecnico-economico); • Declaration of compliance of the project with the conditions set out in the Council Implementing Decision as well as with the relevant national and EU legislation; • Certificate of regular execution of works (Certificato di Regolare Esecuzione); • Certificate of completion of works (Certificato di Ultimazione Lavori). viii. Additionally, for the units No. 5, 6, 16, 17, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, copy of the invoices and photographic evidence to prove the purchase and installation of movie projectors. 			
<p>Analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The indicator refers to the number of interventions concluded as proved by the certification of regular execution of the works. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 80 energy efficiency renovation projects in cinemas and theatres (both 			

public and private) financed by the call for project No. 1972 of 22 December 2021 were completed, as evidenced by the certificates of completion and of regular execution of works provided by the authorities. Additionally, for the units No. 5, 6, 16, 17, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, copies of the invoices and photographic evidence were provided to prove the purchase and installation of movie projectors. The completion of at least 55 interventions in State museums and cultural sites will be verified in the context of the assessment of the future target M1C3-5.

- **The type of interventions to be completed include:** - technical and economic - financial planning, energy audits, initial environmental analyses, environmental impact assessment, reliefs and assessments aimed at identifying critical issues, identification of the consequent interventions for the improvement of energy performance; - interventions on the building envelope; - interventions of replacement/acquisition of equipment, tools, systems, devices, digital application software, as well as accessory instrumentation for their operation, the acquisition of patents, licenses and know - how; - installation of intelligent systems for remote control, regulation, management, monitoring and optimisation of energy consumption (smart buildings) and polluting emissions also through the use of technological mixes.

- All the completed energy efficiency renovation interventions concern the types of interventions set out in the description of the measure in the Council Implementing Decision, as proved by the information included in the copies of the projects and in the certificates of completion and of regular execution of works.

- **The measure shall improve the energy efficiency of buildings linked to the cultural and creative sector. They are often found in outdated, energy inefficient facilities that generate high maintenance costs related to air-conditioning, lighting, communication and safety.**

- In line with Art. 1 of the call for projects No. 1972 of 22 December 2021, all the completed interventions ensure a reduction of energy consumption and improve the energy efficiency of the buildings linked to the cultural and creative sector, in particular in cinemas and theatres (both public and private). This is proved by the coherence of the proposed interventions with the recommendations indicated in the energy audits or by the ex-ante and ex-post Energy Performance Certificates that were provided for each completed intervention.

- **The investment shall finance actions to improve the energy efficiency of Italian museums, cinemas and theatres (both public and private).**

- As already indicated in the assessment of Milestone M1C3-11 in the context of the 2nd payment request, the investment finances energy efficiency renovation interventions in state museums and cultural sites, as well as in cinemas and theatres (both public and private).

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M1C3-7	M1C3-7, Related Measure: Investment 3.3 Capacity building for culture operators to manage the digital and green transition	
Name of the Milestone: Award of all public contracts with the implementing organisation/beneficiaries for all interventions to manage the digital and green transition of cultural operators		
Qualitative Indicator: Notification of the award of all public contracts for the		Time: Q4 2023

organisations and networks that shall be in charge of the realization of the capacity building activities	
<p>Context:</p> <p>The investment aims to support the recovery of the cultural and creative sectors.</p> <p>M1C3-7 aims: i) to support cultural and creative operators to implement digital strategies and to increase their management capacities; ii) to encourage an environmentally sustainable approach throughout the chain, reducing the ecological footprint, promoting innovative and inclusive eco-design, including in the context of the circular economy, in order to steer the public towards more responsible environmental behaviour.</p> <p>M1C3-7 is the only milestone for this investment.</p>	
<p>Evidence provided:</p> <p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone, including all the constitutive elements, was satisfactorily fulfilled, with reference to the relevant provisions indicating the entry into force; ii. Directorial decrees No. 1550 of 13 December 2023 sub-line A1 No. 851 of 31 July 2023 (sub-line A2), No. 1532 of 13 December 2023 sub-line B1, No. 1311 of 27 November 2023 (sub-line B2) allocating the resources to the projects; iii. Call for Proposal 3.3.1 of 9 June 2023 related to intervention sub-line A1, which aims at promoting digitalization and cooperation among cultural operators; iv. Call for Proposal 3.3.2 of 19 October 2022 related to intervention sub-line A2, which aims at providing real financial support for the digitalization of cultural operators; v. Call for Proposal 3.3.3 of 9 June 2023 related to the intervention sub-line B1, which aims at reducing the ecological footprint of cultural events; vi. Call for Proposal 3.3.4 of 11 April 2023 related to the intervention sub-line B2, which aims at promoting ecodesign and sustainability; vii. The notification of the award for each intervention line; viii. A list of all selected projects; ix. The selection criteria for each line of intervention including the DNSH eligibility specifications; <p>The authorities also provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> x. Directorial decrees No. 737 of 7 December 2023 (sub-line A1), No. 851 of 31 July 2023 (sub-line A2), No. 732 of 6 December 2023 (sub-line B1) and No. 439 of 2 November 2023 (sub-line B2) approving the ranking of the projects. 	
<p>Analysis:</p> <p>The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.</p> <p>The selected implementing bodies shall be specialized organizations or networks that possess skills and experience both in the field of training and in the field of cultural production, environment, cultural management and training.</p>	

The selected implementing bodies are specialized organisations or networks that possess skills and experience indicated in the Council Implementing Decision. In this sense,

- Article 5 of each Call for Proposal included the eligibility criteria for the implementing bodies to carry out the investment.
- For sub-lines A2 and B2, article 5 comma 1 of the call for proposals required implementing bodies to be registered enterprises, foundations, NGOs, or no profit organizations operating in the cultural and artistic field. Article 6 comma 7 further describes the areas of artistic field. The list includes entities operating in one of the following areas:
 - i. Music;
 - ii. Audiovisual and radio (including: film/cinema, television, video games, software, and multimedia);
 - iii. Fashion;
 - iv. Architecture and Design;
 - v. Visual arts (including photography);
 - vi. Live performance and Festivals;
 - vii. Material and immaterial cultural heritage (including archives, libraries, and museums);
 - viii. Artistic craftsmanship;
 - ix. Publishing, books, and literature;
 - x. Interdisciplinary area (related to subjects operating in more than one field of intervention among those listed).
- For line A1 and line B1, which concerns capacity building projects, article 5 comma 6 of the call for proposals, required implementing entities to:
 - possess skills and experience in the field of education, research, environmental footprint reduction activities, in the area of cultural participation, cultural management and creative and cultural enterprises creation;
 - have organized or conducted, in the last five years, at least one of the types of intervention indicated in the call for proposal.

Notification of the award of all public contracts for projects selected under the competitive calls for proposals, shall be in compliance with the 'Do no significant harm' Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01) through the use of an exclusion list and the requirement of compliance with the relevant EU and national environmental legislation. In order to ensure that the measure complies with the 'Do no significant harm' Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01), the eligibility criteria contained in terms of reference for upcoming calls for projects shall exclude the following list of activities: (i) activities related to fossil fuels, including downstream use; (ii) activities under the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) achieving projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not lower than the relevant; (iii) activities related to waste landfills, incinerators²⁰ and mechanical biological treatment plants; (iv) activities where the long-term disposal of waste may cause harm to the environment. The terms of reference shall additionally require that only activities that comply with relevant EU and national environmental legislation may be selected.

- Following the launch of the four calls for projects, 2 320 projects were selected (53 for line A1; 1 860 for sub-line A2; 60 for sub-line B1 and 347 for line B2), as evidenced by the directorial decrees awarding the resources to the projects No. 1550 of 13 December 2023 (sub-line A1), No. 851 of 31 July 2023 (sub-line A2), No. 1532 of 13 December 2023 (sub-line B1), No. 1311 of 27 November 2023 (sub-line B2). In line with Article 2 of the above-mentioned directorial decrees for sub-lines A1, B1 and B2, the beneficiaries were notified by means of the publication of the decrees awarding the project in the Ministry's website. For sub-line A2, beneficiaries were notified individually as evidenced by directorial decree of 26

March 2024, which includes the complete list of notifications sent with their date and reference number.

○ In order to ensure that the measure complies with the technical guidance on the application of the "do no significant harm" principle (2021/C58/01), each call for proposal required, as eligibility criteria of the project, compliance with the DNSH exclusion list indicated in the Council Implementing Decision. Moreover, each call required that the project had to be compliant with the relevant national and European environmental legislation. These requirements are reported in the following articles of the calls for proposal. In particular,

- Article 1 comma 6 of the Call for proposal 3.3.1 - sub-line of intervention A1;
- Article 1 (commas 3 and 4), of the Call for proposal 3.3.2 -sub-line of intervention A2;
- Article 1 comma 6 of the Call for proposal 3.3.3 - sub-line of intervention B1;
- Article 1(commas 3 and 4), of the Call for proposal 3.3.2 - sub-line of intervention B2.

Furthermore, in line with the measure description, the overall objective of the investment is to support the recovery of the cultural and creative sectors and consist in two interventions: The first intervention ('Supporting the recovery of cultural activities by encouraging innovation and the use of digital technology throughout the value chain') aims to support cultural and creative operators to implement digital strategies and to increase their management capacities.

• Article 1 of each call for proposal states that the general objective of the investment is to support the recovery and revitalization of cultural and creative sectors as defined by the Creative Europe program, encompassing all sectors whose activities are based on cultural values and artistic expressions, as well as other individual or collective creative expressions, whether market-oriented or non-market-oriented.

As indicated in the guidelines of the Ministry of Culture, General Direction Contemporary Creativity of 19 January 2021, the investment is divided into two sub-lines of interventions: digital transition (Action A) and green transition (Action B). For each intervention, two sub-lines of interventions were envisaged, the first one dedicated to capacity building activities (A1 and B1) and the second one to provide financial support to cultural and creative operators to promote the green and digital transition (A2 and B2). In total, four different calls for proposals (one for each call) were launched.

• Concerning sub-line of intervention A1, article 1 comma 2 of the Call for Proposal 3.3.1 indicates the objective of the call. In particular, the objectives of the call include:

- Promotion and generation of new models of cultural offerings supported by digital technology;
- The recovery of the cultural and creative sectors such as "architecture, archives, libraries, and museums, artistic craftsmanship, audiovisual (including film, television, video games, and multimedia), tangible and intangible cultural heritage, design (including fashion design), festivals, music, literature, performing arts (including theater and dance), books and publishing, radio, and visual arts."

• Concerning sub-line of intervention A2, article 1 comma 2 of the Call for Proposal 3.3.2 indicates the objective of the call. In particular, the objectives of the call include:

- Favoring the advancement of the technological maturity level of cultural and creative organizations;
- Making Italian cultural and creative organizations competitive internationally in terms of digital cultural offerings;
- Favoring the creation of networks among different creative organizations,

- characterized by conscious digital experimentation;
- Creating and implementing, in terms of digital and technological consumption, innovative, effective, exportable, and competitive tools both for cultural heritage and contemporary creative expressions and products;
 - Incentivizing the digital renewal of cultural assets;
 - Using new technologies to make cultural content and the complexities related to the territory accessible, also in terms of heritage perception and improvement of quality of life through contemporary creativity;
 - Favoring integration within collective dynamics and the inclusion of active citizenship in access to culture, particularly in marginal areas;
 - Incentivizing the stable placement of professionally trained figures in the cultural field, formed in terms of technological and computer competencies, to be continuously employed within cultural assets. Such figures can facilitate the construction of networks and ease contact and exchange with other national and international realities.

The second intervention ('Promoting a green approach throughout the cultural and creative chain') aims to encourage an environmentally sustainable approach throughout the chain, reducing the ecological footprint, promoting innovative and inclusive eco-design, including in the context of the circular economy, in order to steer the public towards more responsible environmental behaviour.

As indicated in the guidelines of the Ministry of Culture, General Direction Contemporary Creativity of 19 January 2021, the investment is divided into two lines of interventions: digital transition (Action A) and green transition (Action B). For each intervention, two sub-lines of interventions were envisaged, the first one dedicated to capacity building activities (A1 and B1) and the second one to provide financial support to cultural and creative operators to promote the green and digital transition (A2 and B2). In total, four different calls for proposals (one for each call) were launched.

- Concerning sub-line of intervention B1, Article 1 of the Call for Proposal 3.3.3 indicates the objectives of the call. In particular, comma 7 of Article 1 indicates that projects must be designed, implemented, and managed based on a circular economy model and within the framework of energy consumption reduction objectives, through energy efficiency measures, and by using alternative and renewable energies. They must also comply with the Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM) defined in M1C3-4, by identifying the best environmental solution throughout the lifecycle of the project, product, or service. Additionally, the projects should be inspired by a model aimed at reducing barriers that limit access for people with physical, cultural, sensory, and cognitive diversity.
- Concerning sub-line of intervention B2, article 1 comma 2 of the Call for Proposal 3.3.4 outlines the objectives of the call. In particular, article 1 comma 2 indicates that the projects shall provide financial contributions to support cultural and creative sectors to carry out activities, projects, or products aimed at contributing to climate action, sustainability, and more responsible behaviors towards nature and the environment.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M2C1-5	M2C1-5, Related Measure: Investment 2.2 – Agri-solar Park
Name of the Target: Allocation of resources to the beneficiaries as % of the total financial resources assigned to the investment	

Quantitative Indicator: Percentage	Baseline: 19	Target: 32	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>This measure consists in the granting of support to investments on productive structures of the agricultural, livestock and agro-industrial sector, to remove and dispose of the existing roof and construction of a new insulated roof, to create automated ventilation and/or cooling systems and to install solar panels, intelligent management of flows and accumulators.</p> <p>The beneficiary projects whose total value amount at least 32% of the total financial resources assigned to the investment shall be identified. The award procedure provides for the disbursement of grants or other incentives to companies that meet the requirements and submit the application.</p> <p>Target M2C1-5 is the second target of the investment, and it follows the completion of target M2C1-4 (2nd payment request) related to the allocation of 32% of the resources (the financial allocation of the measure was increased in the December 2023 revision of the plan and the percentages for the targets have been readjusted). It will be followed by targets M2C1-6 due by Q2 2024 and M2C1-6bis due by Q4 2024 on the allocation of 63.5% and 100% of the resources, respectively, and target M1C2-9 due by Q2 2026 requiring the installation of at least 1 383 000 kW solar power generation capacity.</p>			
<p>Evidence provided:</p> <p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled in line with the requirements set out in the Council Implementing Decision; ii. Ministerial Decree N. 693994 of 18 October 2023, that allocates the % of financial resources and including the list of beneficiaries; iii. Annex 3 to Ministerial Decree N. 693994 of 18 October 2023, listing the beneficiaries, typology of activity and maximum financial contribution. iv. Ministerial Decree N. 693994 of 18 December 2023, providing the consolidated list of selected beneficiaries, as well as Annexes 1 and 2 to Ministerial Decree N. 693994 of 18 December 2023, listing the beneficiaries, region, typology of activity and maximum financial contribution. The Decree and Annexes are available at the following link of the implementing authority website: Masaf - Decreto recante elenco dei destinatari ammessi a finanziamento con fondi afferenti al Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza (PNRR) - Missione 2 Componente 1 (M2C1) - Investimento 2.2 - Parco Agrisolare, finanziato dall'Unione Europea (politicheagricole.it). <p>The authorities also provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Directorial Decree N. 211444 of 19 April 2023, setting the scope, the financial resources allocated and the eligible expenditure for the interventions related to this measure; ; i. Directorial Decree N. 0386481 of 21 July 2023, which identifies the financial resources earmarked to this investment and the rules applicable to the submission of proposals related to interventions under this measure. 			
<p>Analysis:</p> <p>The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities cover all</p>			

constitutive elements of the milestone.

- **The beneficiary projects whose total value amount at least 32% of the total financial resources assigned to the investment shall be identified**

Article 2 (3) of Ministerial Decree N. 693994 of 18 December 2023 adopts the consolidated list of beneficiaries which identified a total of 9 317 beneficiaries for EUR 789.445.859,476 corresponding to 33.59% of the financial resources assigned to the investment. The complete list is provided under Annexes 1 and 2, and includes the name of the beneficiaries, region, typology of activity and maximum financial contribution. Article 1 (1) of Ministerial Decree N. 693994 of 18 December 2023 specifies that Annex 1 provides the consolidated list of the beneficiaries selected with the directorial decree N. 654947 of 21 December 2022 (as assessed in the context of Italy's third payment request for target M2C1-4), and updated by directorial decrees N. 654947 of 30 March 2023, N. 384020 of 20 July 2023 and N. 579820 of 18 October 2023, on the basis of the call launched by the Directorial Decree N. 0362593 of 23 August 2022. The total financial resources assigned under Annex 1 amount to EUR 438.133.850,466 for 6 358 beneficiaries. Article 2 (1) of Ministerial Decree N. 693994 of 18 December 2023 specifies that Annex 2 provides the list of beneficiaries selected by Directorial Decree N. 0579820 of 18 October 2023 (Article 3), following the call N. 0386482 of 21 July 2023 published by the Ministry of Agriculture, updated by Directorial Decree N. 452926 of 12 September 2023. The total financial resources assigned under Annex 2 amount to EUR 351.312.009,01 for 2 959 beneficiaries.

- **The award procedure provides for the disbursement of grants or other incentives to companies that meet the requirements and submit the application.**

Article 2 (1) Decree N. 211444 of 19 April 2023 establishes that the support is provided for installing photovoltaic systems on rooftops of buildings instrumental to agricultural, livestock and agro-industrial activities in the form of grants. Article 4 (2) of the aforementioned Decree sets the requirements for the selection of companies that could be granted disbursement (as further detailed in the analysis below).

This measure consists in the granting of support to investments on productive structures of the agricultural, livestock and agro-industrial sector, to remove and dispose of the existing roof and construction of a new insulated roof, to create automated ventilation and/or cooling systems and to install solar panels, intelligent management of flows and accumulators.

Article 4 (2) of Decree N. 211444 of 19 April 2023 sets out the characteristics of the type of enterprise and investments that can be granted support. The eligible productive structures are in particular (a) farmers in individual or corporate form, (b) agro-industrial enterprises, (c) agricultural cooperatives, or (d) an association of the above. Article 2 (4) sets out the scope of eligible investments under this measure. In particular, it specifies that all eligible interventions (to be carried out on the roofs of buildings instrumental to agricultural, livestock and agro-industrial activities, including those with farm tourism activities) must include the installation of photovoltaic systems. In addition, other interventions are eligible: article 2 (4) paragraph (a) refers to the removal and disposal of asbestos (from roofs, in compliance with the national sector legislation in force; paragraph (b) to the thermal insulation of roofs, which shall include a technical report on the degree of insulation envisaged based on the specific production uses of the building; and paragraph (c) of the same article refers to the set-up of a ventilation system connected to the

replacement of the roof, including a report on the envisaged ventilation system based on the production use of the building. Article 6 specifies the type of expenditure eligible for each category of intervention, including accumulators and acquisition of software for the intelligent management of flows under paragraph (a).

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M2C1-15Bis	M2C1-15Bis, Related Measure: Reform 1.2 – National program for waste management
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Name of the Target: Reduction of irregular landfills (T2)

Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 34	Target: 14	Time: Q4 2023
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Context:

This target concerns the reduction of irregular landfills included in the infringement procedure 2011/2215 from 34 to 14 (i.e. of at least 60%). It is related to the reform 1.2 on the adoption of the National Programme for Waste Management.

Target M2C1-15bis requires the reduction of irregular landfills included in the infringement procedure 2011/2215 from 34 to 14 (i.e. of at least 60%).

Target M2C1-15bis is the intermediate step of the implementation of reform 1.2 and investment 1.1 linked to the goal of reduction of irregular landfills included in the infringement procedure 2011/2215. It will be followed by the target M2C1-16bis that concerns the further reduction of irregular landfills included in the infringement procedure 2011/2215 from 14 to 9 (i.e. at least 75%).

Reform 1.2 envisages also additional targets related to the closure of the infringement procedure NIF 2003/2077 (M2C1-15 and M2C1-16).

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the target was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- ii. The letter of formal notice, pursuant to Article 260 TFEU, concerning the infringement procedure NIF 2011/2215, sent to Italy by the European Commission on 6 April 2022, where it is indicated that only 12 landfills are yet to be closed;

The authorities also provided:

- iii. Administrative acts of the local authorities concerning the closures of the landfills;
- iv. Copy of the National Programme for Waste Management;
- v. Copy of the Ministerial Decree No. 396 of 28 September 2021, allocating the resources for Investment 1.1 in three lines of intervention:
 - Line A "Improvement and Mechanization of the networks for separate waste collection of Urban waste;
 - Line B "modernization (including expansion of existing plants) and building of new treatment/recycling plants for separate waste collection;
 - Line C "modernization (including expansion of existing plants) and building of innovative treatment/recycling plants addressing personal adsorbent disposal (PAD), wastewater sludge, leather waste and textile waste".
- vi. Copies of the calls for projects for the three lines of interventions published on 15 October 2021;

Analysis:

- **Reduction of irregular landfills included in the infringement procedure 2011/2215 from 34 to 14 (i.e. of at least 60%).**
 - The number of irregular landfills included in the infringement procedure 2011/2215 was brought to 12, as evidenced by the letter of formal notice pursuant to Article 260 TFEU sent to Italy by the European Commission on 6

April 2022. According to the letter, following the evidence provided by the authorities, only 12 irregular landfills remain yet to be closed.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M2C1-15Ter	M2C1-15Ter, Related Measure: Implementation of new waste management plants and modernization of existing plants		
Name of the Target: Regional differences in separate collection			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 22.8	Target: 20	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context: This target concerns the reduction of the regional differences in separate waste collection with the goal to ensure the highest levels of preparation for reuse, recycling and recovery of waste and minimize final disposal as the ultimate and residual option. It is related to investment 1.1 on the creation of new waste management plants and modernization of existing ones. Target M2C1-15ter requires the reduction of the regional difference in separate collection between the national average and the worst performing region by 2.8 percentage points, from 22.8 to 20 percentage points (baseline based on 2019's data taken from the 2020's ISPRA report). Target M2C1-15ter is the intermediate step of the implementation of investment 1.1 linked to the goal of reducing regional differences in separate collection. It will be followed by the target M2C1-16ter that concerns the reduction by 7.6 percentage points of the difference between the average three best-performing regions and the three worst-performing ones in separate collection rates.</p>			
<p>Evidence provided: In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the target was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. Copies of the Urban Waste Reports by ISPRA - Edition 2022 and 2023 (Rapporto Rifiuti Urbani – Edizioni 2022 e 2023). <p>The authorities also provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. An explanatory report on the methodology to calculate the regional difference in separate collection; iv. Copy of the National Programme for Waste Management; v. Copy of the Ministerial Decree No. 396 of 28 September 2021, allocating the resources for Investment 1.1 in three lines of intervention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line A "Improvement and Mechanization of the networks for separate waste collection of Urban waste; • Line B "modernization (including expansion of existing plants) and building of new treatment/recycling plants for separate waste collection; • Line C "modernization (including expansion of existing plants) and building of innovative treatment/recycling plants addressing personal adsorbent disposal (PAD), wastewater sludge, leather waste and textile waste". vi. Copies of the calls for projects for the three lines of interventions launched on 15 October 2021; 			
<p>Analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The difference between the national average and the worst performing region in separate collection rates is reduced to 20 percentage points. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From 2019, the difference between the national average and the worst performing region (Sicily) in separate collection rates of urban waste was reduced from 22.8 to 13.7 percentage points, with Sicily reaching a percentage of separate waste collection rates of urban waste of 51,5% (p.55 of the Urban Waste Report - 2023). This represents a reduction of 9.1 percentage points compared to the baseline (above the goal of 2.8). The good performance of 			

Sicily follows a positive national trend in separate waste collection with Italy increasing its average of separate waste collection of urban waste from 55.5 to 65.2% in the last five years (2017-2022).

