**Annex I**

Milestones, targets and related indicators – non-repayable support

| **#** | **Related measure (reform or investment)** | **M/T** | **Name** | **Qualitative indicators (for milestones)** | **Quantitative indicators (for targets)** | | | | **Date for completion** | | | **Responsibility for reporting and implementation** | **Further specification (if necessary)** | **Verification mechanism** | | | **Possible early warning indicators** | **On the spot checks** | **Relevant common indicators** | **Comment** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  | **Unit** | **Baseline** | **Goal** | **Q** | | **Year** |  | |  | **A. Evidence provided** | **B. Detailed justification** | **C. Contribution to achievement of the objectives (link)** |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | C1.R1: Reform in preschool and school education and lifelong learning | Milestone | Entry into force of the amendments to the Pre-school and School Education Act and to secondary legislation | Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the amendments to the Pre-school and School Education Act and to secondary legislation |  |  |  | Q4 | | 2020 | Ministry of Education and Science | |  | 1. Copy of the publication in the State Gazette of the legislative amendments to the Pre-school and School Education Act and secondary legislation 2. References justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Entry into force of the amendments to the Pre-school and School Education Act and to secondary legislation (evidenced by their copies – a)  How: entry into force (evidenced by a) and reporting (b)  Why: To amend the Preschool and School Education Act and to secondary legislation, which shall include: the update of the STEM core curricula and syllabus as follows: introduction of new IT skills (encoding) in classes five-seven; increase in mathematics hours in classes five-seven; increase in geography and economics hours in class six; additional distance learning opportunities, including hybrid forms of learning combining in-presence and online learning; the inclusion of four-year-olds in the mandatory preschool programme. The amendment shall provide for a gradual phase-in of the mandatory inclusion which shall be completed no later than for the school year 2023/2024. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of development and entry into force | The objective of this reform is to increase quality and access to education and training.  The amendments shall introduce: revisions to curricula, with a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects; additional hybrid forms of learning, combining in-presence and distance options; as well as the mandatory inclusion of four-years-old in preschool education, which shall be implemented progressively and completed by the school year 2023/2024. | - | None | None | Already achieved? |
| 2 | C1.R1: Reform in preschool and school education and lifelong learning | Milestone | Entry into force of the amendments to the Employment Promotion Act | Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the amendments to the Employment Promotion Act |  |  |  | Q4 | | 2022 | Ministry of Education and Science/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | |  | 1. Copy of the publication in the State Gazette of the legislative amendments to the Employment Promotion Act 2. References duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy  What: Entry into force of the amendments to the Employment Promotion Act (evidenced by their copies – a)  How: entry into force (evidenced by a) and reporting (b)  Why: To amend the Employment Promotion Act, which shall: introduce the possibility of combining vocational training with participation in a training course for persons over 16 years of age; introduce the option of validating professional skills and key competences acquired through non-formal learning or self-learning; Increase the flexibility of training opportunities, including by increasing the offer of online trainings. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of development and entry into force | The objective of this reform is to increase quality and access to education and training.  It shall expand eligibility for trainings participation and introduce new options for trainings and for the validation of competencies | Delays in the preparation and submission of the bill for the amendments to the Employment Promotion Act | None | None | - |
| 3 | C1.R1: Reform in preschool and school education and lifelong learning | Milestone | Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategic Framework for the Development of Education, Training and Learning in the Republic of Bulgaria (2021-2030) | Adoption by the Council of Ministers |  |  |  | Q4 | | 2022 | Ministry of Education and Science | |  | 1. Copy of the adopted Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategic Framework for the Development of Education, Training and Learning in the Republic of Bulgaria (2021-2030) 2. Summary document demonstrating that the Strategic Framework for the Development of Education, Training and Learning in the Republic of Bulgaria (2021 – 2030) and the recommendations made therein cover the objectives listed in the description of the milestone and of the reform in the CID annex, and how the measures and actions foreseen in the Action Plan address the objectives of the Strategic Framework. 3. Minutes of the Advisory Board’s meeting for discussion and proposal for approval of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategic Framework for the Development of Education, Training and Learning in the Republic of Bulgaria (2021-2030) by the Minister of Education and Science 4. Copy of the decision of the Council of Ministers adopting the Action Plan | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategic Framework for the Development of Education, Training and Learning in the Republic of Bulgaria (2021-2030) (evidenced by a and d)  How: development of the Action plan (a), discussions (c), adoption (d), and reporting (b)  Why: The action plan for the implementation of the Strategic Framework for the Development of Education, Training and Learning in the Republic of Bulgaria (2021-2030) shall formulate measures and actions, including their timeline, to address the objectives of the Strategic Framework. The objectives of the Strategic Framework shall include: better access to quality education for children from vulnerable groups, including Roma; larger coverage of children in the education system; the introduction of a revised system of teacher qualifications and effective management practices of educational institutions; innovation in schools, with a focus on the digital transformation and sustainable development. Prior to adoption, the action plan shall have been reviewed by an Advisory Council responsible for the monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the strategic framework. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of development and adoption | The objective of this reform is to increase quality and access to education and training.  The reform shall also include the adoption of an action plan containing the measures addressing the recommendations of the Strategic Framework for the Development of Education, Training and Learning in the Republic of Bulgaria (2021-2030). This Strategic Framework shall set out the priorities for the development of the Bulgarian education system until 2030 and provide recommendations, with a particular focus on access to quality education for vulnerable groups, including Roma | Delays in the development of the draft Action plan | None | None | Consider if the Minutes of the Advisory Board’s meeting are really necessary (point c) |
| 4 | C1.R1: Reform in preschool and school education and lifelong learning | Milestone | Entry into force of the amendments to the regulatory framework in the field of vocational education and training | Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the amendments to the regulatory framework in the field of vocational education and training |  |  |  | Q3 | | 2023 | Ministry of Education and Science | |  | 1. Copy of the publication in the State Gazette of the legislative amendments to the regulatory framework in the field of VET (see below) 2. References duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled.   The regulatory framework covers the following pieces of legislation:   * Vocational Education and Training Act; * Ordinance № 2 of 13.11.2014 on the terms and conditions for validation of professional knowledge, skills and competencies; * Ordinance № 1 of 19.2.2020 on the organization and conduct of examinations for acquiring professional qualification; * Ordinance on awarding, accumulating and transferring credits | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Entry into force of the amendments to the regulatory framework in the field of vocational education and training (evidenced by a)  How: development of the legislation, adoption (a), and reporting (b)  Why: To amend the regulatory framework for vocational education and training (VET) regulatory framework, in accordance with the needs of professional competences, including in the green and digital sectors, shall: update the list of professions for VET and state educational standards, plans and programmes for acquiring professional qualification; update learning content and training programmes, including by introducing training systems in cooperation with employers (such as, Work-based Learning) and Dual VET; introduce flexible training offers, including online training offers. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of development and adoption | The objective of this reform is to increase quality and access to education and training.  It shall introduce changes to the list of professions for VET and their programmes, in accordance with the needs of professional competences, including in the green and digital sectors | Delays in the development of the draft bill and the drafts of the ordinances | None | None | - |
| 5 | C1.R2: Higher education reform | Milestone | Entry into force of the amendments to the Higher Education Act | Provision in the law indicating the entry into force of the amendments to the Higher Education Act |  |  |  | Q1 | | 