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M2C1-15Quarter	M2C1-15Quarter, Related Measure: Investment 1.1 – Implementation of new waste management plants and modernization of existing plants
Name of the Milestone: Entry into force of Bio-waste separate collection obligation	
Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force	Time: Q4 2023
Context: The milestone concerns the bio-waste separate collection obligation to be operational by 31 December 2023, in accordance with EU Circular Economy Action Plan. It is related to investment 1.1 on the creation of new waste management plants and modernization of existing ones. Investment 1.1 envisages additional targets related to the regional differences in separate collection rates (M2C1-15bis and M2C1-15ter, M2C1-16bis and M2C1-16ter).	
Evidence provided: In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document justifying how the milestone, including all the constitutive elements, was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. Copy of the publication in the Official Gazette No. 226 of 11 September 2020 of Art. 1(8) of Legislative Decree No. 116 of 3 September 2020, introducing the obligation for separate waste collection and recycling of biowaste, by means of Art. 183-ter of the Legislative Decree No. 152 of 24 April 2006 (the Environmental Code); iii. Copy of the publication in the Official Gazette No. 127 of 1 June 2023 of Art. 1(4) Legislative Decree No. 213 of 23 December 2022, partially modifying Art. 182-ter of Legislative Decree No. 152 of 24 April 2006, as introduced by Legislative Decree No. 116 of 3 September 2020. The authorities also provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Urban Waste Reports by ISPRA - Edition 2022 and 2023 (Rapporto Rifiuti Urbani – Edizioni 2022 e 2023); v. Copy of the Ministerial Decree No. 396 of 28 September 2021, allocating the resources for Investment 1.1 in three lines of intervention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line A "Improvement and Mechanization of the networks for separate waste collection of Urban waste; • Line B "modernization (including expansion of existing plants) and building of new treatment/recycling plants for separate waste collection; • Line C "modernization (including expansion of existing plants) and building of innovative treatment/recycling plants addressing personal adsorbent disposal (PAD), wastewater sludge, leather waste and textile waste". 	
Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bio-waste separate collection obligation is operational by 31 December 2023, in accordance with EU Circular Economy Action Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Art. 1(8) of Legislative Decree No. 116 of 3 September 2020, in amending Legislative Decree No. 152 of 23 April 2006, introduced Art.182-ter which provides for the mandatory separate collection and recycling of bio-waste starting from 31 December 2021. According to Art. 182-ter(2) of Legislative Decree No. 152 of 23 April 2006, as partially modified by Art. 1(4) of Legislative 	

Decree No. 213 of 23 December 2022, the differentiation and recycling of bio-waste at source, also through composting on the place of production, or separate collection in reusable containers or certified compostable bags (UNI EN 13432-2002), will be binding for all actors involved in the waste cycle, as of 31 December 2021. In line with the national legal framework, Art. 1(8) of Legislative Decree No. 116 of 3 September 2020 and Art. 1(4) of Legislative Decree No. 213 of 23 December 2022 have entered into force respectively on 26 September 2020 and on 16 June 2023, the fifteenth day following the publication of the act in the official Gazzette.

- Art. 182-ter implements Art. 22 of the Directive 2008/98/EC (“Waste Framework Directive”) which requires Member States to ensure that, by 31 December 2023, bio-waste is either separated and recycled at source, or is collected separately and is not mixed with other types of waste. As also evidenced by the 2022 and 2023’s reports on Urban Waste published by ISPRA provided to demonstrate the fulfilment of target M2C1-15ter, Italy is already separating bio-waste at source, monitoring the different waste streams and collecting information in view of achievement the EU waste recycling targets.

- The reform is in line with the objective of the 2015’s EU Circular Economy Action Plan as it will contribute to promote the circular economy by facilitating reuse, recycling and recovery of biowaste (pp.17-18).

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M2C2-22	M2C2-22, Related Measure: Investment 4.1 – Investment in soft mobility (National Plan of Cycle Path)		
Name of the Target: Cycling lanes T1			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 0	Target: 200	Time: Q4 2023
Context:			
<p>This investment consists in building at least 565 km of cycling lanes in metropolitan areas and at least 746 km of tourist cycle paths. The metropolitan cycle paths shall be developed in at least 40 metropolitan areas or cities hosting universities and shall facilitate commuting between university, intermodal nodes and any other point in the metropolitan area.</p> <p>Milestone M2C2-22 is the first step of the implementation of the investment 4.1. It concerns the construction of at least 200 km in metropolitan areas or in cities hosting universities. With milestone M2C2-23, at least 1311 km of bike lanes will be completed by Q2 2026 – at least 365 km in metropolitan areas or cities hosting universities, and at least 746 km of tourist cycle paths.</p>			
Evidence provided:			
<p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. For all projects, documents summarising the technical specification and certificates of completion issued in accordance with the national legislation; iii. Excel file listing projects with, among others, the following information for each project: the corresponding id number (“Codice Unico Progetto”, or CUP), the implementing authority (“soggetto attuatore”), the type of first- and last-mile interconnection that the lane is allowing for, the number of km built up; 			

- iv. A report by an independent architect endorsed by the relevant ministry, including justification that the technical specifications of the projects are aligned with the description of the investment and target set out in the Council Implementing Decision.

The following additional evidence were also provided:

- i. Two decrees allocating RRP resources to the planning and execution of cycle paths in eligible locations (Ministerial Decree n. 344 of 12 August 2020 and Ministerial Decree n. 120 of 5 May 2023);
- ii. Inter-ministerial decree n. 257 of 24 August 2023, providing a list of projects and how they expect to contribute to the target;
- iii. Ministerial Decree n. 120 of 5 May 2023, updating the list identified in the inter-ministerial decree;
- iv. Ministerial Decree n. 312 of 27 November 2023, updating the list of kilometers that can be realized for the target under assessment to take into account for delays;
- v. Definition of bike lanes to clarify the eligibility of projects by Legislative Decree n. 285 of 30 April 1992 (Traffic code) and Law n. 2 of 11 January 2018 (introducing provisions for the development of cycling mobility and the creation of the national cycling route network);
- vi. List of functional urban areas, as extrapolated by the European Commission-OECD database;
- vii. Curriculum vitae of the architect, proving her credentials, and declaration of conflict of interest.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Completion of at least 200 km of cycling lanes in metropolitan areas

Italian authorities submitted documentation proving the completion of at least 200 km of cycling lanes. For each project, Italian authorities submitted certificates of completion of works, certificates of regular execution and/or certifications by the responsible of the projects (“Responsabile Unico Progetto”) detailing the number of km completed. Such documentation was accompanied by technical reports and detailed site plans.

The number of km completed was moreover verified by an independent architect by means of a report. This confirms that at least 200 km of cycling lanes were constructed by 31 December 2023 and in line with the description of the investment (pg. 16).

This investment consists in building at least 565 km of cycling lanes in metropolitan areas and at least 746 km of tourist cycle paths.

As specified by Ministerial Decree n. 120 of 5 May 2023 and Ministerial Decree n. 312 of 27 November 2023, the km realized under this milestone are part of the 565 km that will be completed by 30 June 2026 in metropolitan areas, in line with M2C2-23. Target M2C2-24 does not foresee the completion of any tourist cycle paths.

The metropolitan cycle paths shall be developed in at least 40 metropolitan areas or cities hosting universities.

Ministerial Decree n. 120 of 5 May 2023 and Ministerial Decree n. 312 of 27 November 2023 show that at least 40 metropolitan areas or cities hosting universities are developing cycle paths. Based on the evidence provided, cycle paths have been developed in 30 metropolitan areas and cities hosting universities by 31 December 2023.

The report by the independent architect corroborates this finding (pg. 14, 20-23).

Metropolitan areas are meant in this measure as “functional urban areas”, as defined in the European Commission-OECD database (Dijkstra, L., H. Poelman and P. Veneri (2019), "The EU-OECD definition of a functional urban area", OECD Regional Development Working Papers, No. 2019/11, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/d58cb34d-en>.)

As is evident from the site plans provided for most of the projects and, in the absence of these, from the routes described in the technical reports, all the projects that have been carried out in 30 metropolitan cities fall within the boundaries of Functional Urban Areas, as defined by the European Commission-OECD database. The excel file provided by Italian authorities moreover match the unique identifier of each project with the identifier of the functional urban area (as identified in the European Commission-OECD database) where the project was implemented.

Projects were moreover completed in 3 cities that are not classified as functional urban areas in the European Commission-OECD database, but that host universities – in line with the description of the measure and of the milestone.

The report by the independent architect corroborates these findings (pg. 10-11, 14, 20-23).

Cycle paths shall facilitate first-mile and last-mile commuting – connecting locations in metropolitan areas or cities hosting universities to nearby intermodal nodes (such as metro stations or railway stations), or universities to nearby intermodal nodes (such as metro stations or railway stations).

As is evident from the site plans provided for most of the projects and, in the absence of these, from the routes described in the technical reports, at least 200 km of built-up cycle paths connect any point within the Functional Urban area to intermodal nodes (first-mile), or intermodal nodes to universities (last-mile). Intermodal nodes are mostly metro stations and railway stations. The independent architect has verified the existence of connections through the analysis of the project documentation transmitted by the beneficiaries, including planimetric drawing signed by the responsible of the project that clearly identify existing cycle lanes, routes built under this target and routes that will be built by 30 June 2026 (independent report, pg. 11).

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M2C2-24	M2C2-24, Related Measure: Investment 4.2 - Development of Rapid Mass Transport systems (metro, streetcar, BRT)	
Name of the Milestone: Award of all public contracts for the build-up of metros, tramways, trolleybus and cableway metropolitan areas		
Quantitative Indicator: Notification of the award of all public contracts		Time: Q4 2023
Context:		
The measure supports the construction of infrastructure for rapid mass transport systems, its upgrade, and the purchase of rolling stocks. Eligible rapid mass transport systems are metro, tramway, trolleybus, Bus Rapid Transit or cableway.		
Milestone M2C2-24 is the first step of the implementation of the investment 4.2. It concerns in the award of all the contracts for the build-up of infrastructure for rapid mass transport systems. The contracts awarded will lead to the completion of at least 231 km of infrastructure by Q2 2026, as foreseen by M2C2-26. Other related milestones are M2C2-25 (award of contracts for the upgrade of the infrastructure and the purchase of rolling stock by Q3 2024), M2C2-25bis (completion of at least 5 interventions of upgrade of infrastructure by Q2 2026) and M2C2-25ter (purchase of at least 85 units of rolling stock by Q2 2026).		

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- ii. Ministerial Decree n. 448 of 16 November 2021 allocating the resources for the implementation of the investment.
- iii. Excel file listing projects with, among others, the following information for each project: the corresponding id number (“Codice Unico Progetto”, or CUP), the implementing authority (“soggetto attuatore”), the type of rapid mass transport, the extension (measured in km) of the infrastructure built;
- iv. For each of the projects, a prove of notification of award of contracts and relevant tender documents with technical specifications of the project.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Notification of the award of all public contracts for the build-up of infrastructure projects.

Italian authorities submitted documentation proving the award of contract for 244 km of rapid mass transport system infrastructure, in line with future milestone M2C2-26 (due in Q2 2026). The award of all public contracts has been evidenced by the communication by the administration to the winning contractors of the tender, “comunicazione dell’efficacia dell’aggiudicazione” (a document certifying that the winner has the requirements necessary to perform the contract and that is released after the tender award and before the signature of the contract), signed contracts or, in a few cases, the update of an existing concession agreement. In these cases, the contractual documents considered for this assessment are acts that supplement the scope of the original concession agreements signed by the municipal authorities and the contractor; the existing concession agreement already included the possibility for such extension. For all projects, Italian authorities moreover submitted the technical specifications of the project proving the compliance of the projects with the description of the milestone and of the measure.

The investment consists in: the construction of new lines and extension of existing lines of rapid mass transport systems for at least 231 km. The list of projects shall include at least 96 km of metro lanes or tramway, and at least 135 km of trolleybus, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) or cableway.

In line with the description of the measure, the list of projects for which contracts were awarded for the build-up of infrastructure projects includes 244km of rapid mass transport system infrastructure, and in particular 96 km of metro lanes or tramway, and 148 km of trolleybus or Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

Interventions included in this measure [...] shall target the metropolitan areas of at least Bari, Bergamo, Bologna, Catania, Firenze, Genova, Milano, Napoli, Padova, Perugia, Rimini, Roma and Taranto. Metropolitan areas are meant in this measure as “functional urban areas”, as defined in the European Commission-OECD database.

The contracts related to the interventions under this measure on the build-up of infrastructure projects were awarded for 25 projects (each associated by a unique identifier) and targeted the metropolitan areas of Bari, Bergamo, Bologna, Catania, Firenze, Genova, Milano, Napoli, Padova, Palermo, Perugia, Rimini, Roma, Taranto. These are all metropolitan areas in the sense of “Functional Urban Areas”, which are defined in the European Commission-OECD database and as

reported in the OECD list of functional urban areas. This measure also includes interventions on the purchase of units of rolling stock and on interventions for the upgrade of the infrastructure.

The infrastructure eligible for both construction and upgrade (namely metro lanes, tramway lines, trolleybus lanes, BRT or cableway) shall enable the operation of zero-emission rolling stock.

The projects submitted by Italy relate to the construction and upgrade of infrastructure enabling the operation of zero-emission rolling stock. Metro lanes and tramways enable the operation of zero-emission by definition. Based on the technical specifications provided for each project, it was possible to verify that: trolleybus lanes rely on overhead wires for electricity; bus rapid transit (BRT) lanes are to be equipped with slow-charging and fast-charging points, therefore enabling the operation of zero-emission buses.

The investment shall not involve the construction or upgrade of roads beyond the scope of the intervention, unless these are integral parts of the infrastructure enabling the operation of zero-emission rolling stock.

As evidenced by the technical reports accompanying the tenders for each project, the investment does not involve the construction or upgrade of roads beyond the scope of the intervention. In some cases, the interventions required the upgrade of existing roads to make space for bus stops or combine the RMTS infrastructure with bicycle lanes, or the construction of ramps or connections to existing road infrastructures to allow the circulation of zero-emission vehicles.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M2C2-32	M2C2-32, Related Measure: Investment 4.4.1 - Renewal of the regional public transport bus fleet with clean fuels vehicles
Name of the Milestone: Award of all public contracts for the strengthening of the regional public transport bus fleet with zero-emission low-floor buses	
Quantitative Indicator: notification of the award of all contracts	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>The measure consists in the procurement of at least 3 000 zero-emission low-floor buses and in the installation of at least 1 000 charging stations for zero-and low-emission low-floor buses. Milestone M2C2-32 is the first step of the implementation of the investment 4.4.1 “Strengthening of the regional public transport zero- emission bus fleet” and requires the notification of the award of public contracts for the acquisition of at least 3 000 zero-emission low-floor buses. It will be followed by target M2C2-34 related to the purchase of at least 800 zero-emission low-floor buses, by target M2C2-35 related to the entry into service of at least 3 000 zero-emission low-floor buses and by target M2C2-25ter related to the entry into operation of at least 1000 charging stations for zero or low-emission low-floor buses.</p>	
<p>Evidence provided:</p> <p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. Copies of the decrees awarding the contracts and evidence of their notification; iii. Copies of the calls for tenders. <p>The authorities also provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Ministerial Decree No. 530 of 23 December 2021 allocating the resources to the municipalities and metropolitan cities for the purchase of zero-emission buses and installation of recharging stations, including its attachment; v. Ministerial Decree No. 134 of 10 May 2022 awarding the projects for the purchase of 	

- zero-emission buses and installation of recharging stations in line with Ministerial Decree No. 530 of 23 December 2021;
- vi. Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of 17 April 2019 approving the Strategic National Plan for Sustainable Mobility.
- x. Inter-Ministerial Decree No. 234 of 6 June 2020, allocating the resources to municipalities affected by high pollution (città ad alto inquinamento) for the implementation of the Strategic National Plan for Sustainable Mobility;
- xi. Directorial Decree No. 175 of 22 June 2021 setting out the modalities for reporting, payments and monitoring of the use of resources allocated by Art. 3 of Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transports No. 234 of 6 June 2020.
- xii. Inter-Ministerial Decree No. 81 of 14 February 2020, allocating the resources to the Regions for the implementation of the Strategic National Plan for Sustainable Mobility;
- xiii. Inter-Ministerial Decree No. 71 of 9 February 2021, allocating the resources to municipalities and metropolitan cities with above 100 000 inhabitants for the implementation of the Strategic National Plan for Sustainable Mobility;

In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence provided for a sample of 60 units including:

- A list of the tenders awarded and notified;
- For each sample unit:
 - Copy of the notification of the award of tender (individual or contract notice) or alternative evidence to prove that the notification has occurred (such as, the contract signed; direct purchase order; administrative act of the contracting authority stating the award has produced its effects [delibera di aggiudicazione efficace]).
 - Copy of the call for tender and its technical specifications.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

- **Notification of the award of public contracts for the acquisition of at least 3000 zero-emission low-floor buses. In line with the description of the measure, eligible buses are low-floor (that is, they belong to the M2 and M3 category of vehicles according to UNECE standards) and are either electric or hydrogen fuel cell.**
 - Following the allocation of resources to the municipalities by decrees No. 134 of 10 May 2022 and No. 234 of 6 June 2020, several calls for tenders were launched by the municipalities for the acquisition of the zero-emission low floor buses. According to the information provided by the authorities, 134 contracts for the acquisition of 3102 zero-emission low floor buses were awarded and notified by the municipalities to the successful tenderers, thus exceeding the goal of 3000 zero emission low-floor buses by 102 units. Italy provided a list of the 134 awards of tenders from which a random sample of 60 units was selected. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the contracts have been awarded, that their award has been notified, and that they concern the acquisition of zero-emission low-floor buses belonging to the M2 and M3 category of vehicles according to UNECE standards and are either electric or hydrogen fuel cell. Regarding the notification of the award and the award itself, evidence of the notification (copy of the individual notification or the contract notice) or alternative evidence proving that the notification as occurred (such as copies of the contract signed, of the direct purchases orders, of *delibera di aggiudicazione efficace*) were provided, confirming the satisfactory fulfilment of this requirement.
 - Additionally, all the purchased buses are low-floor buses belonging to the

M2 and M3 category of vehicles according to UNECE Standards. The sampling exercise confirmed that all the selected 60 contracts concern the purchase of low-floor buses belonging to the M2 and M3 category of vehicles according to UNECE Standards, as evidenced by the information included in the award of tenders, the calls for tenders and their technical specifications;

- Furthermore, all the purchased buses are zero-emission electric or hydrogen fuel cell buses. For the projects selected by Ministerial Decree No. 530 of 23 December 2021, this was evidenced by Art. 1(2) of the Decree which states that only zero emission buses fueled by electricity or hydrogen could be purchased and confirmed during the sampling exercise, as evidenced by the awards of tenders, the calls for tenders and their technical specifications. For the projects selected by Decree No. 234 of 6 June 2020, only zero-emission electric or hydrogen fuel cell buses were counted for the target. This was confirmed during the sampling exercise, as evidenced by the awards of tenders, the calls for tenders and their technical specifications.

- The buses will be dedicated to local public transport and will benefit capital municipalities of metropolitan cities, regions or autonomous provinces and municipalities with high levels of PM10 and nitrogen dioxide pollution (as established by Art.1 of Ministerial Decree No. 530 of 23 December 2021; Art. 3 of Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of 17 April 2019).

- **Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, buses shall be equipped with digital features.**

- All buses were equipped with digital features, as evidenced by Art. 4 of Ministerial Decree No. 530 of 23 December 2021, Art. 5 of Directorial Decree No. 175 of 22 June 2021 and by the technical specifications of the calls for tenders. In line with Art. 4 of Ministerial Decree No. 530 of 23 December 2021 and Art. 5 of Directorial Decree No. 175 of 22 June 2021, the low-floor buses shall be equipped with the following digital features:

- Adequate equipment to ensure the access and transport of people with reduced mobility;
- Automatic count of the number of passengers;
- geolocation positioning devices;
- Tools for electronic ticket validation;
- Video surveillance and mechanism for the driver’s protection;
- Heating and cooling systems.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M2C3-5	M2C3-5, Related Measure: Investment 1.1 - Construction of new schools through building replacement
Name of the Milestone: Award of all public contracts for the construction of new schools through building replacement to upgrade energy in school buildings, following a public tendering procedure	
Quantitative Indicator: N/A	
	Time: Q3 2023
Context: The investment aims at the progressive replacement of part of the building stock of public schools to create modern and sustainable structures. Milestone M2C3-5 aims at awarding all public contracts for the construction of new schools through building replacement to upgrade energy in school buildings, following a public tendering procedure for funding formalised by local authorities equivalent to a total surface of at least 400 000 square meters.	

Milestone M2C3-5 is the first step in the implementation of the investment. It will be followed by target M2C3-6 aimed at ensuring that at least 400 000 square meters of new schools are built through building replacement resulting in primary energy consumption being at least 20% lower than the Nearly Zero Energy Buildings requirement.

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- ii. List of the 180 schools with, among others, the following information for each project: the corresponding ID number ("Codice Unico Progetto", or CUP), the name of the implementing authority, the surface of the building addressed by the intervention, the link to the publication of the award of contract;
- iii. For each of the 180 projects, the evidence of the award of contracts and the notification of the award of contracts proving alignment with the Council Implementing Decision's description of the investment and of the milestone. Specifically, for some projects the notification of the award to the enterprises took place in line with the provisions of the framework agreement concluded through INVITALIA. For the remaining projects, the notification of the implementing bodies independently awarded the works to the enterprises.

The authorities also provided:

- iv. Decree No. 343 of the Ministry of Education, in agreement with the Minister for the South and Territorial Cohesion, the Ministry for Family and Equal Opportunities and the Ministry for Regional Affairs and Autonomies of 2 December 2021, allocating the relevant resources at regional level for the implementation of the interventions.
- v. Notice of Competition No. 48048 published on 2 December 2021 and closed on 8 February 2022 identifying local authorities and areas on which new schools will be built.
- vi. Decree No. 10 of the Ministry of Education of 25 January 2022, establishing a working group of architects and experts, which defined the guidelines for the realisation of the new spaces, consistently with RRF provisions.
- vii. Decree No. 106 of the Minister of Education of 26 April 2022, approving the aforementioned guidelines.
- viii. Decree No. 111 of the Minister of Education of 2022 allocating additional resources and admitting a total of 212 local authorities to funding.
- ix. Notice of competition on eligible areas to funding published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 1 July 2022, in implementation of Article 24 of Decree-Law No. 152 of 2021, whose ranking list of winning projects has been published by Prot. No. 4547 of 16 January 2023.
- x. Decree No. 27 of the Minister of Education of 13 April 2023 sanctioning the final rankings of the winners of the competition within each territorial area.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Notification of the award of all public contracts following a public tendering procedure on new schools building replacement eligible for funding formalised by local authorities equivalent to a total surface of at least 400 000 square meters. The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires that at least 166 schools shall benefit from these

interventions.

The Ministry of Education and Merit has proceeded through Invitalia S.p.A. to launch an open tender procedure for the conclusion of a framework agreement which implementing bodies finally joined for projects with different economic operators for the contracting of works in favour of local authorities. For all 180 schools, Italy provided the notification of the award of contracts for the implementing bodies that independently awarded the works to the enterprises, as well as the notification of the award of contracts to companies that has taken place in line with the provisions of the framework agreement concluded through Invitalia S.p.A. Furthermore, for each project, Italy provided the unique project ID number ("Codice Unico Progetto", or CUP), specifying the awarding methods and the square meters of each intervention. Such data on square meters were derived as well from the candidature within the framework of the competition published on 1 July 2022 in implementation of Article 24 of Decree-Law No. 152 of 2021. On the basis of the evidence submitted by the Italian authorities, it is concluded that 180 interventions have been awarded corresponding to school buildings equivalent to a total surface of 461 370 square meters.

The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires that **the new buildings shall provide primary energy consumption at least 20% lower than the NZEB requirement (nearly zero energy building, national directives).**

The notice of Competition No. 48048 of 2 December 2021 and the guidelines approved by ministerial decree No. 106 of 26 April 2022 contain specifications regarding the design of the new schools. In particular, the eligibility of the projects was made subject to two specific general conditions: a) the demolition of the building(s) will be replaced with reconstruction, unless the area where the building or one of the buildings subject to demolition, is situated is prone to hydrogeological risk or non-buildability restrictions are imposed, or for other reasons. In such cases, relocation is possible and has to be considered instead.; b) the construction of a single building that achieves a primary energy consumption lower by at least 20% compared to the NZEB (nearly zero energy building) requirement.

All specifications relating to compliance with the provisions in the Council Implementing Decision were provided to the local authorities implementing the Notice of Competition Prot. No. 48048 of 2 December 2021. Subsequently, the implementing entities have signed a specific concession agreement with the Ministry of Education and Merit that contains all the clauses of which the implementing entities must also take into account for the purposes of the assignment of works. In particular, Article 10 of the aforementioned concession agreement provides for the penalties for non-compliance, including the suspension of local authority funding, if the implementation of an intervention does not meet the target of a 20% decrease in primary energy requirements when compared the primary energy requirements of the Italian NZEB buildings regulations.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure **This measure shall focus on the progressive replacement of part of the building stock of public schools with the aim of creating modern and sustainable structures.**

The Notice of Competition No. 48048 of 2 December 2021 for the selection of the areas and implementing subjects for the construction of new schools has expressly foreseen the construction of new public school buildings through building replacement. Article 1 of the notice states that with the measure "we intend to proceed to replacement of part of the school building stock obsolete with the aim of creating safe, modern, inclusive and sustainable to encourage: i) the reduction of consumption and polluting emissions; ii) the increase in seismic safety of buildings and development of green areas; iii) the design of school environments through the involvement of all those involved with the objective to have a positive impact on teaching and on student learning; iv) sustainable development of the territory and services aimed at enhancing the community".

Article 1 of Notice of Competition No. 48048 of 2 December 2021 states a reduction in consumption of final energy of at least 50% (3.4 ktoe/year), which will make it possible to achieve a reduction in emissions annual greenhouse gas emissions equal to approximately 8,400 tCO₂.

Article 5 of Notice of Competition No. 48048 of 2 December 2021 provides that “the new building must achieve a consumption of primary energy lower by at least 20% compared to NZEB (nearly zero energy building) requirement, expected by Italian legislation”. In relation to seismic safety, technical specifications are required regarding seismic vulnerability. In particular, it is requested a seismic verification summary document for civil protection purposes in case of seismic event collapse, which has been subject to verification during the eligibility of the buildings.

Article 9 of Notice of Competition No. 48048 of 2 December 2021 specifically refers to scores envisaged in relation to both the ability to reduce consumption energy and the seismic vulnerability risk index, which allowed only the interventions to be selected with the largest values.

Guideline number 5, approved by Decree No. 106 of the Minister of Education of 26 April 2022, regarding green areas specifies that projects must ensure that the external environment is fit for doing experiences linked to the natural context.

All contracts awarded refer to projects that will replace part of the building stock of buildings that are often energy inefficient. Based on the technical specifications included in the tender documents that Italy submitted (i.e., in the final contracts for the implementing bodies that independently awarded the works to the enterprises, as well as in the provisions included in the tender procedure concluded through Invitalia S.p.A), the Commission verified that the interventions contribute to achieve the aim of creating modern and sustainable structures, according to the detailed provisions related to the interventions financed.

Moreover, the above-listed tender documents show that the focus of the intervention is the use of sustainable materials to ensure economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M2C3-7	M2C3-7, Related Measure: Investment 1.2: Construction of buildings, requalification and strengthening of real estate assets of the administration of justice	
Name of the Milestone: Award of all public contracts to construct new buildings, requalify and strengthen real estate assets of the administration of justice are signed by the contracting authority following a public tendering procedure		
Qualitative Indicator: Notification of the award of all public contracts following a public tendering procedure		Time: Q4 2023
Context: The measure consists in the construction of buildings, requalification and strengthening of real estate assets of the administration of justice – such as tribunals. Milestone M2C3-7 is the first step of the implementation of the investment 1.2 “Construction of buildings, requalification and strengthening of real estate assets of the administration of justice”, that is the notification of the award of contracts for interventions targeting at least 289 000 square metres of buildings. The following target, M2C3-8, is related to the actual realisation of these interventions by Q1 2026.		
Evidence provided: In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided: i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. Excel file with the list of the 62 projects with, among others, the following information for each project: the corresponding ID number (“Codice Unico Progetto”, or CUP), the name of		

the implementing authority, the city and address of the targeted infrastructure, the surface of the building addressed by the intervention, the link to the publication of the award of contract;

- iii. For each of the 62 projects, the notification of the award of contracts, technical specifications of the project proving alignment with the Council Implementing Decision's description of the investment and milestone and with the Do No Significant Harm principle.

The authorities also provided:

- i. Technical fiche describing the rationale of the investment together with a broad description of the investments by city and building subject to intervention;
- ii. Reply to inquires by the Commission of 9 February, 16 February and 4 April 2024 concerning documents with technical specifications from selected projects.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Notification of the award of all public contracts on the construction of buildings, requalification and strengthening of real estate assets of the administration of justice.

Italy has awarded contracts for the requalification and strengthening of more than 289,000 square meters of the real estate assets of the administration of justice, that is courts and offices for the judicial and administrative staff working for courts, prosecutors or the Ministry of Justice. Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, the intervention focuses on the maintenance of existing assets, enabling protection, valorisation and restoration of the historical heritage that often characterises the administration's offices the Italian justice system.

In particular, Italy has provided an excel file with links to the award of contracts for 62 projects that contribute to the achievement of the milestone under assessment. The publication of the award of contract is valid for the notification of the award of contract, in line with Legislative Decree 36/2023, Art. 90(1).

The excel file mentioned above contains extracts of the relevant parts of the technical specifications proving alignment with the Council Implementing Decision's description of the investment and milestone. The excel file was accompanied with the related technical specifications which are included in the documents that accompany the tendering procedure, that is the "special specifications of contract" technical specifications (summarised in the just-mentioned excel file) detailed excel file with relevant extracts of these technical specifications) proving their alignment with the Council Implementing Decision's description of the investment and milestone, and alignment with the Do No Significant Harm principle. Italy has also provided links to the publication of the award on the website of the Ministry of Justice, or in few cases of other responsible authorities.

Technical specifications are reported in documents that are part of the tendering procedure. The documents that are most relevant for this assessment are the "relazione generale" (provide an overall overview of the project or work subject to the contract), "capitolato speciale d'appalto" (a technical-legal document detailing the requirements, conditions, and technical specifications necessary for the execution of a project), "relazione tecnica e specialistica" (more detailed and in-depth documents that address specific technical aspects of the project), "relazione criteri minimi ambientali" (documenting how the project complies with sustainability regulations and guidelines).

The intervention focuses on the maintenance of existing assets, enabling protection, valorisation and restoration of the historical heritage that often characterises the administration's offices the Italian justice system. In addition to energy efficiency, the programme also aims to ensuring the economic, environmental and social sustainability of interventions through the use of sustainable materials and the use of self-generated electricity from renewable sources. The

interventions may also adapt the structures to reduce the seismic vulnerability of buildings.

The technical specifications confirm that each project is within the scope of the measure. All contracts awarded refer to the renovation of existing assets. Renovation interventions often aim at improving the energy efficiency of the buildings. Based on the technical documentation provided, interventions concern the replacement of gas boilers with heat pumps, the general improvement of heating systems that do not rely already on gas boilers, the installation of solar panels for the use of self-generated electricity from renewables, the thermal insulation of walls and roofs as well as the replacement of window or door frames, and the installation of LED lighting system. No project concerns the construction of new buildings.

Where targeted buildings constituted a historical heritage (notably, but not exclusively, the Court of Justice of Milan and the Cassation Court of Rome), the related technical specifications indicated that interventions focused on protecting, valorising and restoring them. In at least 10 cases, the interventions adapt the existing building infrastructure to seismic risk (notably, but not exclusively, the Courts of Bergamo and Venice). Technical specifications of projects moreover show that the focus of the intervention is the use of sustainable materials to ensure economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Thus, the evidence submitted show that the projects for which contracts have been awarded are in the scope of the investment as described in the description of the measure and in the description of the milestone.

The indicative list of municipalities where the interventions shall take place is the following: Bari, Bergamo, Bologna, Cagliari, Florence, Genoa, Latina, Messina, Milan, Monza, Naples, Palermo, Perugia, Reggio Calabria, Rome, Rome, Trani, Turin, Velletri and Venice.

In line with the description of the measures, interventions, interventions took place in all the municipalities that are part of the indicative list of municipalities included in the description of the measure – except for Trani and Velletri. The excel file (and the supporting technical specifications) shows that projects are taking place in Bari, Bergamo, Bologna, Cagliari, Florence, Genoa, Latina, Messina, Milan, Monza, Naples, Palermo, Perugia, Reggio Calabria, Rome, Rome, Turin and Venice. Moreover, interventions are taking place in seven additional municipalities to the ones listed in the description of the measure: Ancona, Benevento, Livorno, Oristano, Pescara, Sassari, Teramo. The list being only indicative, any deviation from the list of cities does not prejudice the positive assessment of the milestone.

The intervention shall not include natural gas boilers.

Each project is accompanied by a DNSH self-assessment fiche, signed by the coordinator of the project in the implementing authority. Based on the DNSH self-assessment fiches as well as on the technical specifications included in the tender documents and shared by Italy for each project, no intervention includes the installation of gas boilers.

The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires that the new buildings shall provide primary energy consumption at least 20% lower than the NZEB requirement (nearly zero energy building, national directives).

Considering that, as explained above, all awarded contracts relate to the renovation of existing structures and that there are no projects involving the construction of new buildings, it is determined that the NZEB requirement is not applicable in this case.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M2C4-28	M2C4-28, Related Measure: Investment 4.1. Investments in primary water infrastructures for the security of water supply
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Name of the Milestone: Award of funding to all projects for investments in primary water infrastructure and for the security of water supply			
Qualitative Indicator: Publication of decree(s)			Time: Q3 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>The objective of this investment is to ensure the security of water supply for important urban areas and large irrigated areas, to increase safety and resilience of the network, and to improve the transport capacity of water. The measures shall cover the entire national territory, with a particular focus on larger installations in the South of the country.</p> <p>Milestone M2C4-28 requires the publication of the admission decree(s) with the awarding (assignment) of funding to projects for investments in primary water infrastructure and on the security of water supply.</p> <p>Milestone M2C4-28 is the first step of the implementation of the investment and it will be followed by target M2C4-29 related to the increase security of water supply and resilience of the water infrastructure in at least 50 water systems (both complex and elementary) of which at least 35 complex water systems.</p>			
<p>Evidence Provided:</p> <p>In line with the description of the milestone, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii) Ministerial Decree N. 517 of 16 December 2021 by the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport awarding the funding to all projects and link to its publication in the Ministry’s website. <p>The authorities also provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) Clarification note on the compliance with the Water Frame Directive; iv) Report on “Investments and NRRP reforms for water infrastructures” by the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport. v) Annex with the list of projects, providing details on location, implementing authority, project description, type of water system, scope of the contracts. 			
<p>Analysis:</p> <p>The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.</p> <p>Publication of the admission decree(s) with the awarding (assignment) of funding to projects for investments in primary water infrastructure and on the security of water supply. The scope of the contracts shall be the following, - Water supply security of important urban areas; - Structural works to increase safety and resilience of the</p>			

network, including adaptation to climate change (excluding dams); - Increase of the transport capacity of water.

Article 1 of Ministerial Decree N. 517 of 16 December 2021 issued by the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport (previously called Ministry of Infrastructures and Sustainable Mobility) identified the projects eligible and allocates the funding for each one of them. The Ministerial Decree N. 517 of 16 December 2021 was published on the Ministry's website on 10 January 2022, at the following link: [Decreto ministeriale numero 517 del 16/12/2021 | Ministero delle infrastrutture e dei trasporti \(mit.gov.it\)](https://www.mit.gov.it/it/decreti/517-del-16-12-2021). In particular, Annexes 1, 2 and 3 to Ministerial Decree N. 517 of 16 December 2021 provide for the list of all eligible projects.

Annex 1 lists new projects funded via RRF resources by geographic area, by local water authority (ADB – Autorita' di Bacino Distrettuale), Region, implementing authority, project name (including a short description), total cost, NRRP financing and unique identifiers (Codice unico di Progetto - CUP). Annex 2 lists the projects under the section "Water reservoirs (invasi) and aqueducts" by water reservoir or aqueduct, geographic area, by local water authority (ADB – Autorita' di Bacino Distrettuale), Region, implementing authority, project name, total cost, NRRP financing and unique identifiers (CUP). Annex 3 lists other projects selected by programme, geographic area, by local water authority (ADB – Autorita' di Bacino Distrettuale), Region, implementing authority, project name, total cost, NRRP financing and unique identifiers (CUP).

The implementing contracts reflect the scope outlined above that is in line with the CID requirements. For the purpose of the implementation of the investment, the stipulation of the implementing contracts by the implementing bodies is regulated by Legislative decree n. 50 of 18 April 2016, articles n. 26 and n. 32 (Code on Public Procurement), also recalled in Ministerial Decree N. 517 of 16 December 2021, recitals, articles 2 (3) and 9 (1). Article 2 (1) of this Ministerial Decree establishes that the funded investments are aimed at "increasing the security of water supply for important urban areas, the security and resilience of networks, including adaptation to climate change, excluding the construction of new dams, and the transport capacity of water". Additional information on the scope of the contracts is provided in the Annex with the list of projects (evidence v). Moreover, according to Article 2 of the Ministerial decree N. 517 of the Ministry of Infrastructure of 16 December 2021, the implementing bodies commit to implement the financed projects on the basis of the RRF requirements and are responsible for their monitoring.

Selection criteria shall ensure that the investment shall fully contribute to the climate change objectives with a 40 % climate coefficient, in accordance with Annex VI to the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation (EU) 2021/241.

The projects selected by the decree are in line with interventions field 40: Water management and water resource conservation (including river basin management, specific climate change adaptation measures, reuse, leakage reduction). This field has a coefficient for the calculation of support to climate change objectives of 40%. Article 2 (3) of Ministerial Decree N. 517 of 16 December 2021 issued by the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport sets out the obligation for implementing entities to include

“in the tender documentation the necessary elements to ensure compliance with the principle of ‘do no significant harm’ as set out in Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 – ‘Taxonomy for sustainable finance’ system and the achievement of the climate and digital objectives for the investment of which they are responsible. (see also analysis below)

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, the measures shall cover the entire national territory, with a particular focus on larger installations in the South of the country.

Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of Ministerial Decree N. 517 of 16 December 2021 list a wide array of interventions covering all areas of the country (North, Center and South). Over 40% target areas in the South (Mezzogiorno), demonstrating a specific focus on this area.

Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, it is expected that this measure does not do significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, taking into account the description of the measure and the mitigating steps set out in the recovery and resilience plan in accordance with the Do No Significant Harm Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01).

Article 2 (3) of Ministerial Decree N. 517 of 16 December 2021 issued by the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport sets out the obligation for implementing entities “to include in the tender documentation the necessary elements to ensure compliance with the principle of ‘do no significant harm’ as set out in Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 – ‘Taxonomy for sustainable finance’ system and the achievement of the climate and digital objectives for the investment of which they are responsible. To that end, projects must be accompanied by verification pursuant to Article 26 of Legislative Decree N. 50 of 18 April 2016, in particular article 26 that provides for the compliance with national and EU legislation, where required by the legislation in force, and compatibility with the principle of ‘do no significant harm to environmental objectives’ (DNSH) referred to in Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852”.

In particular, for each sub-investment, full compliance with the requirements of EU law, including the Water Framework Directive, shall be ensured before, during and after the commencement of the construction works.

The Water Framework Directive introduces water basin management, the coordination of which is ensured by a single competent entity, which in Italy is represented by the district local water authorities (autorita’ di bacino distrettuale), one for each of the eight river basin districts into which the national territory is divided. The transposition of the Framework Directive into national law took place through Part Three of Legislative Decree N. 152 of 3 April 2006. Said decree has introduced the obligation for water authorities (autorita’ di bacino distrettuale) to define a River Basin Management Plan (Piano di Gestione di bacino idrografico PdG). In addition, the aforementioned Legislative Decree requires for Regions to draw up Water Protection Plans (Piani di Tutela della Acque PTA). As outlined under evidence iii and pursuant Legislative Decree N. 152 of 3 April 2006, each PdG is the reference masterplan to achieve the main environmental objective of good status/potential of all water bodies and regions adopted in the PTAs. The Regions, after consulting the provinces and after taking any safeguard measures, adopt the PTA and

forward it to the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE) and to the competent authorities for the checks within their remit. In the light of the above, the projects selected were identified on the basis of the needs represented by the water authorities and Regions, and following the verification carried out to verify compliance with the objectives of the measure and the timetable laid down in the RRP for the investment line, as outlined in the Clarification note on the compliance with the Water Frame Directive (evidence iii). The operations financed under the investment line have been proposed by the water authorities and Regions, and are in compliance with their management plan (PdG) and the water protection plans (PTA).

The measure shall not include the construction of new dams, but only the improvement of existing dams; the impacts of the planned interventions on existing works take into account the scenarios where the concerned river remains in its natural state as modified at the time of the construction of the work. All planned sub-interventions, including those relating to existing dams, must comply with the environmental authorization process required by national and Union law.

Article 2 (1) of Ministerial Decree Ministerial Decree N. 517 of 16 December 2021 excludes the funding of investments for the construction of new dams. Furthermore, Annexes 1, 2 and 3 provide this Ministerial Decree lists all the projects selected. Each project is accompanied by a short description of the intervention. All interventions related to dams, impact already existing dams via a number of actions such as structural strengthening or consolidation, extraordinary maintenance, control instruments, improvements related to security, as detailed in the Report on “Investments and NRRP reforms for water infrastructures” by the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport (pages 53 and following) and in the Annex on the List of projects.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M2C4-30	M2C4-30, Related Measure: Investment 4.2 - Reduction of losses in water distribution networks, including digitization and monitoring of networks	
Name of the Milestone: Award of funding to all projects for interventions in water distribution networks, including digitization and monitoring of networks		
Quantitative Indicator: Publication of decree(s)		Time: Q3 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>The objective of the measure is to reduce losses in drinking water through the upgrade and modernisation of water distribution systems by introducing advanced control systems to enhance the monitoring of the networks.</p> <p>Milestone M2C4-30 requires the publication of the admission Decree(s) with the awarding (assignment) of funding to projects for the reduction of losses in water distribution networks, including digitization and monitoring of networks.</p> <p>Milestone M2C4-30 is the first step in the implementation of the investment and will be followed by</p>		

targets M2C4-31 and M2C4-32, related to the kilometres of water network to be districted.

Evidence provided:

In line with the description of the milestone, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- ii. Ministerial decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure of 08 March 2022 published on the Italian Official Gazette n. 29 of 09 March 2022, outlining the eligibility criteria for the projects to be financed under investment M2C4 I4.2;
- iii. Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure n. 01 of 10 January 2023 awarding funds to 33 projects for the modernization and efficiency of the water distribution networks;
- iv. Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure n.14 of 3 February 2023 amending Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure n. 01 of 10 January 2023 awarding funds to 33 projects for the modernization and efficiency of the water distribution networks;
- v. Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure n.181 of 24 March 2023 amending Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure n. 01 of 10 January 2023 awarding funds to 33 projects for the modernization and efficiency of the water distribution networks;
- vi. Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure n. 203 of 6 May 2024 awarding funds to additional 70 projects for the modernization and efficiency of the water distribution networks.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

- **Publication of the admission decree(s) with the awarding (assignment) of funding to projects for interventions for the modernization and efficiency of the water distribution networks. The scope of the contracts shall be the following: a) Interventions to reduce losses in networks for drinking water; b) Increase the resilience of water systems to climate change; c) Strengthen the digitization of networks, for an optimal management of water resources, reduce waste and limit inefficiencies**

A call for proposal related to Investment 4.2 - Reduction of losses in water distribution networks, including digitization and monitoring of networks was published by the Italian Ministry of Infrastructures on 08 March 2022 (Gazzetta Ufficiale n. 29 del 09.03.2022) (evidence ii). Article 1 of the call specifies that the objective of the call is to implement investment M2C4.I4.2 of the Italian recovery and resilience plan, that is, Reduction of losses in water distribution networks, including digitization and monitoring of networks. Article 5 of the same call for proposals outlines the scope of the intervention, Article 6 the eligibility criteria, and Articles 9 and 10 outline the procedures related to the presentation and assessment of the proposals. 33 projects were financed following the adoption of the Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure n. 01 of 10 January 2023 (evidence iii), pursuant to article 2 of this Decree. The list was amended by directorial decrees n.14 of 3 February 2023 (evidence iv) and n.181 of 24 March 2023 (evidence v), that updated the list of selected projects. The latter represents the final list of beneficiaries to be awarded for the first 33 projects. 70 additional projects were financed following the adoption Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure n. 203 of 6 May 2024 to factor in the increased ambition of the measure following the revision of the CID adopted by the Council on 8 December 2023.

Article 1(4) of the call for proposals published on 08 March 2022 (Gazzetta Ufficiale n. 29 del 09.03.2022) (evidence ii), provides that the calls for proposals shall aim to:

(a) reduce losses in drinking water networks and increase the resilience of water systems to climate change; (b) strengthen the digitalisation of networks to monitor the main nodes and the most sensitive points of the network for the optimal management of resources; (c) reduce waste and

limit inefficiencies; (d) improving the quality of the service provided to citizens. This is in line with the requirements outlined in the milestone description.

Moreover, Article 5 of the same call for proposals outlines the categories the interventions to be admitted for financing, namely:

- i. mapping of water networks and representation of water networks via GIS (geographic information system) to carry out the asset infrastructure management;
- ii. installation of smart tools for measuring flow rates, pressures, levels of water in tanks and any other parameters critical to the quality of the service provided (e.g. analytical parameters of water);
- iii. hydraulic modelling of the network;
- iv. installation of pressure control valves for leakage reduction;
- v. network district and active leakage control;
- vi. pre-location of leaks using classical (acoustic) and innovative (radar, satellite and/or air scanning, etc.) methods;
- vii. identification of network sections to be replaced or rehabilitated, assisted by the hydraulic model and by decision-making support tools;
- viii. extraordinary maintenance, refurbishment and replacement of stretches of water networks, on the basis of the results of the above activities;
- ix. smart-metering tools for measuring volumes consumed by users.

These categories align with the objectives outlined in Article 1(4) of the same call for proposals and with the requirements outlined in the milestone description.

Article 1 of the Directorial Decree n. 01 of 10 January 2023 (evidence iii) awarding financing to 33 projects recalls the scope of the call for proposals.

The implementing contracts reflect the scope outlined above that is in line with the CID requirements. For the purpose of the implementation of the investment, the stipulation of the implementing contracts by the implementing bodies is regulated by Legislative decree n. 50 of 18 April 2016, articles n. 26 and n. 32 (Code on Public Procurement), also recalled in the recitals of the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure of 08 March 2022, of the Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure n. 01 of 10 January 2023, of the Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure n. 14 of 3 February 2023, of the Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure n. 181 of 24 March 2023 amending the Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure n. 01 of 10 January 2023, and of the Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure n. 203 of 6 May 2024 awarding funds to additional 70 projects for the modernization and efficiency of the water distribution networks (evidence ii-vi). Moreover, according to Article 11 and Article 12 of the Ministerial decree of the Ministry of Infrastructure of 08 March 2022, the implementing bodies commit to implement the financed projects on the basis of the RRF requirements and are responsible for their monitoring.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M2C4-33	M2C4-33, Related Measure: Investment 4.3 - Investments in the resilience of the irrigation agrosystem for better management of water resources	
Name of the Milestone: Award of funding to all projects for the resilience of the irrigation agrosystem for the better management of water resources		
Quantitative Indicator: Publication of Decree(s)		Time: Q4 2023
Context:		

The objective of the measure is to increase efficiency of irrigation systems through the development of innovative infrastructure for a more sustainable agricultural sector as well as better adapted to climate change. The interventions include conversion of the irrigation systems towards more efficient ones, the adaptation of distribution networks to reduce losses and the installation of smart metering and remote-control systems, in line with the relevant national and EU acquis on the matter.

Milestone M2C4-33 requires the publication of the admission Decree(s) with the awarding (assignment) of funding to projects for investments in the resilience of the irrigation agrosystem for better management of water resources.

Milestone M2C4-33 is the first step in the implementation of the investment and will be followed by targets M2C4-34, M2C4-34bis, M2C4-35, M2C4-35bis related to the percentage of withdrawal sources equipped with meters and to the percentage of irrigated area benefiting from an efficient use of irrigation resources.

Evidence provided:

In line with the description of the milestone, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- ii. Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Agricultural policies n. 299915 of 30 June 2021 establishing the eligibility criteria for the projects, <https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeAttachment.php/L/IT/D/5%252F6%252F2%252FD.66103b463cb85dd7e29e/P/BLOB%3AID%3D17102/E/pdf?mode=download>;
- iii. Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Ministry of Agricultural policies n. 0228620 of 20 May 2022 and Annex identifying 55 projects to be admitted to financing and Annex, <https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeAttachment.php/L/IT/D/1%252F1%252F2F6%252FD.3e28f11275803afeefdd/P/BLOB%3AID%3D17102/E/zip?mode=download>;
- iv. Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Ministry of Agricultural policies n. 0484456 of 30 September 2022 identifying 55 projects to be admitted to financing and Annexes, <https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeAttachment.php/L/IT/D/1%252Ffc%252F2Fe%252FD.5ea6f88fe4e03588bd1c/P/BLOB%3AID%3D17102/E/zip?mode=download>.
- v. Clarification note on the compliance with the Water Frame Directive.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Requirements in the description of the milestone

Publication of the admission Decree(s) with the awarding (assignment) of funding to projects for the interventions on the networks and irrigation systems and on the related digitalisation and monitoring system.

The directorial Decree of the Ministry of Agricultural policies n. 299915 of 30 June 2021 (evidence ii) provides the procedural information and the eligibility criteria for the projects to be financed under investment 4.3: 3 Investments in the resilience of the irrigation agrosystem for better management of water resources. 55 already existing projects were financed following the adoption of directorial Decree of the Ministry of Ministry of Agricultural policies n. 0228620 of 20 May 2022 (evidence iii), which is published on the Ministry's website. The projects are listed in Annex 1 to the Decree, as provided for in Article 1 of the same Decree. The decree recalls in its recitals the eligibility criteria outlined in the directorial Decree of the Ministry of Agricultural policies n. 299915 of 30 June 2021. 42 new projects were financed following the adoption of the directorial Decree of the Ministry of Agricultural policies n. 0484456 of 30 September 2022 (evidence iv), which is published on the Ministry's website. The projects are listed in Annex 1 to the Decree, as provided for in Article 2 of the same Decree. The decree recalls in its recitals the eligibility criteria outlined in the directorial Decree of the Ministry of Agricultural policies n. 299915 of 30 June 2021.

The scope of the contracts shall be the following: Encourage the measurement and monitoring of uses on collective networks (through the installation of meters and remote-control systems), including the transition from self-supply to collective uses as a prerequisite for completing the introduction of water pricing policy based on the water volumes for an efficient use of water resources in agriculture and as a consequence stimulating the reduction of illegal water withdrawals in rural areas; Irrigation investment should aim at making existing irrigation more efficient, even if the concerned water body is in good status.

The scope of the interventions financed under this investment encourages the monitoring of uses on collective networks through the installation of meters and remote-control systems; these monitoring activities encourage the transition from self-supply to collective uses by providing the tools for an effective quantitative monitoring of the water resources in agriculture that allow a pricing based on the actual water volumes and a better prevention of illegal water withdrawals in rural areas. The directorial Decree of the Ministry of Agricultural policies n. 299915 of 30 June 2021 (evidence ii) in its preamble (page 3) provides that “the interventions relate in particular to investments to increase the resilience of the irrigation agrosystem to extreme climatic events, with particular reference to dangerous events, with the aim of improving water management and reducing leakage and facilitating the measurement and monitoring of uses both on collective networks (by installing meters and telecontrol systems) and for private uses (through a private concession monitoring system), a prerequisite for quantifying the water actually used and preventing illegal water uses in rural areas”. It also specifies (page 3) that the objectives of the measure are to: “promote an increasingly efficient management of water resources, reducing the widespread pressure of the agricultural sector on both the quantitative status and the quality status of surface and groundwater and promoting the maintenance of good status of water bodies”; “encourage the measurement and monitoring of uses both on collective networks (via meters and telecontrol systems) and for private uses (private concession monitoring system)”; “prevent illegal uses of water in rural areas by measuring uses”; “ensure, through efficient use of water for irrigation, increasing the resilience of the agroecosystem to drought events and climate change”. Lastly, it provides that in order to achieve the objectives outlined above, infrastructural interventions related to the “conversion of the irrigation system towards more efficient systems”, the “adaptation of distribution networks to reduce losses” and the “installation of water-efficient technologies, such as meters and remote-control systems” are to be financed, as well as the deployment of systems to monitor the concessions for private use and their connection to the data system for collective uses in order to prevent illegal water uses.

This is reflected in the eligibility criterion A6 outlined in the same Decree (page 9), which provides that the specific objective of the investments shall relate to: conversion of the irrigation system towards more efficient systems; Installation of water-efficient technologies, such as meters and remote-control systems; Reduction of losses; Introduction of incentives prices. Any other objective is non-eligible.

The implementing contracts reflect the scope outlined above that is in line with the CID requirements. For the purpose of the implementation of the investment, the stipulation of the implementing contracts by the implementing bodies is regulated by Legislative decree n. 50 of 18 April 2016, articles n. 26 and n. 32 (Code on Public Procurement), also recalled in the Directorial Decree of the Ministry of Ministry of Agricultural policies n. 0484456 of 30 September 2022, recitals and articles 4 and 5 (evidence iv). Moreover, according to Article 3 and Article 4 of the same Decree, the implementing bodies sign a commitment to award contracts to implement the financed projects on the basis of the RRF requirements and are responsible for their monitoring.

It is expected that this measure does not do significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, taking into account the

description of the measure and the mitigating steps set out in the recovery and resilience plan in accordance with the Do No Significant Harm Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01). In particular, for each subinvestment, full compliance with the requirements of EU law, including the Water Framework Directive, shall be ensured before, during and after the commencement of the construction works. Further, interventions, when applicable according to national law, shall be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) pursuant to Directive 2011/92/EU, as well as relevant assessments in the context of Directive 2000/60/EC and Directive 92/43/EEC, including the implementation of required mitigation measures.

Annex 5 to the directorial Decree of the Ministry of Agricultural policies n. 0484456 of 30 September 2022 (evidence iv) sets a matrix of principles related to DNSH that the beneficiaries are obliged to respect pursuant to Article 3 of the same Decree and ensures that the selected interventions do not significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852. Moreover, with respect to the Environmental Impact Assessment in application of national law transposing Directive 2011/92/EU, the selection criterion A20 outlined in the directorial Decree of the Ministry of Agricultural policies n. 299915 of 30 June 2021 refers to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (that is the mitigation measure foreseen by Directive 2011/92 EU) and establishes that only interventions that are not subject to EIA, for which EIA is not foreseen or for which an EIA has already been produced are eligible. Moreover, Annex 5 to the directorial Decree of the Ministry of Agricultural policies n. 0484456 of 30 September 2022 (evidence iv) sets a matrix of principles related to DNSH that the beneficiaries are obliged to respect pursuant to Article 3 of the same Decree. These include (principle 7) the presence of the relevant assessments in the context of 2011/92/EU and Directive 92/43/EEC as transposed by the national legislation for interventions located in protected areas. These assessments represent the mitigation measures under the two EU Directives mentioned above. With respect to Directive 2000/60/EC, the preamble to the directorial Decree of the Ministry of Agricultural policies n. 299915 of 30 June 2021 (evidence ii) specifies that the measure is addressed to the local water entities “enti irrigui”, representing the implementing entities of the investment, that “the national database for investments in the field of irrigation and environment (DANIA) enables the prioritisation of district planning in implementation of the Water Framework Directive” (page 4) and that “the identification of eligible operations requires the adoption of technical criteria that also take into account the objectives of the Water Framework Directive” (page 5). The “enti irrigui” are the entities operating in the field of rational water management. The Water Framework Directive introduces water basin management, the coordination of which is ensured by a single competent entity, which in Italy is represented by the district local water authorities (autorita’ di bacino distrettuale), one for each of the seven water basin districts into which the national territory is divided. The transposition of the Framework Directive into national law took place through Part Three of Legislative Decree N. 152 of 3 April 2006. Said decree has introduced the obligation for local water authorities (autorita’ di bacino distrettuale) to define a Water Basin Management Plan (Piano di Gestione di bacino idrografico PdG). In addition, the aforementioned Legislative Decree requires for Regions to draw up Water Protection Plans (Piani di Tutela della Acque PTA). As outlined under evidence iii and pursuant Legislative Decree N. 152 of 3 April 2006, each local authority has adopted its own PdG, which is the reference masterplan to achieve the main environmental objective of good status/potential of all water bodies and regions adopted its own PTA. In the context of planning and coordination activities, local authorities, after consulting the provinces and local administrative bodies, define the objectives on a district scale to be followed by their Water Protection Plan, as well as the priorities for action. The Regions, after consulting the provinces and after taking any safeguard measures, adopt the PTA and forward it to the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE) and to the competent local authorities for the checks within their remit. In the light of the above, the projects selected were identified on the basis of the needs represented by the local water authorities and local administrative bodies, and following the verification carried out to verify compliance with the objectives of the measure and the timetable laid down in the RRP for the investment line, as outlined

in the Clarification note on the compliance with the Water Frame Directive (evidence v). The operations financed under the investment line have been proposed by the local water authorities and local administrative bodies, and are in compliance with their management plan and the water protection plans, are therefore in line with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M2C4-36	M2C4-36, Related Measure: Investment 4.4 - Investments in sewerage and purification
Name of the Milestone: Award of funding to projects for sewerage and purification	
Quantitative Indicator: Publication of a decree	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>The measure aims to reducing the number of urban agglomerations with weak sewerage and purification systems, through investments on the effectiveness of the purification of wastewater discharged into marine and inland waters and, where possible, on the transformation of purification plants into “green factories” for the reuse of purified wastewater for irrigation and industrial purposes.</p> <p>Milestone M2C4-36 concerns the publication of the admission decree with the awarding of funding the interventions in the scope of this measure. The interventions shall not do significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852.</p> <p>Milestone M2C4-36 is the first step in the implementation of Investment 4.4 – Sewerage and Purification. It will be followed by the targets M2C4-37 and M2C4-38, related to the reduction of the number of equivalent inhabitants residing in agglomerations non-compliant with the Council Directive 91/271/EEC for not adequate collecting and treating the urban wastewater by at least 500 000 (M2C4-37) and 2 250 00 (M2C4-38) units, due by Q2 2025 and Q1 2026 respectively.</p>	
<p>Evidence provided:</p> <p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone including all the constitutive elements was satisfactorily fulfilled. ii. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security n. 191 of 17 May 2022 outlining the eligibility criteria for the projects to be financed under investment 4.4: Sewerage and purification. iii. Ministerial decree of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security n. 262 of 9 August 2023 awarding financing to the selected projects. <p>Guidelines for implementing bodies (“Linee guida per Soggetti attuatori”) version 1.3, published by the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security on 18 December 2023.</p>	
<p>Analysis:</p> <p>The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.</p> <p>Publication of the admission decree with the awarding (assignment) of funding to the project proposals).</p> <p>The Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security n. 191 of 2022 (evidence ii) provides the procedural information and the eligibility criteria for the projects to be financed under investment 4.4: Sewerage and purification. Article 5 of the same Decree states that a</p>	

ministerial decree identifying the projects admitted to financing is published after the end of the selection procedure of the projects. The ministerial decree of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security n. 262 of 9 August 2023 (evidence iii) identified 176 projects admitted to financing in its Annex 1 and to which the funding was awarded, as provided for in Article 5 of Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security n. 191 of 2022.

The interventions shall: make the purification of wastewater discharged into marine and inland waters more effective, also by means of technological innovation; transform where possible some purification plants into “green factories”, which reuse purified wastewater for irrigation and industrial purposes.

Article 1 of the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security n. 191 of 2022 (evidence ii), provides that the eligibility criteria for the proposals to be financed under the investment are outlined in Annex 1 to the same Ministerial Decree. According to the criterion 1. j) outlined in Annex 1 to the same Ministerial Decree, the interventions shall “improve the efficiency of the purification of wastewater discharged into marine and inland waters, including through the use of technological innovation” and “where possible, transform sewage treatment plants into ‘green factories’ to allow the reuse of reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and industrial purposes”. According to Article 3 of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security n. 262 of 9 August 2023 (evidence iii) identifying 176 projects admitted to financing, the admitted projects are in compliance with the admissibility criteria outlined in Annex 1 to the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security n. 191 of 2022 (evidence ii). Therefore, the financed interventions make the purification of wastewater discharged into marine and inland waters more effective, also by means of technological innovation and, where possible, transform purification plants into “green factories”.

This measure shall not do significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, taking into account the description of the measure and the mitigating steps set out in the recovery and resilience plan in accordance with the DNSH Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01). In particular, the incineration of sludge shall not be eligible.

As outlined in Article 1 of the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security n. 191 of 2022, the eligibility criteria for the proposal under the investment are outlined in Annex 1 to the same decree. According to the criterion 1. h) outlined in Annex 1 of the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security n. 191 of 2023, the interventions shall not “infringe the principle set out in Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of “do no significant harm” (DNSH principle) against the environment, funding may be withdrawn in the event of a finding of an infringement of that general principle”. According to Article 3 of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security n. 262 of 9 August 2023 (evidence iii) identifying 176 projects admitted to financing, the admitted projects are in compliance with the admissibility criteria outline in Annex 1 to the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security n. 191 of 2022 (evidence ii).

In particular, the incineration of sludge shall not be eligible.

In the Guidelines for implementing bodies (“Linee guida per Soggetti attuatori”) version 1.3, published by the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security on 18 December 2023 (evidence iv), the incineration of sludge is identified as a criterion for ineligibility (paragraph 4.2.2.1). The Guidelines for implementing bodies were adopted by the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security pursuant to Article 8.3 of the Decree-Law of 31 May 2021, n. 771, on the governance of the national recovery and resilience plan. The article provides that “[the Ministry] issues guidelines to ensure the correctness of the implementation and reporting procedures, the regularity of expenditure and the achievement of intermediate and final objectives and any other compliance requirement required by the European and national legislation applicable to the NRR”. Article 4 of the ministerial decree of the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security n. 262 of 9 August 2023 (evidence iii) provides that the arrangements for implementing the awarded interventions are

governed by an agreement signed between the Ministry and the beneficiaries. According to letter o) of the same Article, the agreement shall include the Guidelines as a binding element, among other elements. Moreover, according to Article 9 of the Ministerial Decree n. 191 of 17 May 2022 (evidence ii) the violation of the “monitoring obligations” (Article 9.1) and “substantial irregularities or [...] breach of [...] administrative provisions” are reasons to revoke the financing to projects: this applies also to the Guidelines that become monitoring and administrative obligations for each project after the signature of the agreement between the Ministry and the beneficiaries. Considering the legal basis on which the Guidelines are drafted, as well as their content, their mandatory nature in the agreement between the parties and the possibility for the Ministry to sanction a misapplication of the Guidelines, they binding and ensure that the incineration of sludge is not eligible for this investment.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M3C1-4	M3C1-4, Related Measure: Investment 1.1 – High-speed railway connections to the South for passengers and freight	
Name of the Milestone: Award of the contract (s) to build high-speed railway in the line Salerno Reggio Calabria		
Qualitative Indicator: Notification of the award of all public contracts to build highspeed railway in the lines Salerno Reggio Calabria		Time: Q4 2023
Context:		
<p>Milestone M3C1-4 is part of investment 1.1 whose objective is to build 119 km of high-speed railway infrastructure for passengers and freight in the lines Napoli-Bari, Salerno-Reggio and Palermo-Catania.</p> <p>Milestone M3C1-4 concerns the award of all public contracts to build high-speed railway in the following lines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salerno – Reggio Calabria: section “Battipaglia Romagnano” <p>Milestone M3C1-3 is the second step of the implementation of the investment 1.1. It was preceded by milestone M3C1-3 and it will be followed by target M3C1-6 related to the completion of 119 km of high-speed railway infrastructure for passengers and freight in the lines Napoli-Bari, Salerno-Reggio and Palermo-Catania.</p> <p>In line with the description of the measure, the assessment and the authorisation of each relevant project or/investment shall respect all the rules and procedures set in articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Directive 92/43/CEE and follow the national guidelines for Impact Assessment published in the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic N°303 of 28 December 2019. In particular, this requires assurance by the Italian authorities that the assessment under Article 6(3) of the Habitats directive is conducted in view of the site-specific conservation objectives of the affected Natura 2000 sites. This element will be assessed in the context of target M3C1-6, when the projects are authorised upon completion of construction.</p>		
Evidence provided:		
In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:		

- Annex 1 “All. 1_Notifica aggiudicazione.pdf “ which contains the contract award notification (“Notifica dell’aggiudicazione dei contratti”) respectively for procedures DAC.0257.2022 (Battipaglia – Romagnano);
- Annex 2 “All 2 *relazione generale*” provide the *Relazione Generale* providing the technical specifications of the projects covering the (Battipaglia – Romagnano)
- Annex 3 “All Schema di Contratto”, a copy of the contract awarded
- Annex 4 provide the report of the evaluation committee (“*Verbale Commissione di gara*”) regarding its assessment of the submitted applications.
- Annexes 5 and 5 bis contain further project-specific details containing the selection criteria that ensure compliance with the Do No Significant Harm principle and environmental rules for respectively for the procedure DAC.0257.2022 (Battipaglia – Romagnano)

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Notification of the award of all public contracts to build high-speed railway in the line Salerno – Reggio Calabria in full compliance with the public procurement rules. The contract (s) shall refer to the following parts of this line: Battipaglia – Romagnano

There is one awarding procedure, whose reference number is:

- DAC.0257.2022 (Battipaglia – Romagnano)

Procedure DAC.0257.2022 (Battipaglia – Romagnano): Annex 1 contains the contract award notification by Rete Ferroviaria Italiana for the award of the line Battipaglia – Romagnano to the successful consortium. As shown in Annex 4, 5 and 5bis, two bids were submitted and evaluated. The contract was awarded on the basis of the economically most advantageous offer following an open procedure.

The contract notice was published in the Official Journal of the European Union, 2022/S 250-730219 on 28 December 2022 and in the national official journal (“Gazzetta Ufficiale n° 1 of 2 January 2023).

The milestone is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires that the tenders set clear, non-discriminatory and transparent criteria for the eligibility and the selection of the proposals. The public procurement rules are provided by the legally binding obligation according to art.2 of DL 120/2020 and in line with the Public Procurement Directives. The aforementioned contract notices in the Official Journal of the European Union and the national official journal have set clear, non-discriminatory and transparent criteria for the eligibility and the selection of the proposals.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M3C1-17

M3C1-17, Related Measure: Investment 1.7 - Upgrading, electrification and resilience of railways in the South

Name of the Target: 172 km of works completed related to the resilience of railways in the South, ready for the authorisation and operational phases.			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 0	Target: 172	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>Target M3C1-17 is part of investment 1.7 whose objective is to in upgrade, electrify and increase the resilience of 1162 km of railways in the South.</p> <p>Target M3C1-17 is the first target of the investment 1.7, it concerns the completion of works for at least 172 km related to the resilience interventions of southern railways and will be followed by a second target M3C1-17 bis related to upgrading, electrification and resilience of at least 1162 km in southern railways.</p> <p>Target M3C1-17 requires the completion of 172 km resilience works on the following lines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paola- Reggio Calabria; • Lentini Diramazione-Gela; • Messina – Catania – Siracusa; • Caserta – Battipaglia; • Roma – Napoli; and • Bari – Brindisi. <p>The target shall be achieved through CLPs (i.e. “Codice Locale Progetto”) that are not supported by EU funds other than the RRF.</p>			
<p>Evidence provided:</p> <p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. The certificate of completion of works issued by “Rete Ferroviaria Italiana”, on 31 March 2022 for the railway line “Paola- Reggio Calabria”, binario pari (8,4 km) which corresponds to the applicative contract 05/2021 ii. Two certificates of km completed on the Paola – Reggio Calabria Line. The certificate have been issued by “Rete Ferroviaria Italiana on 22 January 2024 iii. The certificate of completion of works issued by “Rete Ferroviaria Italiana”, on 24 January 2022 for the railway line “Paola- Reggio Calabria”, binario dispari; (8,4 km) which corresponds to the applicative contract 05/2021 iv. The certificate of completion of works issued by “Rete Ferroviaria Italiana”, on 11 November 2021 for the railway line Lentini Diramazione-Gela; (12 km); v. The certificate of completion of works issued by “Rete Ferroviaria Italiana”, on 7 Ferbruary 2022 for the railway line Lentini Diramazione-Gela, (7 km); vi. The certificate of completion of works issued by “Rete Ferroviaria Italiana”, on 20 June 2022 for the railway line Messina – Catania – Siracusa (16,115 km); vii. The certificate of completion of works issued by “Rete Ferroviaria Italiana”, on 27 July March 2023 for the railway line “Caserta – Battipaglia” (79,6 km); viii. The certificate of completion of works issued by “Rete Ferroviaria Italiana”, on 16 June 2023 for the railway line “Roma – Napoli” (36,5 km) which 			

- corresponds to the Applicative Contract 2/2021
- ix. The certificate of km completed on the Roma Napoli Line. The certificate has been issued by “Rete Ferroviaria Italiana” on 24 January 2024.
 - ix. The certificate of completion of works issued by “Rete Ferroviaria Italiana”, on 11 July 2022 for the railway line Bari – Brindisi. (4 km)
 - x. The report signed by an independent engineer on 27 May 2024 certifying the completion of the works;
 - xi. A Copy of the applicative contract 23/2021 the railway line Lentini-Diramazione Gela issued on 3 June 2021.
 - xii. A Copy of the applicative contract 24/2021 the railway line Messina – Catania – Siracusa issued on 18 November 2021.
 - xiii. A Copy of the applicative contract 05/2021 the railway line Paola Reggio Calabria issued on 29 September 2021;
 - xiv. A Copy of the applicative contract 06/2021 the railway line Paola Reggio Calabria issued on 16 December 2021;
 - xv. A Copy of the applicative contract 20/2021 the railway line Bari Brindisi issued on 18 November 2021;
 - xvi. A Copy of the applicative contract 28/2022 the railway line Caserta Battipaglia issued on 15 March 2022;
 - xvii. A Copy of the applicative contract 2/2021 the railway line Roma Napoli issued on 15 December 2021

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

Completion of works for at least 172 km, related to the resilience of southern railways, ready for the authorisation and operational phases.

The 172 km shall refer to the following lines:

- **Paola- Reggio Calabria;**

The certificate of completion of works issued by Reggio Calabria’s department of “Rete Ferroviaria Italiana”, on 16 January 2023 certifies the conclusion of the works for the renewal of 8.4 km on the odd Paola- Reggio Calabria railway line. The certificate corresponds to the applicative contract N. 06/2021, which details the interventions envisaged.

In addition, the certificate of completion of works issued by Reggio Calabria’s department of “Rete Ferroviaria Italiana”, on 31 March 2022 certifies the conclusion of the works for the renewal of 8.4 km on the even Paola - Reggio Calabria railway line. More specifically, the interventions concern 8.4 km on the even railway line connecting Rosarno to Gioia Tauro. The certificate corresponds to the applicative contract N. 05/2021, which details the interventions envisaged.

Finally, the two certificates of km completed, issued by “Rete Ferroviaria Italiana” and signed by RFI’s Director of Works, identify the specific km where the interventions have been carried out.

- **Lentini Diramazione-Gela;**

The certificate of completion issued by Palermo's department of Rete Ferroviaria Italiana (RFI), on 11 November 2021, certifies the conclusion of the works for the renewal of 12 km on Lentini Diramazione-Gela line. More specifically, the intervention concerns 12 km between Vizzini and Granmichele.

In addition, the certificate of completion issued by Palermo's department of Rete Ferroviaria Italiana (RFI), on 7 February 2022, certifies the conclusion of the works for the renewal of 7 km on the Lentini Diramazione-Gela line. More specifically, the intervention concerns 7 km between Filididona and Militello.

- **Messina – Catania – Siracusa;**

The certificate of completion issued by Palermo's department of Rete Ferroviaria Italiana (RFI), on 20 June 2022, certifies the conclusion of the works for the technological upgrade of 16.155 km on the Messina – Catania – Siracusa line. More specifically, the intervention concerns 16.155 km between Santa Teresa and Gianpileri.

- **Caserta – Battipaglia;**

The certificate of completion of works issued by Napoli and Sud Est Salerno's department of "Rete Ferroviaria Italiana", on 28 July 2023 certifies the conclusion of the works for the technological upgrade of 79,6 km on the Caserta – Battipaglia railway line. More specifically, the intervention concerns 79,6 km of between Canello and Sarno.

- **Roma – Napoli; and**

The certificate of completion of works issued by Napoli's department of "Rete Ferroviaria Italiana", on 24 January 2024, certifies the conclusion of the works for the renewal of 36,5 km on the Roma - Napoli high-speed railway line. More specifically, the intervention concerns 36,5 km between P.M. S. Angelo and P.M. Tora Picilli. In addition, the certificate of km completed, issued by "Rete Ferroviaria Italiana" and signed by RFI's Director of Works, identifies the specific km where the interventions have been carried out.

- **Bari – Brindisi.**

The certificate of completion issued by Bari's department of Rete Ferroviaria Italiana (RFI), on 11 July 2022 certifies the conclusion of the works for the renewal of 4 km on the Bari Brindisi line. More specifically, the intervention concerns 4 km between the Bari Centrale and Bari Parco Sud.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport has provided evidence which proves the completion of works 172.055 km of railway lines. Finally, this finding is further demonstrated by the report signed by an independent engineer on 27 May 2024, which confirms the conclusion of works for 172 km.

The target shall be achieved through CLPs (i.e. "Codice Locale Progetto") that are not supported by EU funds other than the RRF. The list of CLPs is further specified in the operational arrangements which indicates the following codes: M3C1.7_J84C20001910001; M3C11.7_J27H21000680001; M3C11.7_J67G20000000001; M3C11.7_J66J17000390001;

M3C11.7_J97J18000360001; M3C1-1.7_J97G20000070001.

Accordingly, Article 4 of the inter-ministerial decree issued by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Transport prohibits double funding on all investment under the management of RFI therefore including all investments under this milestone.

This prohibition applies to all CLPs listed in Annex 2 of the Decree which also includes the codes indicated in the Operational Arrangement, namely M3C1.7_J84C20001910001
M3C11.7_J27H21000680001; M3C11.7_J67G20000000001; M3C11.7_J66J17000390001;
M3C11.7_J97J18000360001; M3C1-1.7_J97G20000070001.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M4C1-10	M4C1-10, Related Measure: Reform 1.2: Reform of the tertiary vocational training system (ITS); Reform 1.3: Reorganization of the school system; Reform 1.4: Reform of the “Orientation” system; Reform 1.5: University degree groups reform; Reform 1.6: Enabling university degrees reform. Reform 2.1: Teachers’ recruitment		
Name of them milestone: Entry into force of regulations for the effective implementation and application of all the measures concerning the reforms of primary, secondary and tertiary education, where needed			
Qualitative Indicator: Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the regulations.	Baseline: N/A	Target: N/A	Time: Q4 2023
Context: Milestone M4C1-10 includes initiatives concerning eight reforms. In particular: Reform 1.2 aims to strengthen the tertiary vocational training system (ITS) by simplifying their governance. The primary legislation of the reform was assessed within the third payment request under milestone M4C1-5. Milestone M4C1-10 is the final step in the implementation of the reform 1.2. Reform 1.3 has two main objectives: i) adjusting the number of pupils per class, as well as ii) reform the rules on the size of school buildings. The primary legislation of the reform was assessed within the third payment request under milestone M4C1-5. Milestone M4C1-10 is the final step in the implementation of the reform 1.3. Reform 1.4 aims to introduce orientation modules for the fourth and fifth classes of upper secondary school to support students in taking an informed choice between continuing their studies or further vocational trainings. The reform also aims to create a digital orientation platform. The reform has a final expected date for implementation in Q4 2023. The primary legislation of the reform was assessed within the third payment request under milestone M4C1-5. Milestone M4C1-10 is the final step in the implementation of the reform 1.4. Reform 1.5 aims to introduce a higher degree of flexibility in university degree groups			

(bachelor's, master's and master's with unique cycle) to meet the evolving skills demand of the labour market. This reform's primary legislation was assessed in the context of milestone M4C1-1 under the first payment request. Milestone M4C1-10 is the final step in the implementation of the reform 1.5.

Reform 1.6 aims to modify the access to the workforce for certain professions through final exams and traineeships instead of state exams. This reform's primary legislation was assessed in the context of milestone M4C1-1 under the first payment request. Milestone M4C1-10 is the final step in the implementation of the reform 1.6.

Reform 2.1 on the teaching profession aims to attract, recruit, and motivate quality teachers, with the overall strategic objectives of improving educational outcomes and the quality of the Italian education system. The primary legislation of the reform was assessed within the second payment request under milestone M4C1-3. The implementation of the reform is linked to three targets: M4C1-14 concerning the recruitment of 20 000 teachers, due by Q4 2024; M4C1-14bis concerning the recruitment of additional 20 000 teachers by Q3 2025; and M4C1-14ter providing that at least 30 000 candidates will have successfully passed the public competition within the reformed recruitment system, due by Q2 2026. M4C1-14ter is the final step in the implementation of Reform 2.1.

Reform 2.2 aims at building a quality training system for school managers, teachers, administrative and technical staff for career and professional development envisaging the establishment of a qualified body in charge of releasing guidelines and selecting training initiatives. Reform 2.2 is strictly connected to Reform 2.1 – Reform of teachers' recruitment for the reform subpart iv) concerning the setting up of a career progression linked to teachers' performance evaluation and continuous professional development. The primary legislation of the reform was assessed within the third payment request under milestone M4C1-6. Milestone M4C1-10 is the final step in the implementation of the reform 2.2.

Reform 4.1 aims to update university regulations on PhD programs to simplify the procedures for the involvement of companies and research centers and to strengthen applied research. This reform's primary legislation was assessed in the context of milestone M4C1-1 under the first payment request. Milestone M4C1-10 is the final step in the implementation of the reform 4.1.

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.

For each reform, the following evidence was provided:

Reform 1.2: Reform of the tertiary vocational training system (ITS)

- i. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 87 of 17 May 2023, published on the Official Journal No 146 of 24 June 2023 on criteria and functioning of the National Committee "ITS Academy";
- ii. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 88 of 17 May 2023, published on the Official Journal No 154 of 4 July 2023 on the ITS examination commissions and guidelines on the exams assessment;
- iii. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 89 of 17 May 2023, published on the Official Journal No 166 of 18 July 2023 on the guidelines to draft each ITS Academies' Statute;
- iv. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 191 of 4 October 2023, published on the Official Journal No 252 on the 27 October 2023 on the criteria to establish

- and open an ITS Academy;
- v. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 203 of 20 October 2023, published on the Official Journal No 282 on the 7 December 2023 on the definition of (i) ITS Academies' technological areas, (ii) national professional figures of reference; (iii) minimum standards of skills for each professional figure; (iv) types of awarded diplomas;
 - vi. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 217 of 15 November 2023, published on the Official Journal No 34 of the 10 February 2024 on the definition of the criteria for more ITS Academies to be instituted within the same province;
 - vii. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 227 of 30 November 2023, published on the Official Journal No 7 of the 10 January 2024 on the definition of the criteria to register ITS's students;
 - viii. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 228 of 30 November 2023, published on the Official Journal No 7 of the 10 January 2024 on the indicators to monitor and evaluate ITS courses of level V;
 - ix. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 229 of 30 November 2023, published on the Official Journal No 7 of the 10 January 2024 on the definition of the national system to monitor and evaluate ITS courses;
 - x. Inter-Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit and the Ministry of University and Research No 235 of 5 December 2023, published on the Official Journal No 7 of the 10 January 2024 on the indicators to monitor and evaluate ITS courses of level VI;
 - xi. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 236 of 6 December 2023, published on the Official Journal No 19 of the 24 January 2024 on the allocation of financial resources of the fund "*Fondo per l'istruzione tecnologica superiore*";
 - xii. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 237 of 6 December 2023, published on the Official Journal No 51 of 1 March 2024 on the three-year programme to use the resources of the fund "*Fondo per l'istruzione tecnologica superiore*";
 - xiii. Inter-Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit and the Ministry of University and Research No 246 of 19 December 2023, published on the Official Journal No 19 of the 24 January 2024 on the criteria to recognize the ITS qualification to participate to public competitions for teachers;
 - xiv. Inter-Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit and the Ministry of University and Research No 247 of 19 December 2023, published on the Official Journal No 35 of 12 February 2024 on the definition of logistics' aspects ensuring the functioning of the ITS Academies;
 - xv. Decree of the President of the Council of Ministries of the 29 December 2023, published on the Official Journal No 40 of 17 February 2024, on the definition of the national professional figures for ITS graduates, level VI;
 - xvi. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 259 of 30 December 2023, published on the Official Journal No 34 of the 10 February 2024, regulating the transitory phase of Law No 99 of 15 July 2022 establishing the ITS Academy.

Reform 1.3: Reorganisation of the school system

- i. Inter-Ministerial Decree No 220 of 8 August 2022, published in Official Journal No 51 of 1 March 2024, on the adjustment of the number of pupils per class;
- ii. Inter-Ministerial Decree No 127 of 30 June 2023, published in the Official Journal No 46 of 24 February 2024, on the criteria for the sizing of school buildings, which the regions are applying for their respective plans.
The authorities also provided:
- iii. Decree of the Minister of Education in agreement with the Minister of the Economy No 242 of 14 September 2022, which defines the parameters, criteria and procedures for the identification, on a regional basis, of schools which may request the competent regional school office to grant an exemption or semi-exemption from teaching for

collaborative activities in the performance of administrative and organisational functions, in order to strengthen the governance of schools, especially in the context of small municipalities.

Reform 1.4: Reform of the “orientation” system

- iv. Ministerial Decree No 184 of 15 September 2023 on STEM guidelines, i.e. specifically on the introduction of orientation modules;
- ii. Ministerial Decree No 63 of 5 April 2023, identifying the criteria to designate teachers called upon to act as tutors and as orientation/guidance teachers;
- iii. Circular No 2790 of 11 October 2023 and Circular No 958 of 5 April 2023, providing specific instructions to schools to fulfil the above-mentioned provisions outlined in the Ministerial Decrees, in particular with reference to the tools used for the 30-hour modules and to provide guidance on the digital platform.

Reform 1.5: University Degree Groups reform

- i. Ministerial decree of the Ministry of University and Research No. 96 of 6 June 2023, published on the Official Journal No. 174 of 27 July 2023, on amendments to the regulation containing rules concerning the teaching autonomy of universities;
- ii. Ministerial decree of the Ministry of University and Research No. 1648 of 19 December 2023, published on the Official Journal No. 302 of 29 December 2023, on bachelor's degree groups (*'Classi di Laurea'*);
- iii. Ministerial decree of the Ministry of University and Research No. 1649 of 19 December 2023, published on the Official Journal No. 302 of 29 December 2023, on master's and master's with unique cycle degree groups (*'Classi di Laurea Magistrale e Magistrale a Ciclo Unico'*);

The authorities also provided:

- v. Note from the General Directorate of higher education regulations and the right to education of the Ministry of University and Research No. 17702 of 5 October 2023, sent to universities on the implementation of ministerial decree No. 96 of 6 June 2023 for changing university teaching regulations;
- vii. Note from the General Directorate of higher education regulations and the right to education of the Ministry of University and Research No. 18691 of 13 October 2023, sent to universities on the operational ways to upload their updated teaching regulations on the Ministry's database prior to its approval;
- viii. List of 92 Rectoral Decrees approving the updated university regulations dated November 2023 and links to the corresponding regulations.

Reform 1.6: Enabling University Degrees reform

- i. Interministerial decree No. 651 of 5 July 2022, published on the Official Journal No. 302 of 28 December 2022, on the enabling degree for the profession of pharmacists;
- ii. Interministerial decree No. 652 of 5 July 2022, published on the Official Journal No. 302 of 28 December 2022, on the enabling degree for the profession of veterinarians;
- iii. Interministerial decree No. 653 of 5 July 2022, published on the Official Journal No. 303 of 29 December 2022, on the enabling degree for the profession of dentists;
- iv. Interministerial decree No. 654 of 5 July 2022, published on the Official Journal No. 303 of 29 December 2022, on the enabling degree for the profession of psychologists;
- v. Interministerial decree No. 682 of 24 May 2023, published on the Official Journal No. 188 of 12 August 2023, on the enabling degree for construction and land technical professions;
- vi. Interministerial decree No. 683 of 24 May 2023, published on the Official Journal No. 186 of 10 August 2023, on the enabling degree for agricultural, food, and forestry technical professions;
- vii. Interministerial decree No. 684 of 24 May 2023, published on the Official Journal No.

- 188 of 12 August 2023, on the enabling degree for industrial and information technical professions;
- viii. Interministerial decree No. 685 of 24 May 2023, published on the Official Journal No. 186 of 10 August 2023, on modified procedures for the state exam for the degree enabling construction and land technical professions;
- ix. Interministerial decree No. 686 of 24 May 2023, published on the Official Journal No. 187 of 11 August 2023, on modified procedures for the state exam for the degree enabling agricultural, food, and forestry technical professions;
- x. Interministerial decree No. 687 of 24 May 2023, published on the Official Journal No. 187 of 11 August 2023, on modified procedures for the state exam for the degree enabling industrial and information technical professions;
- xi. Interministerial decree No. 554 of 6 June 2022, published on the Official Journal No. 72 of 25 March 2023, on simplified procedures in the transitory regime for students enrolled in the enabling degree, based on previous provisions, for psychologists who concluded their post-degree traineeship;
- xii. Interministerial decree No. 567 of 20 June 2022, published on the Official Journal No. 274 of 23 November 2022, on simplified procedures in the transitory regime for students enrolled in the enabling degree, based on previous provisions, for psychologists who had not concluded their post-degree traineeship yet;
- xiii. Interministerial decree No. 568 of 20 June 2022 published on the Official Journal No. 274 of 23 November 2022, on simplified procedures in the transitory regime for students enrolled in the enabling degree, based on previous provisions, for dentists;
- xiv. Interministerial decree No. 569 of 20 June 2022 published on the Official Journal No. 274 of 23 November 2022, on simplified procedures in the transitory regime for students enrolled in the enabling degree, based on previous provisions, for veterinarians;
- xv. Interministerial decree No. 570 of 20 June 2022 published on the Official Journal No. 274 of 23 November 2022, on simplified procedures in the transitory regime for students enrolled in the enabling degree, based on previous provisions, for pharmacists;
- The authorities also provided:
- xvi. List of 92 Rectoral Decrees approving the updated university regulations dated November 2023 and links to the corresponding regulations.

Reform 2.1: Reform of Teachers' recruitment

- i. Decree of the President of the Council of Ministries of the 4 August 2023 published on the Official Journal No 224 of 25 September 2023, defining the contents and structure of the curriculum ("offerta formativa") of the initial training to become a secondary school teacher;
- ii. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 226 of 16 August 2022, published on the Official Journal No 46 of 24 February 2024, defining the objectives and their evaluation criteria, the trainings and the criteria to evaluate teachers during their training period and probationary period;
- iv. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 206 of 26 October 2023, , on the requirements to access the public competition to become teachers in line with Reform 2.1;
- v. Inter-Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit and Ministry of University and Research No 221 of 20 November 2023, published in the Official Journal No 12 of 16 January 2024 on the requirements to participate to certain teachers' recruitment competition;
- v. Inter-Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit and Ministry of University and Research No 255 of 27 December 2022, published in the Official Journal No 51 of 1

March 2024, updating the typology of competition classes (“classi di concorso”) for the recruitment of secondary school teachers;

- vi. Inter-Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit and Ministry of University and Research No 256 of 28 December 2023, published in the Official Journal No 37 of 14 February 2024 on the quota of teachers needed as “tutors”;
- vii. Inter-Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit and Ministry of University and Research No 260 of 30 December 2023, published in the Official Journal No 51 of 1 March 2024, on the evaluation of teachers participating to the incentivized continuous training.

Reform 2.2: Tertiary advanced school and compulsory training for school managers, teachers, administrative and technical staff

- i. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education No 255 of 27 September 2022, published in the Official Journal No 51 of 01 March 2024 on the functioning of the Scuola di Alta Formazione (hereafter “the School”)’s general direction;
- ii. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education No 277 of 19 October 2022, published in the Official Journal No 46 of 24 February 2024, on the definition of the evaluation of teachers’ trainings activities and courses;
- iii. Decree of the President of the Council of Ministries of the 28 June 2023 published on the Official Journal No 46 of 24 February 2024, appointing the President of the School;
- iv. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 141 of 14 July 2023, published on the Official Journal No 51 of 1 March 2024, on the appointment of the members of “Comitato d’indirizzo”;
- v. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 160 of 3 August 202, published on the Official Journal 51 of 1 March 2024, on the appointment of the member of the scientific committee of the School;
- vi. Decree of the President of the Council of Ministries of the 8 of September 2023, on the appointment of the Director of the general direction of the School;
- vii. Decisions (“Delibere”) of the National Committee of the “School” - SAFI:
 - a. SAFI’s Decision No 1 of the 3 November 2023 on the functioning of the School and its various Committees;
 - b. SAFI’s Decision No 3 of the 27 December 2023 on the contents of the trainings of the school staff, including teachers, technical and administrative staff and school managers;
 - c. SAFI’s Decision No 4 of the 27 December 2023, defining the contents of the compulsory trainings for teachers;
- viii. Decision of the School No 258 of 30 December 2023 on the requirements of the bodies providing trainings to teachers, published on the Official Journal No 46 of 24 February 2024.

Reform 4.1: Ph.D. Programmes Reform

- i. List of 95 Rectoral Decrees approving the updated PhD regulations dated between January 2022 and July 2023 and links to the corresponding regulations.
- ii. Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 226 of 14 December 2021 regulating the adoption of regulations by the universities.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

The secondary legislation shall include all necessary regulations for the effective implementation and application of all the measures concerning the reforms of primary, secondary and tertiary education: - The reforms of the tertiary education system to

improve educational outcomes (primary legislation) on: a) enabling university degrees; b) university degree groups; c) reform of PhD programs; - The ministerial decrees for reform on scholarships to enhance access to tertiary education; - The reform on teaching profession; - The reforms of the primary and secondary education system to improve educational outcomes; - The legislation aimed at building a quality training system for school.

The reforms assessed are those outlined in the context section of the preliminary assessment fiche. For each reform, an assessment of the secondary acts and regulations adopted by Italy was conducted in order to determine whether they ensure an effective implementation and application of the relevant primary, secondary and tertiary legislation. In addition, the preliminary assessment fiche clearly assesses the link between the requirements of milestone's M4C1-10 requirements and the relevant reform(s).

The requirement concerning **"The reforms of the primary and secondary education system to improve educational outcomes"** refers to the reforms 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 2.1 and 2.2 as assessed below. In addition, the requirements regarding **"The reform on teaching profession"** and **"The legislation aimed at building a quality training system for school"** respectively refer to Reform 2.1 and Reform 2.2 as analysed below. Furthermore, the requirement concerning **"The ministerial decrees for reform on scholarships to enhance access to tertiary education"** refers to the remaining constitutive elements of target M4C1-11. Their implementation had already been assessed in the context of the prior milestone M4C1-2 and as such, given the combined reading of M4C1-2 and M4C1-11 requirements, did not require further implementation as regards the current assessment of M4C1-10.

Additionally, the requirement concerning **"The reforms of the tertiary education system to improve educational outcomes (primary legislation) on: a) enabling university degrees; b) university degree groups; c) reform of PhD programs"** refers to the reforms 1.5, 1.6 and 4.1, as assessed below.

Reform 1.2: Reform of the tertiary vocational training system (ITS)

The primary legislation of this reform was positively assessed in the context of milestone M4C1-5 under the third payment request. The assessed primary legislation concerning the tertiary vocational training systems was Law No 99 of 15 July 2022 on the reform of tertiary vocational training, published in the Official Journal No. 173 of 26 July 2022, which established a new governance system for tertiary vocational training system. It also establishes ITS Academies as entities providing tertiary vocational trainings.

- On the basis of Article 10(8) of Law 99/2022, the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 87 of 17 May 2023 was adopted and entered into force on 15 June 2023 in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of 18 June 2009. Article 1 of the Decree establishes the National Committee *"ITS Academy"* and defines its main tasks and objectives. Article 2 of the decree provides that this body is primarily in charge of coordinating the educational offers provided by ITS Academies and promoting national coordination of the various academies.
- On the basis of Article 6(2) and Article 5(2) of Law 99/2022, the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 88 of 17 May 2023 was adopted and entered into force on 1 September 2023 in accordance with Article 8 of the same ministerial Decree. The Annex to the Decree provides national guidelines to ITS Academies on the assessment of final exams envisaged to finalize the vocational trainings. Under article 2, it also defines the composition of the examination committees of the final exams.
- On the basis of Article 4(3) of Law 99/2022, the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry

of Education and Merit No 89 of 17 May 2023 was adopted and entered into force on -10 July 2023 in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of 18 June 2009. The primary legislation establishes a new legal regime for ITS Academy as participation foundations (*"Fondazioni di partecipazioni"*). With the aim of simplifying the functioning and the governance of tertiary vocational training system, Annex A to the decree provides for national guidelines for each ITS Academy to draft its statute scheme which ensure a coordinated approach at national level.

- On the basis of Article 7(2) of Law 99/2022, the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 191 of 4 October 2023 and entered into force on- 19 October 2023 in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of 18 June 2009. Article 4 of the decree establishes the requirements for the accreditation of ITS Academies and for them to be formally included within the tertiary vocational education (Article 3). Among other things,- to be recognized as such, ITS Academies have, at the very least, to be provided with a three-year training programme in a specific technological area. The decree designs a unique national reference framework expected to further expand the offer of the ITS at local level and improve the quality of the trainings.

- On the basis of Article 3 (paragraphs 1, 2 and 4) of Law 99/2022, the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 203 of 20 October 2023 was adopted and entered into force on -17 November 2023 in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of 18 June 2009. The decree establishes (i) the technological areas within which ITS Academies needs to operate (Article 2), (ii) national professional figures of reference (Article 3); (iii) minimum standards of skills for each professional figure (Article 3); (iv) types of awarded diplomas at the end of each vocational training (Article 7).

- On the basis of Article 3 (paragraphs 1 and 5) of Law 99/2022, the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 217 of 15 November 2023 was adopted and entered into force on -21 December 2023 in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of 18 June 2009. By defining the criteria for more than one ITS Academies to be established within the same province or region, Articles 3 and 4 the decree offers to each ITS the possibility to extend its technological areas and further support cooperation among the various bodies within the same territory.

- On the basis of Article 12(1), Article 13(2) and Article 13(1) of Law 99/2022, the Ministerial Decrees of the Ministry of Education and Merit No. 227, 228 and 229 were adopted, and respectively entered into force on 25 January 2024 (No 227) in accordance with Article 11(1) of the same ministerial decree and 29 December 2023 (No 228 and No 229) in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of 18 June 2009. These implementing decrees aim at ensuring the operationalization of the new ITS reformed system by i) establishing an ITS student register and an ITS national database, as well as by ii) defining a set of monitoring indicators of ITS training courses. On the basis of Article 13(2) of Law 99/2022, the Inter-Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit and the Ministry of University and Research No 235 of 5 December 2023 was adopted and entered into force on the 29 December 2023 in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of 18 June 2009. The decree establishes the indicators to monitor and evaluate ITS courses of level VI of the European Educational system. Overall, this set of implementing decrees reinforce the monitoring system of the reformed tertiary vocational training system.

- On the basis of Article 11(6) of Law 99/2022, the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 236 of 6 December 2023 was adopted and entered into force on the 12 January 2024 in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of 18 June 2009. The Article 9 of the decree allocates the financial resources to the national fund *"Fondo per l'istruzione tecnologica superiore"* to finance the training offer of the ITS Academies.

- On the basis of Article 11(1) of Law 99/2022, the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 237 of 6 December 2023 was adopted and entered into force on 2 February 2024 in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of 18 June 2009. Article 2 of the decree provides ITS Academies are required to establish a three-year program (educational offer) to access the resources of the national fund “*Fondo per l’istruzione tecnologica superiore*”.
- On the basis of Articles 4(10) and 8(2) of Law 99/2022, the Inter-Ministerial Decrees of the Ministry of Education and Merit and the Ministry of University and Research No 246 and 247 were adopted and entered into force on 12 January 2024 in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of 18 June 2009. The Annex to the first decree establishes the ITS qualifications needed to allow ITS graduates to access competition for technical-practical teachers in technical and professional secondary institutes. As established under Article 1 of the decree, the Decree No 247 defines the ITS system within the tertiary education system and its relation with the university system by, for example, establishing the criteria for a transition between professional university degrees and the diploma of ITS academies (Chapter II of the Decree).

Based on the justifications provided, the entry into force of all secondary legislation established the effective implementation and application of the primary legislation on tertiary vocational training systems. This is achieved through various Ministerial Decrees and Inter-Ministerial Decrees which provide detailed guidelines and requirements for the functioning and funding of ITS Academies and for the overall governance for tertiary vocational training systems. Overall, the secondary legislation complements the primary legislation, ensuring an effective operation of the tertiary vocational training systems.

Reform 1.3: Reorganisation of the school system

The primary legislation of this reform was positively assessed in the context of milestone M4C1-5 under the third payment request. The primary legislation consisted of Law No 234/2021 entered into force on 1 January 2022 and Ministerial Decree No 220 of 2022 on provisions regarding the ratio between pupils and teachers in primary and secondary schools. Moreover, Law No 197/2022, entered into force on 1 January 2023, specifies the effective parameters for identifying the educational institutions with a headmaster.

The effective implementation and application of all the measures concerning the reform on the reorganisation of the school system required the adoption of:

- Inter-Ministerial Decree No 220 of 8 August 2022, which was adopted and entered into force on 1 September 2022 in accordance with Article 32, paragraph 1, of Law No 69 of 18 June 2009. The decree defines the adjustment in classes with difficult socio-economic context (calculated through the ESCS Economic, Social and Cultural Status – index) and high levels of drop-out rates, maintaining the number of teaching staff unaltered via-a-vis the decreasing demographic trend, in line with the requirements of the Council Implementation Decision. This provision defines the indicators of economic, social and cultural status, the thresholds of these indicators and the parameters for classes composition.
- Inter-Ministerial Decree No 127 of 30 June 2023, which was adopted and entered into force on 25 July 2023 in accordance with Article 32, paragraph 1, of Law No 69 of 18 June 2009. The decree regulates the criteria for school sizing, which the regions apply for their respective school sizing plans. The reform provides for the definition at national level of the quota of posts for school managers and administrative directors among regions, which are constitutionally competent to design the network of schools with autonomy, on the basis of the number of pupils enrolled in the schools calculated at regional level, as well as the need to safeguard the specificities arising from the

institutions present in municipalities located in mountain areas, in small islands and in geographical areas characterised by linguistic specificities. The decree establishes the criteria for defining the organic quota of school managers and administrative directors of general and administrative services for academic years 2024/2025, 2025/2026, 2026/2027, taking into account the regional school population. On the basis of the allocated school locations, each region determines the respective school organisation plan, in compliance with the constitutional regulations.

Based on the justifications provided, the entry into force of all secondary legislation ensured the effective implementation and application of the primary legislation on Reform 1.3. This is achieved through two Inter-Ministerial Decrees which provide the framework and criteria to define the indicators of Economic, Social and Cultural status, to define the thresholds of those indicators, to define the parameters for the composition of the classes, and to allocate the school managers and administrative directors among Regions. Overall, the secondary legislation complements the primary legislation, ensuring an effective operation of the reorganisation of the school system.

Reform 1.4: Reform of the “Orientation” system

The primary legislation of this reform was positively assessed in the context of milestone M4C1-5 under the third payment request. The primary legislation consisted of the Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 328 of 22 December 2022 on provisions regarding the establishment of orientation courses of at least 30 hours for all secondary students (and particularly to fourth- and fifth-year students) to strengthen the link between primary and secondary cycles of education.

The effective implementation and application of all the measures concerning the reform on the orientation system required the adoption of:

Ministerial Decree No 184 of 15 September 2023, which was adopted and entered into force on 24 October 2023, in accordance with Article 32, paragraph 1, of Law No 69 of 18 June 2009. It provided for the introduction of orientation modules, amounting to at least 30 hours for the last three years of secondary school. Starting from the school year 2023/2024 these modules are compulsory. The teaching body is responsible for the planning of orientation paths, to be included in the school’s curriculum and to be set out in the three-year plan of the educational offer.

Ministerial Decree No. 63 of 5 April 2023, which was adopted and entered into force in accordance with Article 1, paragraph 561, of Law no. 197 of 29 December 2022. Article 6, paragraphs 1 and 2 of this decree provides that the school institution identifies the tutor teachers and the guidance teachers, and defines the criteria and framework for their placement/initiation.

Circular No 958 of 5 April 2023, which entered into force on 5 April 2023 in accordance with Article 32, paragraph 1 of Law No 69 of 18 June 2009, and concerns the concrete launch of measures for the implementation of the guidelines foreseen for the 2023/2024 school year and established by Ministerial Decree No 184 of 15 September 2023. In particular, this circular provides the detailed indications with reference to the school tutor in secondary school.

Circular No 2790 of 11 October 2023, which entered into force on 11 October 2023 in accordance with Article 32, paragraph 1 of Law No. 69 of 18 June 2009. It provides further detailed indications on the digital platform for the use of services made available to students.

Based on the justifications provided, the entry into force of all secondary legislation ensured the effective implementation and application of the primary legislation on Reform 1.4. This is achieved through various Ministerial Decrees and implementing circulars, which provide the framework and criteria to support the students transition towards labour market integration as well as to minimise the drop-out rate in tertiary education. Overall, the secondary legislation complements the primary legislation, ensuring an effective operation of the orientation system.

Reform 2.1: Teachers’ recruitment

The primary legislation of this reform was positively assessed in the context of milestone M4C1-3 under the second payment request. The assessed primary legislation was Decree Law No 36 of 30

April 2022, converted into Law No 79 of 29 June 2022, on the implementation of measures of the Italian recovery and resilience plan, including on education.

- On the basis of Law No 79 of 29 June 2022, the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministries (DPCM) of 4 August 2023 was adopted and entered into force on 10 October 2023 in accordance with Article 7 of the Decree of the President of Republic No 1092 of 28 December 1985. The DPCM defines the contents and structure of the various curricula (“*offerta formativa*”) of the initial training to become a secondary school teacher. As envisaged by the primary legislation, the new training system requires the acquisition of 60 European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) in pedagogical subjects and methodologies of teaching to be provided by universities to reinforce the skills of potential future teachers. Article 7 of the DPCM punctually defines the characteristics of the courses. In addition, as the primary legislation envisaged transitory arrangements for those potential candidates already in the system when the new system was put in place, Article 14 of the DPCM regulates these transitory arrangements. In addition, the Annexes of the DPCM define the contents of the courses and the skills requirements for the different types of candidates eligible to become teachers, namely: i) candidates who still have to complete the full 60ECTs of initial training (Annex 1); ii) teachers already in the system from more than 36 months with an open ended contract (Annex 2); iii) candidates to be hired within the transitory channels (Annexes 3, 4, 5).
- In addition, Ministerial Decree No 206 of 26 October 2023 defines the requirements and the procedures to launch annual public competitions, the contents and characteristics of tests, and the candidates’ skills to be evaluated. In doing so, the decree regulates all the annual competitions that will be launched to ensure the RRP targets of 70 000 new teachers hired or having successfully passed the public competition by 2026.
- On the basis of Article 44(1,h) of Decree Law No 36 of 30 April 2022 and converted into Law No 79 of 29 June 2022, the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 226 of 16 August 2022 was adopted and entered into force on 9 September 2022 in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of the 18 June 2009. The Italian school system envisages a one-year probationary period for those teachers having successfully passed a public competition to be permanently appointed. During the probationary period, teachers have to take part to training activities. Article 2 of the decree further identifies those teachers who should enrol in training activities during the first year of service. The decree punctually defines the skills that teachers need to acquire (Article 4(1)) via training and during their probation period. In addition, Article 5 of the decree defines the types of training activities during the probation period; Articles 13 and 14 of the decree provide for national guidelines to evaluate teachers’ achievements during the probation period.
- On the basis of Article 44(1,e) of Decree Law No 36 of 30 April 2022 and converted into Law No 79 of 29 June 2022, the Inter-Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit and Ministry of University and Research No 255 of 27 September 2022 was adopted and entered into force on 15 October 2022, in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of the 18 June 2009. The decree updates the typology of competition classes (“*classi di concorso*”) for the recruitment of secondary school teachers, which are defined by Table A, as indicated under Article 2 of the decree.
- On the basis of Article 44(1,d) of Decree Law No 36 of 30 April 2022 and converted into Law No 79 of 29 June 2022, the Inter-Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit and Ministry of University and Research No 256 of 28 December 2023 was adopted and entered into force on 22 January 2024 in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of the 18 June 2009. Decree 256/2023 defines the quota of tutors for each secondary schools (Article 2) and the criteria to select them (Article

3). As defined by Article 12 of Decree No 256/2023, teachers covering the position of tutors are expected to follow and support newly recruited teachers during their probationary year.

- On the basis of Article 16-ter (4) of Legislative Decree No 59 of 13 April 2017, the Inter-Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit and Ministry of University and Research No 260 was adopted and entered into force on 9 March 2024 in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of the 18 June 2009. Article 44 (1.i) of Decree Law No 36 of 30 April 2022 establishes a system of training for teachers articulated in three-year cycles, as detailed in the Commission's preliminary assessment of milestone M4C1-3 within the second payment request. The Inter-Ministerial Decree No 260/2023 defines the methods to evaluate the skills and knowledge developed by teachers after having completed the three-year training courses, as part of the so-called "formazione continua incentivata".
- This sub-part of Reform 2.1 is closely linked to the activities of the "School" as established under Reform 2.2, being the body in charge of the coordination and provision of trainings to all the school staff, including teachers. Therefore, the additional secondary acts related to the start of teachers' trainings and the organization of the continuous professional development are assessed under the Reform 2.2 section of the fiche.

Based on the justifications provided, the entry into force of all secondary legislation established the effective implementation and application of the primary legislation on Reform 2.1. This is achieved through various Ministerial Decrees and Inter-Ministerial Decrees which provide the framework and criteria to improve the recruitment system and to enhance the qualification for the access to the teaching profession, as well as to reinforce the teachers' continuous professional development.

Reform 2.2 - Tertiary advanced school and compulsory training for school managers, teachers, administrative and technical staff

The primary legislation of this reform was positively assessed in the context of milestone M4C1-6 under the third payment request. The assessed primary legislation was Decree Law No 36/2022 of 30 April 2022, converted into Law No 79 of 29 June 2022, on the implementation of measures of the Italian recovery and resilience plan, including on education. While the name of the reform is not directly mentioned under milestone M4C1-10, the part of the milestone description "*The legislation aimed at building a quality training system for school*" refers to Reform 2.2 as indicated in the reform description and milestone, and as assessed in the context of milestone M4C1-6. The reform establishes the "school" aimed at supervising and coordinating training for school staff.

- On the basis of Article 44 (1,i) of the Decree Law No 36 of 30 April 2022 on urgent measures to implement the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education No 255 of 27 September 2022 was adopted and entered into force on 11 February 2024 in accordance with Decree Interministerial Decree No. 255 of 22 December 2023. The decree defines the functioning (Article 1) and the responsibilities of the School's general direction ("Direzione Generale") (Article 2).
- On the basis of Article 44 (1,i) of Decree Law No 36 of 30 April 2022, the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education No 277 of 19 October 2022 was adopted and entered into force on the 25 Novemb in accordance with Article 32(1) of Law No 69 of the 18 June 2009. Article 1 of the decree provides the guidelines for the "School" to assess and evaluate trainings provided to teachers enrolled in the continuous trainings.
- The Annex to the Decision No 3 of 27 December 2023 of the National Committee of the "School" establishes the contents of the trainings of the school staff, including

teachers, technical and administrative staff and school managers. The Annex also identifies the skills and the trainings objectives to be reached by teachers to foster their continuous trainings. As mentioned above, this Decision is also relevant to ensure the full implementation of the sub-part iv) of the Reform 2.1 concerning the establishment of a functioning continuous training system for teachers.

- Similarly, the Annex to the Decision No 4 of 27 December 2023 defines the contents and the objectives of teachers' compulsory trainings.
- As trainings to school staff can be offered by a set of accredited institutions, the Decision of the "School" No 258 of 30 December 2023 defines the criteria and requirements for the institutions to be formally accredited.
- Finally, in order to ensure the functioning of the "School", the President of the School, the Members of the "Comitato d'indirizzo", the Members of the School's scientific committee and the Director of the general directorate of the School were appointed through, respectively, Decree of the President of Council of Ministries of 28 June 2023, Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No 141 of 14 July 2023, Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No. 160 of 3 August 2023, and Decree of the President of Council of Ministries of 8 September 2023.

Based on the justifications provided, the entry into force of all secondary legislation and all necessary regulations established the effective implementation and application of the primary legislation aimed at building a quality training for school. In addition, the secondary legislation assessed under this section also contributes to the full implementation of the primary law concerning the sub-part of the Reform 2.1 concerning the enhancement of continuous training for teachers.-

Reform 1.5: University Degree Groups reform

The primary legislation of this reform was positively assessed in the context of milestone M4C1-1 under the first payment request. To recall, Article 14 (comma 1) of Decree-law No. 152/2021 added the reference to the promotion of interdisciplinarity of university courses by reserving a part of the credits to courses or activities related to the basic knowledge of those degree groups.

The effective implementation of Article 14, comma 1 of Decree-law No. 152/2021 required the modification of rules on universities' teaching autonomy, contained in Ministerial Decree No. 270 of 22 October 2004 setting the rules on universities' teaching autonomy, which took place through Ministerial Decree No. 96 of 6 June 2023 that implemented such modifications. In addition, the concept of interdisciplinarity in university curricula included with Decree No 96/2023 required an update to university degree groups (one group for bachelor's and another one for master's and master's with a unique cycle), as well as an update to university teaching regulations.

This consisted of the entry into force of four pieces of secondary legislation:

- **Ministerial Decree No 96 of 6 June 2023**, which entered into force on 11 August 2023 in accordance with Article 10 of Royal decree No 262 of 16 March 1942. This decree modified and added provisions to Ministerial Decree No 270 of 22 October 2004 on rules governing teaching regulations of universities. For example, Article 1, comma 1b) added a general reference to the university degrees' aim to provide knowledge and professionalizing tools that can be immediately practiced; and Article 1, comma 1d,5) added a general reference to university degrees' requirement to offer courses or other activities related to interdisciplinarity. In particular, the decree provides for the following provisions to be added in the updated university regulations:
 - Article 1, comma 1c) on the possibility for students to obtain university

credits in other Italian universities based on shared agreements;

- Article 1, commas 1d,2) and 1d,4) on credits reserved for courses and scientific-disciplinary activities for bachelor's and master's;
- Article, comma 1e) added the possibility for students to create individual study plans consistent with their degree group.

- **92 Rectoral Decrees approving university regulations:** with these decrees the Rectors approved each of the 92 updated university teaching regulations, in accordance with Article 2 (comma 1) of Ministerial Decree No 96/2023, which required universities to update their teaching regulations by 30 November 2023. Italy provided a document with a link to each updated university's regulation and the corresponding date of entry into force through Rectoral decree. These university regulations entered into force between November 2023 and March 2024 according to Article 11(1) of Law No 341/1990. In updating their regulations, universities followed the guidelines that the Ministry sent to each university through the Note from the General Directorate of higher education regulations and the right to education of MUR No 17702 of 5 October 2023. The note requires university regulations to implement:
 - Article 5, comma 5-bis of Ministerial decree No. 270/2004 as modified by art. 1, comma 1c) of ministerial decree No. 96/2023 on credits assigned in other Italian universities;
 - art. 10, commas 2-bis and 4-bis of Ministerial decree No 270/2004 as modified by Article 1, commas 1d,2) and 1d,4) of Ministerial Decree No 96/2023 on flexibility of study courses for bachelor's and master's degrees;
 - Article 11, comma 4-bis of Ministerial Decree No 270/2004 as modified by Article 1, comma 1e) of Ministerial Decree No 96/2023 on individual study plans;
 - In addition, the Note provides that all university regulations' provisions that contrast with any provision in Ministerial Decree No 96/2023 shall be deleted.
- **Ministerial Decree No 1648 of 19 December 2023**, which entered into force on 20 December 2023 in accordance with standard national provisions: this decree (Article 1, comma 1 and attachment) identified and defined bachelor's degree groups ('*Classi di laurea*'), as disciplined by Article 4, comma 2, of Ministerial Decree No 270 of 22 October 2004 following the changes set out by Ministerial Decree No 96/2023.
- **Ministerial Decree No 1649 of 19 December 2023**, which entered into force on 30 December 2023 in accordance with standard national provisions: this decree (Article 1, comma 1, and attachment) identified and defined master's ('*Classi di Laurea Magistrale*') and master's with unique cycle ('*Classi di laurea Magistrali a Ciclo Unico*') degree groups, as established by Article 4, comma 2, of Ministerial Decree No 270 of 22 October 2004 following the changes set out by Ministerial Decree No 96/2023.

Based on the justifications provided, the entry into force of all secondary legislation and all necessary regulations established the effective implementation and application of the reform on university degree groups.

Reform 1.6: Enabling University Degrees reform

The primary legislation of this reform was positively assessed in the context of milestone M4C1-1 under the first payment request. The primary legislation consisted of Law No 163 of 8 November 2021 on provisions regarding enabling university degrees.

The effective implementation of Law No. 163/2021 required the adoption of:

- **Four Interministerial Decrees**, each setting the enabling nature, the traineeship standards, the final exam, and the updated degree group (in accordance with art. 3 (2) and art. 7(2), specifically for psychologists, of Law No. 163/2021) of the degrees for dentists, pharmacists, veterinarians, psychologists (as defined in art. 1(1) of Law No. 163/2021), and the inclusion of traineeship credits gained in the corresponding

bachelor's degree to be considered eligible for the post-master's enabling final exam for the profession of psychologists (in accordance with art. 1(3) of law No. 163/2021);

- **Three Interministerial Decrees**, each setting the enabling nature, the traineeship standards, the final exam and the evaluating body's composition, as well as the updated degree group (in accordance with art. 3, comma 2, of Law No. 163/2021) of the degrees for construction and land technical professions, agricultural, food, and forestry technical professions, and industrial and information technical professions (as defined in art. 2, comma 1, of Law No. 163/2021);
- **Five Interministerial Decrees**, each setting the simplified procedures in the transitory regime for the students whose state exam was necessary according to previous legislation (in accordance with art. 6, comma 2, of Law No. 163/2021) for the master's degrees for dentists, pharmacists, veterinarians, and psychologists;
- **Three Interministerial Decrees**, each setting the simplified procedures in the transitory regime for the students whose state exam was necessary according to previous legislation (in accordance with art. 6, comma 2, of Law No. 163/2021) for construction and land technical professions, agricultural, food, and forestry technical professions, and industrial and information technical professions;
- **92 Rectoral Decrees**, each approving the corresponding updated university regulation modifying the enabling nature of the degrees defined in art. 1(12) and 2(1) of Law No. 163/2021 (in accordance with art. 3, comma 3, of Law No. 163/2021).

To comply with the adoption of the aforementioned secondary acts required in primary law, Italy adopted specifically these corresponding five pieces of secondary legislation:

- **Four Interministerial Decrees**
- Interministerial decree No. 651 of 5 July 2022, which entered into force on 29 December 2022 (day after its publication on the Official Journal, as per standard national provisions), on the profession of pharmacists: setting the enabling nature (art. 1), the traineeship standards (art. 2), the final exam (art. 3), and the updated degree group (art. 4);
- Interministerial decree No. 652 of 5 July 2022, which entered into force on 29 December 2022 (day after its publication on the Official Journal, as per standard national provisions), on the profession of veterinarians: setting the enabling nature (art. 1), the traineeship standards (art. 2), the final exam (art. 3), and the updated degree group (art. 4);
- Interministerial decree No. 653 of 5 July 2022, which entered into force on 29 December 2022 (day after its publication on the Official Journal, as per standard national provisions), on the profession of dentists: setting the enabling nature (art. 1), the traineeship standards (art. 2), the final exam (art. 3), and the updated degree group (art. 4);
- Interministerial decree No. 654 of 5 July 2022, which entered into force on 29 December 2022 (day after its publication on the Official Journal, as per standard national provisions), on the profession of psychologists: setting the enabling nature (art. 1), the traineeship standards (art. 2), the final exam (art. 3), and the updated degree group (art. 4). In addition, it included traineeship credits gained in the corresponding bachelor's degree to be considered eligible for the post-master's enabling final exam for the profession of psychologists (art. 5).

- **Three Interministerial Decrees**
- Interministerial decree n. 682 of 24 May 2023, which entered into force on 13 August 2023 (day after its publication on the Official Journal, as per standard national provisions), on construction and land technical professions: setting the enabling nature (art. 1), the traineeship standards (art. 2), the final exam and the evaluating body's

composition (art. 3), as well as the updated degree group (art. 4);

- Interministerial decree n. 683 of 24 May 2023, which entered into force on 11 August 2023 (day after its publication on the Official Journal, as per standard national provisions), on agricultural, food, and forestry technical professions: setting the enabling nature (art. 1), the traineeship standards (art. 2), the final exam and the evaluating body's composition (art. 3), as well as the updated degree group (art. 4);

- Interministerial decree n. 684 of 24 May 2023, which entered into force on 13 August 2023 (day after its publication on the Official Journal, as per standard national provisions), on industrial and information technical professions: setting the enabling nature (art. 1), the traineeship standards (art. 2), the final exam and the evaluating body's composition (art. 3), as well as the updated degree group (art. 4).

- **Five Interministerial Decrees:**

- Interministerial decrees n. 554 of 6 June 2022 and n. 567 of 20 June 2022, which entered into force on 26 March 2023 and on 24 November 2022, respectively (day after their publication on the Official Journal, as per standard national provisions), on simplified procedures in the transitory regime for students enrolled in the enabling degree, based on previous provisions, for psychologists who concluded their post-degree traineeship (decree n. 554/2022, art. 1) and for those who had not yet (decree n. 567/2022, art. 1).

- Interministerial decree n. 568 of 20 June 2022, which entered into force on 24 November 2022 (day after its publication on the Official Journal, as per standard national provisions), on simplified procedures in the transitory regime for students enrolled in the enabling degree, based on previous provisions, for dentists (art. 1).

- Interministerial decree n. 569 of 20 June 2022, which entered into force on 24 November 2022 (day after its publication on the Official Journal, as per standard national provisions), on simplified procedures in the transitory regime for students enrolled in the enabling degree, based on previous provisions, for veterinarians (art. 1).

- Interministerial decree n. 570 of 20 June 2022, which entered into force on 24 November 2022 (day after its publication on the Official Journal, as per standard national provisions), on simplified procedures in the transitory regime for students enrolled in the enabling degree, based on previous provisions, for pharmacists (art. 1).

- **Three Interministerial Decrees:**

- Interministerial decree n. 685 of 24 May 2023, which entered into force on 11 August 2023 (day after its publication on the Official Journal, as per standard national provisions), on simplified procedures for sitting the state exam for students enrolled in the enabling degree, based on previous provisions, for construction and land technical professions (art. 1)

- Interministerial decree n. 686 of 24 May 2023, which entered into force on 12 August 2023 (day after its publication on the Official Journal, as per standard national provisions), on simplified procedures for sitting the state exam for students enrolled in the enabling degree, based on previous provisions, for agricultural, food, and forestry technical professions (art. 1)

- Interministerial decree n. 687 of 24 May 2023, which entered into force on 12 August 2023 (day after its publication on the Official Journal, as per standard national provisions), on simplified procedures for sitting the state exam for students enrolled in the enabling degree, based on previous provisions, for industrial and information technical professions (art. 1).

- **92 Rectoral Decrees approving university regulations:** with these decrees the

Rectors approved each of the 92 updated university teaching regulations. Italy provided a document with a link to each updated university's regulation and the corresponding date of entry into force through Rectoral decree. These university regulations entered into force between November 2023 and July 2023 according to according to art. 11(1) of law n. 341/1990.

Based on the justifications provided, the entry into force of all secondary legislation and all necessary regulations established the effective implementation and application of the reform enabling university degrees. This was achieved through a series of Inter-ministerial Decrees and Rectoral Decrees, which catered for various sectors and professions and created a comprehensive regulatory framework for enabling university degrees, effectively implementing the primary legislation.

Reform 4.1: Ph.D. Programmes Reform

The primary legislation of this reform was positively assessed in the context of milestone M4C1-1 under the first payment request. The primary legislation consisted of Ministerial Decree No 1315 of 14 December 2021 on updates to universities' PhD regulations, which entered into force on 14 January 2022 according to Article 10 of Royal Decree No 262 of 16 March 1942.

The effective implementation and application of all the measures concerning the reform of PhD programs fully entered into force with Ministerial Decree No 1315/2021, which replaced the previous regulation on PhD programs, and with one additional piece of secondary legislation required by such decree:

- Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Education and Merit No. 226 of 14 December 2021, which was adopted and entered into force following its publication in the Official Journal in accordance with the provisions laid out in Law No. 107 of 13 July 2015 regulates the adoption of necessary regulations by all universities concerned. This decree disciplines the modalities for the accreditation of PhD courses and criteria for the establishment of PhD courses by accredited bodies.
- **95 Rectoral Decrees approving PhD regulations:** with these decrees the Rectors approved each of the 95 updated university PhD regulations, in accordance with Article 17, comma 3, of Ministerial Decree No 1315/2021. Italy provided a document with a link to each updated PhD regulation and the corresponding date of entry into force through Rectoral decree. These PhD regulations entered into force between January 2022 and July 2023 according to Article 2, comma 1 (letter e) of Law No 240/201 and Article 6(6) of Law No 168/1989.

Based on the justifications provided, the entry into force of the necessary regulations established the effective implementation and application of the Ph.D. Programmes reform. Among the 99 legally recognized institutions in the Italian system, 4 universities do not have active PhD programs. Because of this, they are not covered by the requirement of updating PhD regulations as these are not considered as necessary regulations. In particular, the Rectoral Decrees approving PhD regulations ensured that all provisions included in relevant decrees were examined as properly reflecting the content and were implemented in all regulations submitted before their approval by Rectoral Decree.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M4C1-11	M4C1-11, Related Measure: Investment 1.7 - Scholarships for University access		
Name of the Target: University scholarship awarded			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 0	Target: 55 000	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context:</p> <p>The investment aims to provide equal access to education, by increasing the number of scholarships provided to university students under the RRF support and easing access to tertiary education for students in socio-economic difficulties.</p> <p>Target M4C1-11 aims at awarding at least 55 000 students with scholarships financed exclusively by the RRF.</p> <p>Target M4C1-11 is the second step of the implementation of investment 1.7. It follows the completion of milestone M4C1-2 related to the establishment of the reform on scholarships to enhance access to tertiary education, which defined the scholarship amounts increase and provided for ISEE limits increase to allow a wider range of students to meet the requirements to apply for the scholarship. It will be followed by targets M4C1-15 and M4C1-15bis which aim at further awarding respectively at least other 55 000 students with scholarships financed exclusively by the RRF.</p>			
<p>Evidence provided:</p> <p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the target milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled; ii. Directorial Decree no. 1963 of 6 December 2022 allocating the resources of “Fondo Integrativo Statale” among the regions and their respective study right bodies; iii. Directorial Decree no. 1973 of 6 December 2022 allocating the resources of “REACT-EU” among the regions and their respective study right bodies (“organismi per il diritto allo studio”); iv. Directorial Decree no. 1974 of 6 December 2022 allocating RRF resources among the regions and their respective study right bodies; v. Directorial Decree no. 193 of 21 February 2023 establishing the granting of Recovery and Resilience Facility (hereafter RRF) funds; vi. Directorial Decree no. 1794 of 26 October 2023 establishing the redistribution of residual RRF resources; vii. Summary of monitoring data by funding line (FIS – Fondo Integrativo Statale, REACT-EU, RRF) and list of 58 303 students awarded RRF scholarships as of November 2023. <p>In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence was provided for a sample of 60 units including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> viii. Call of the respective study right body for the student concerned; ix. Application for the scholarship award of the student concerned; x. The ranking and related acts (i.e., any updates of the rankings, certificates of publication of rankings) approving the scholarship which certifies the awarding of the scholarship to the university student concerned, as well as the supporting documents (provisions, decrees, etc.) which allow the student to be associated with the RRF as exclusive source of funding. 			
<p>Analysis:</p> <p>The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the target.</p> <p>At least 55 000 students are awarded with scholarships financed exclusively by RRF funds.</p>			

Furthermore, in line with the description of measure, **“This measure is complemented by React-EU which is expected to fund 13 000 scholarships for university access for the year 2023 in Southern Regions.”**

- Article 2, paragraph 1 of Directorial Decree no. 1963 of December 2022 allocates the resources of *“Fondo Integrativo Statale”* among the regions and their respective study right bodies. Article 2, paragraph 1 of Directorial Decree no. 1973 of 6 December 2022 allocates the resources of *“PON REACT-EU”* among the regions and their respective study right bodies. *“PON”* (Piano Operativo Nazionale, National Operational Plan) is an intervention plan financed with React-EU resources. For this measure, it concerns the funding of 13 000 scholarships for university access for the year 2023 in southern Italian regions. Article 2 paragraph 1 of Directorial Decree no. 1974 of 6 December 2022 allocates RRF resources among the regions and their respective study right bodies, which are the bodies designed to provide support (including scholarships) to students with difficult socio-economic background.- In line with the requirements of the Annex to the Council Implementing Decision, scholarships are funded entirely by RRF funds as proven by the allocation of resources to the regions through 3 separate Directorial Decrees for the different funding lines (RRF, React-EU and FIS). Such resources are then allocated to the study right bodies with separate and traceable transfers. This is also demonstrated by a dedicated digital portal set up by the Ministry of University and Research within which the study right bodies transmit the monitoring and reporting data with respect to the use of the financial resources earmarked for the disbursement of scholarships. Such portal requires to include for each student: personal data, the amount of the scholarship received and the dedicated source of funding. Also, all acts and measures adopted that can trace the individual student back to a single source of funding are included in a dedicated section of the portal. With respect to the possibility of co-funding of a single scholarship from different funding lines, the Ministry of University and Research has clearly instructed the study right bodies to attribute each student exclusively to one source of funding. In order to account for the amounts allocated, each study right body must provide the Ministry of University and Research with acts and measures certifying for each individual student the amount of the grant awarded, each disbursement transferred to the student and the source of funding with which it is associated. Finally, this is also demonstrated by the evidence presented for the sampling exercise, i.e., the ranking list approving the scholarship which certifies the awarding of the scholarship to the university student concerned, as well as the provision approving the ranking which allows the student to be associated with the RRF as exclusive source of funding.
- Article 1 paragraph 2 of Directorial Decree no. 193 of 21 February 2023 assigns RRF resources to the individual study right bodies. Article 2 paragraph 1 of Directorial Decree no. 1794 of 26 October 2023 allocates the residual RRF resources, in light of a reporting process communicated by the regions to ensure a full coverage rate of eligible students. Monitoring data collected by the reporting bodies prove that study right bodies have adopted the relevant calls for applications for scholarships and that at the end of the selection procedures, these bodies have approved the relevant rankings with the allocation of financial resources to selected students. The monitoring data acquired by the implementing bodies also report a number of scholarships after the selection procedures equal to the summary by funding line (FIS, React-EU, RRF) and specifically of 58 303 students awarded RRF scholarships. The summary data monitored are divided by study right body and by different source of funding. This is due to the fact that the 3 different decrees governing the allocation of resources per funding line (Directorial Decree no. 1963 of 6 December 2022 allocating the resources of *“Fondo Integrativo Statale”*, Directorial Decree no. 1973 of 6 December 2022 allocating the resources of *“PON REACT-EU”*, Directorial Decree no. 1974 of 6 December 2022 allocating RRF resources) are subsequently followed by the respective granting to the study right bodies through separate and dedicated transfers. Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, Italy submitted for each student awarded with a scholarship the following document: (i) the ranking and related acts (i.e., any updates of the rankings, certificates of publication of

rankings) approving the scholarship which certifies the awarding of the scholarship to the university student concerned, as well as (ii) the supporting documents (provisions, decrees, etc.) which allow the student to be associated with the RRF as exclusive source of funding. Moreover, Italy also provided the call of the respective study right body and the application for the scholarship award of the student concerned. These documents confirmed that all students were awarded with scholarships financed exclusively by RRF funds. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirements of the target have been met, *thus exceeding the goal of 55 000 by 3303*.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M4C2-5	M4C2-5, Related Measure: Investment 1.1: Research Projects of Significant National Interest (PRIN)		
Name of the Target: Number of research projects awarded			
Quantitative Indicator: Number	Baseline: 0	Target: 3 150	Time: Q4 2023
Context:			
<p>Investment 1.1 has the objective of financing research projects of major national interest (PRIN). These projects, that have a duration of at least two years and require the collaboration of research units belonging to different universities and/or research bodies, shall be selected by the Ministry of University and Research on the basis of the quality of the scientific profile of those responsible, as well as the originality, methodological appropriateness, impact and feasibility of the research project. This investment shall stimulate the development of research-led initiatives towards frontier research and a stronger interaction between universities and research institutions.</p> <p>Target M4C2-5 concerns the award of contracts (financing decrees) for at least 3 150 research projects.</p> <p>Target M4C2-5 is the first step in the implementation of Investment 1.1, and it will be followed by target M4C2-6 due by Q2 2025 concerning the award of contracts for at least 5 350 projects and target M4C2-7 due by Q2 2025 concerning the hiring of at least 900 researchers.</p>			
Evidence provided:			
<p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled in line with the requirements set out in the Council Implementing Decision; ii. Directorial Decree n. 104 of 2 February 2022 “Bando PRIN 2022” (call for projects) and its link on the Ministry’s website: https://www.mur.gov.it/it/atti-e-normativa/decreto-direttoriale-n-104-del-02-02-2022. Directorial Decree n. 104 of 2 February 2022 include the following annexes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annex 1 - European Research Council (hereafter referred as “ERC”) research sectors; ▪ Annex 2 - Criteria for the determination and reporting of the costs; ▪ Annex 3 - Selection procedure and the award criteria; ▪ Annex 4 - Guidelines for the auditors; ▪ Annex 5 - Guidelines for the evaluation committees; iii. Directorial Decrees awarding the projects n. 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974 of 30 June 2023, n. 1015, 1016, 1017 of 7 July 2023, n.1048 of 14 July 2023, n.1060 of 17 July 2023, n. 1064 and 1065 of 18 July 2023, n.1079 of 19 July 2023, n. 1109, 1110, 1111 of 20 July 2023, n. 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436 of 13 September 2023, and n.1672 of 4 October 2023 published on the Ministry’s website at the following link: https://www.mur.gov.it/it/atti-e-normativa/decreti-di-ammissione-al-finanziamento-bando- 			

[prin-2022-decreto-direttoriale-n-104.](#)

Each decree includes the following annexes:

- Annex A detailing the list of the awarded projects;
- Annex B including the template of the contract to be signed by the successful tenderers;
- Annex C detailing the costs and co-funding plans for each project as well as the research units and the university or research institution;
- Annex D including the list of the Unique Project Codes (CUPs) as well as the research units and the university or research institution.

The authorities also provided:

- iv. Directorial Decrees approving the rankings of the projects n. 708 of 24 May 2023, n. 716, 718, 719, 722 of 25 May 2023, n. 736 and 739 of 9 May 2023, n. 742 of 30 May 2023, n. 746 of 31 May 2023, n. 752 of 1 June 2023, n. 764 and 766 of 5 June 2023, n. 768 of 6 June 2023, n. 834 of 13 June 2023, n. 857 of 15 June 2023, n. 861 and 862 of 16 June 2023, n. 875 of 19 June 2023, n. 901 of 21 June 2023, n. 926 of 22 June 2023, n. 947 of 26 June 2023, n. 953 of 28 June 2023, n. 978, 977, 976 of 3 July 2023, n. 1010 of 5 July 2023, n. 1012 of 6 July 2023.
- v. Directorial Decrees n.1026 of 11 July 2023, n. 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350 of 25 August 2023, n.1618 of 26 September 2023, n. 925 of 22 June 2023, n. 992 of 4 July 2023, n. 1326 of 10 August 2023 and n.1331 of 17 August 2023, partially amending the ranking lists and correcting some clerical errors;
- vi. Directorial Decree n. 1580 of 15 October 2022, as modified and integrated by Directorial Decree n. 490 of 7 April 2023, detailing the evaluation activity of the PRIN Call 2022.
- vii. Table listing the number of research units financed under each ERC research sector – Tabella di Raccordo (Annex 8).

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

- **“Award of at least 3 150 Progetti di Ricerca di Interesse Nazionale research projects.”:**
 - 3 753 Research Projects of National Interests (hereafter referred as “PRIN”) were awarded funding through the call for projects No. 104 of 2 February 2022 “Bando PRIN 2022”, as evidenced by the decrees awarding the projects (Directorial Decrees n. 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974 of 30 June 2023, n. 1015, 1016, 1017 of 7 July 2023, n.1048 of 14 July 2023, n. 1060 of 17 July 2023, n. 1064 and 1065 of 18 July 2023, n. 1079 of 19 July 2023, n. 1109, 1110, 1111 of 20 July 2023, n. 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436 of 13 September 2023 and n.1672 of 4 October 2023). Each decree focuses on a specific European Research Council (ERC) research sector (all the projects belong to three ERC Marco-sectors indicated in the Call for Projects Directorial Decree n. 104 of 2 February 2022 “Bando PRIN 2022”, namely Life Sciences – LS, Physical Sciences and Engineering - PE, and Social Sciences and Humanities - SH). The above-mentioned Directorial Decrees have been published on the Ministry’s Website on 7 August 2023 and therefore they have entered into force as required by the target, in line with the national legal framework.
- **"The award of the contracts to the projects selected under the competitive calls for proposals shall be made in compliance with the 'Do no significant harm' Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01) through the use of an exclusion list and the requirement of**

compliance with the relevant EU and national environmental legislation”. Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure, in order to ensure that the measure complies with the ‘Do no significant harm’ Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01), the eligibility criteria contained in terms of reference for upcoming calls for projects shall exclude the following list of activities: (i) activities related to fossil fuels, including downstream use; (ii) activities under the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) achieving projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not lower than the relevant benchmarks; (iii) activities related to waste landfills, incinerators and mechanical biological treatment plants; and (iv) activities where the long-term disposal of waste may cause harm to the environment. The terms of reference shall additionally require that only activities that comply with relevant EU and national environmental legislation are eligible to be selected:

- The Council Implementing Decision required that the launch of all competitive calls shall be done with terms of reference including eligibility criteria that ensure that the selected projects comply with the ‘Do no significant harm’ Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01) through the use of an exclusion list and the requirement of compliance with the relevant EU and national environmental legislation. Art. 3 of Directorial Decree No. 1 580 of 14 October 2022, applicable to the open call No. 104 of 2 February 2022 (Art. 1 of Directorial Decree No. 1 580 of 14 October 2022), specifies that the compliance with the “Do-Not-Significant-Harm” principle was an eligibility criterion of the projects. However, the exclusion list set out in the Council Implementing Decision and the requirement of compliance with the relevant EU and national environmental legislation were not included in the call. However, according to Article 4 of the decree approving the ranking list and Article 3 of the template of the grant agreement, the respect of the DNSH exclusion list and of the relevant EU and National environmental legislation has been included as a specific condition to be respected by implementing bodies during project implementation, specifying that in case of non-compliance funds will be recovered. Whilst the lack of these conditions in the call constitutes a minimal substantive deviation from the requirement of the Council Implementing Decision, it does not change the nature of the measure and does not affect the progress towards the achievement of the investment that the milestone represents given that compliance with the exclusion list and the relevant EU and National environmental legislation is ensured during projects implementation. On this basis, it is considered that this constitutive element of the milestone is satisfactorily fulfilled.

• **Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure “the projects shall have a duration of at least two years, and require the collaboration of research units belonging to universities and research bodies”.**

- Art. 1 comma 2 of the Directorial Decree n. 104 of 2 February 2022 “Bando PRIN 2022” (call for projects) specifies that the programme PRIN finances biannual projects and that the research group of each project shall be composed of at least two research units belonging to different universities and research bodies. Through the abovementioned awarding decrees, a total of 3 753 projects has been financed, corresponding to 10 108 research units (Annex VIII “Tabella di Raccordo” summarises the number of research units for each European Research Council –ERC – sector).

• **Furthermore, in line with the description of the measure “funded projects shall be selected by the Ministry of University and Research on the basis of the quality of the**

scientific profile of those responsible, as well as the originality, methodological appropriateness, impact and feasibility of the research project. This type of activity shall stimulate the development of research-led initiatives towards frontier research and a stronger interaction between universities and research institutions”.

- Art.1 Comma 3 of the Directorial Decree n. 104 of 2 February 2022 “Bando PRIN 2022” (call for projects) establishes that the guiding principles of the PRIN projects are the high quality of the scientific profile of the Principal Investigators (PI) and of those belonging to its research unit as well as the innovativeness, methodological accuracy, impact and overall feasibility of the research project.
- The projects were selected by evaluation committees nominated by the Ministry of University and Research (Art. 6 of Directorial Decree n.104 of 2 February 2022 “Bando PRIN 2022”), based on the following award criteria indicated in Annex 3 (“Selection procedure and award criteria”) to the Directorial Decree n. 104 of 2 February 2022: quality of the project proposal, based on the scientific merit, innovativeness, clarity and originality of the project objectives and methodological appropriateness of the research proposal, scientific merit of the research group, feasibility, adequacy of the financing request and a set of criteria to assess the impact of the project.
- In addition, Annex 5 (Guidelines for the evaluation committees) to the Directorial Decree n. 104 of 2 February 2022 indicates that the scope of the PRIN programme is to finance public research project to promote the national research system and to strengthen the links between universities and research institutions as well as increasing the national participation to EU research initiatives. By requiring the collaboration of different research units belonging to different research institutions and by financing projects that are evaluated also on the basis of the scientific excellence of the research group and on the innovativeness and positioning of the project with respect to the state-of-the-art research in a given scientific area, the PRIN programme stimulates the development of research-led initiative towards frontier research and a stronger interaction between universities and research institutions.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M5C3-3	M5C3-3, Related Measure: Investment 2: Territorial proximity health facilities		
Name of the Target: Support to rural pharmacies in municipalities, hamlets, or settlements of less than 5 000 inhabitants (first batch)			
Qua/A	Baseline: 0	Target: 500	Time: Q4 2023
<p>Context: The investment aims to provide financial support to rural pharmacies to consolidate their role in the provision of health to local populations. Target M5C3-3 aims at providing support to 500 pharmacies located in in municipalities, hamlets or settlements of less than 5 000 inhabitants. Target M5C3-3 is the first step in the implementation of the investment 1.2. It will be followed by target M5C3-4 which aims at further extending the support to rural pharmacies, reaching 2 000 ones by Q2 2026.</p>			

Evidence provided:

In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:

- i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled;
- iv. Law No 221 of 8 March 1968 published in the Official Journal No 80 of 27 March 1968 on the definition of the rural pharmacies;
- v. Public Notice of 28/12/2021 (hereinafter referred as “Public Notice 2021”), as published on the website of the Territorial Cohesion Agency on the provision of financial support to rural pharmacies;
- vi. Decree of the Director General (DDG) of the Territorial Cohesion Agency No. 305 of 28 December 2021 approving the Public Notice 2021;
- v. Awarding Decrees of the Director General (DDG) of the Territorial Cohesion Agency allocating financial resources to rural pharmacies as defined by Law No 221 of 8 March 1968. The Awarding Decree are the following:
 - a. Awarding Decree of the Director of the Territorial Cohesion Agency No 166 of 18 May 2022;
 - b. Awarding Decree of the Director of the Territorial Cohesion Agency No 179 of 27 May 2022;
 - c. Awarding Decree of the Director of the Territorial Cohesion Agency No 259 of 2 August 2022;
 - d. Awarding Decree of the Director of the Territorial Cohesion Agency No 291 of 14 September 2022;
 - e. Awarding Decree of the Director of the Territorial Cohesion Agency No 360 of 7 November 2022;
 - f. Awarding Decree of the Director of the Territorial Cohesion Agency No 427 of 29 November 2022;
 - g. Awarding Decree of the Director of the Territorial Cohesion Agency No 477 of 20 December 2022;
 - h. Awarding Decree of the Director of the Territorial Cohesion Agency No 478 of 20 December 2022;
- vi. Decrees of the Director General of the Territorial Cohesion Agency authorizing the winding-ups proceedings towards the rural pharmacies as defined by Law No 221 of 8 March 1968;
- vii. Additional justification of compliance with CID’s description of the investment and target.

In the context of the sampling analysis, additional evidence provided for a sample of 60 units including:

- viii. Final receipt of payment from the Territorial Cohesion Agency to the rural pharmacy;
- ix. Request from financing the rural pharmacy;
- x. Inner areas mapping databases (<https://politichecoesione.governo.it/media/2825/20220214-mappa-ai-2020-elenco-e-classificazione-comuni.xlsx>);
- xi. 2011 (latest) population census of the Italian National Statistical Office, ISTAT (<https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/285267>).

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

- o **At least 500 rural pharmacies in municipalities, hamlets or settlements of less than 5 000 inhabitants shall benefit from the intervention.** The target is further specified in the Operational

Arrangements, which require that **“The intervention shall provide financial support to rural pharmacies”**. The measure description also requires that **“This measure, shall give immediate support to rural pharmacies that during the Covid-19 emergency, have been a fundamental point of reference for the local population”**.

- Article 1 of Law No 221/1968 provides the definition of rural pharmacies as “pharmacies located in municipalities, hamlets or settlements of less than 5 000 inhabitants”. The definition of Article 1 coincides with the requirement from the Annex to the Council Implementing Decision that pharmacies in municipalities, hamlets or settlements of less than 5 000 inhabitants shall benefit from the intervention.
- Public Notice 2021 regulates the procedures and the financing of rural pharmacies. All rural pharmacies accounted within target M5C3-3 receive their financing via Public Notice 2021. In particular, Article 2 of the Public Notice 2021 defines as beneficiaries of financial support those rural pharmacies located in municipalities hamlets or settlements of less than 3 000 inhabitants. While the definition of beneficiaries as in the Public Notice is stricter than the definition under Article 1 of Law No 221/1968, the pharmacies financed via the public notice are fully in line with the requirements of the Annex to the Council Implementing Decision. In addition, the public notice launched in 2021 ensures the provision of immediate support to rural pharmacies, recognizing their important role of providers of health services in rural areas particularly during the Covid-19 emergencies.
- Following the selection of a random sample of 60 units, to confirm that at least 500 rural pharmacies received financial support in line with the definition of the Council Implementing Decision and with Article 1 of Law No 221/1968, Italy submitted a list with 650 rural pharmacies financed via the Public Notice 2021, thus exceeding the goal of 500 by 150 units. The list includes information on the official population size of the municipality, hamlet or settlement where the rural pharmacy is located. As a proof of the population size, Italy has provided the links to the website of the two official statistical sources: i) the inner areas mapping databases(as evidenced by the link to the official data); and ii) the 2011 (latest) population census of the Italian National Statistical Office, ISTAT (as evidenced by the link to the official data). A sample of 60 unit was requested from this list. For each rural pharmacy Italy provided the following documents: i) the receipt of payment from the Territorial Cohesion Agency to the rural pharmacy beneficiary of the financial support, clearly including information on the legal name of the pharmacy and the so-called “unique identification number”, a unique code included in each payment receipt ensuring the uniqueness of the payment; ii) the rural pharmacy's official request for financing; iii) extract of the contract (“atto d’obbligo”) signed by the beneficiary rural pharmacy and the Territorial Cohesion Agency; iv) awarding and financial decree of the Territorial Cohesion Agency granting financing to the rural pharmacy; and v) registration in the “Registro Nazionale Aiuti” portal. These documents were provided for all the 60 sampled units, and they confirmed that all were rural pharmacies in municipalities, hamlets or settlements of less than 5 000 inhabitants, and that they received financial support. The evidence provided for a sample of 60 units confirmed that the requirement of the target has been met.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled

Number: M6C1-8 | M6C1-8, Related Measure: Investment 1.2 - Home as the first place of care

				and telemedicine
Name of the Target: At least one telemedicine project per region (considering both projects that will be implemented in the individual region and those that may be developed as part of consortia among regions)				
Quantitative Indicator: Number		Baseline: 0	Target: 20	Time: Q4 2023
Context:				
<p>Investment 1.2 has the overall objective of the adoption of large scale telemedicine solutions and supporting healthcare innovation and it is divided into three sub-measures: 1) 1.2.1 aimed at treating in home-care 10% of the population over 65 years of age; 2) sub-measure 1.2.2 aimed at creating 480 territorial coordination centres that are intended to link and coordinate various territorial, social-health and hospital services, as well as the emergency-urgency network; 3) sub-measure 1.2.3 concerns investment in telemedicine to better support patients with chronic diseases. The investment aims to (1) finance projects that enable remote doctor-patient interactions, in particular diagnostics and monitoring, (2) create a national platform for screening telemedicine projects (linked to Mission 6 Component 2 Investment 1.3) and (3) finance ad hoc research initiatives on digital health and care technologies.</p> <p>Target M6C1-8 relates to the sub-measure 1.2.3 and concerns the adoption by each region and autonomous province of at least one telemedicine project.</p> <p>Target M6C1-8 is an intermediate step of the implementation of this sub-measure, following milestone M6C1-4 (consisting in the approval of the telemedicine strategy) that was assessed in the framework of the 2nd payment request and was due by Q4 2022. The final step of the implementation of this sub-measure consists in the use of telemedicine services by users, notably target M6C1-9 due by Q4 2025 and consisting in at least 300 000 people assisted by telemedicine tools. The requirement of “finance ad hoc research initiatives on the digital health and care technologies” will also be assessed with target M6C1-9.</p>				
Evidence provided:				
<p>In line with the verification mechanism set out in the Operational Arrangements, the following evidence was provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary document duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled in line with the requirements set out in the Council Implementing Decision; ii. Ministerial Decree of 21 September 2022 and annex A (published in the Official Gazette no. 298 of 22 December 2022) of the Ministry of Health, on the “Guidelines for telemedicine services Functional Requirements and service levels”. iii. Ministerial Decree of 30 September 2022 (published in the Official Gazette n. 298 of 22 December 2022) of the Ministry of Health in agreement with the Ministry delegated for Technological Innovation and Digital Transition on "Selection procedures for telemedicine solutions and their dissemination throughout the national territory, as well as the evaluation mechanisms for regional needs proposals for minimum Telemedicine services and the adoption of guidelines for Telemedicine Services". iv. Link to the website where the selected projects public call records are available: La telemedicina - Investimento PNRR M6C1I1.2.3 - AGENAS. v. Report by AGENAS (“Allegato 11_Report Agenas”) and project fiches for each region/autonomous province (“Allegato 11 bis_schede sintetiche”) explaining how the actions foreseen in the national telemedicine strategy contribute to achieving the objectives of the investment. vi. For each region/autonomous province, the Operational Plan and Organizational models (the project) for the telemedicine services and its approval by regional act; 				

The authorities also provided:

- i. For each region/autonomous province, a synthetic description of the projects.
- ii. Meeting report of 11 October 2021 of the Interministerial Committee for Digital Transition (Comitato Interministeriale per la transizione digitale - CITD).
- iii. Meeting report of 15 December 2021 of the CITD.

Analysis:

The justification and substantiating evidence provided by the Italian authorities covers all constitutive elements of the milestone.

- **The national telemedicine strategy shall promote and finance the development and scale-up of new telemedicine projects and solutions within regional healthcare systems, and as such it represents a key (technological) enabler for the implementation of the enhanced remote care approach to health, with a particular focus on chronic patients.**

- The Ministerial Decree of 21 September 2022 on the Guidelines for telemedicine underpins the theoretical foundations of the national telemedicine strategy and its services. In particular, Annex A to the aforementioned Decree describes the component steps and the architectural requirements of the main telemedicine services, namely: tele-visit, tele-consultation, tele-monitoring and tele-assistance.

- The Ministerial Decree of 30 September 2022 on selection procedures for telemedicine solutions describes the informational requirements that the regions have to specify in the telemedicine Operational Plans that they have to draft (Annex to the Ministerial Decree), the governance structure for the evaluation of the regional projects (Art. 2) and establishes that resources will be assigned on the basis of the needs expressed by the projects (Art.4). The Ministerial Decree of 30 September 2022, in order to guarantee homogeneity of patients' treatment and effectiveness in the implementation of telemedicine solutions across regions also contains guidelines on the needs in terms of personnel and health parameters to be monitored for the five most important chronic diseases in terms of target population.

- Considering that the strategy establishes the foundations and architecture of telemedicine services both from a technical and operational perspective, and that it identifies the five most important chronic diseases and sets out the parameters to be monitored for patients having such diseases, it is concluded that the national telemedicine strategy represents a key (technological) enabler for the implementation of the enhanced remote care approach to health, with a focus on chronic patients.

- **At least one telemedicine project per region (considering both projects that will be implemented in the individual region and those that may be developed as part of consortia among regions)**

- The Operational Plans envisaged by the aforementioned decree of 30 September 2022, have been approved by AGENAS (National Agency for the regional health service, implementing authority of this investment) and adopted by each Region and Autonomous Province, as evidenced by the 21 regional acts approving the respective 21 Operational plans (19 regions and 2 autonomous provinces). The

Operational Plans describe each region's estimated needs in terms of telemedicine services (of various types and for various kind of diseases) and how these translate in software and hardware equipment needs for the telemedicine solutions.

- All regional/provincial acts defining the organisational model of telemedicine services, whose adoption is provided for within the aforementioned Operational Plans, have been published within the established timeframes at this link: [La telemedicina - Investimento PNRR M6C11.2.3 - AGENAS](#). Therefore, at least one telemedicine project has been adopted for each region, equalling to a total of 21 number of adopted projects.

- Each organisational model describes more in detail the modalities of implementation of telemedicine solutions at regional level, describing protocols, roles, governance and roadmap.

- The aforementioned operational plans and the organisational models constitute the core description of the telemedicine projects adopted by regions.

- The aforementioned Ministerial Decree of 30 September 2022, also identified Lombardy and Apulia regions as lead regions (with all the regions participating as part of the consortia), with the task of providing, also using their own procurement centers, for the acquisition procedures of telemedicine solutions for the amount expressed by each region's operational plans, compliant with the Guidelines provided by the same decree by the adhering regions and autonomous provinces.

- In this regard, on 22 June 2023, the Lombardy region published the tender ARIA_2023_807-Open Procedure, for the conclusion of a Framework Agreement for the assignment of the regional telemedicine infrastructure service, while on 28/09/2023, the Apulia region published the Specific Invitation to Tender on the SDAPA Consip platform aimed at concluding multiple agreements for the "Acquisition and maintenance of workstations and related logistics for telemedicine solutions indicated in the operational plans by Regions and Autonomous Provinces". Those telemedicine solutions include, among others, tele-visit and teleconsultation (for diagnostics) and tele-monitoring (for monitoring).

Finally, on 28 September 2023 it was signed the Ministerial Decree of the Ministry of Health providing for the "Allocation of resources for investment M6C – C1 – 1.2.3.2 Telemedicine services of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR)" (published in the Official Gazette (GU - SG no. 271 of 20 November 2023).

- **The target in the Council Implementing Decision Annex is further specified in the Operational Arrangements, which requires that the Inter-ministerial Committee for Digital Transition (Comitato Interministeriale per la transizione digitale - CITD) ensures the coordination and monitoring of technological innovation and digital transition initiatives of public administrations (as stated in art. 8 DL 22/2021). The CITD's meeting reports are source of strategic indication for the implementation of Telemedicine strategy at national level.**

- As further specified in Art. 8. Par.6 Of Decree Law 22/2021 the competences of the CITD include also the "assessment of the strategic priorities of the technological innovation initiatives" among which are included initiatives in digital health like telemedicine. In this context, two meetings took place with the CITD as evidenced by the meeting reports of 11 October 2021 and 15 December 2021 in order to coordinate the strategic priorities of telemedicine.

- The CITD meeting report of 11 October 2021 describes the set-up of the governance structure for the implementation of tele-medicine approved by the Committee (pp.8-11), namely the creation of an inter-ministerial committee composed of the ministers of health and digital innovation and the creation of a

technical unit composed of delegates from ministries of health and digital innovation.

- The CITD meeting report of 15 December 2021 describes the decision taken by the CITD with respect to telemedicine, namely that the telemedicine platform's structure should be unique but allowing some customised elements different from region to region and it should be procured through a public-private-partnerships. In addition, this meeting report contains the decision of the CITD that the elements of telemedicine solutions would be procured only by some lead regions, with the others relying on those tenders for their needs.

Commission Preliminary Assessment: Satisfactorily fulfilled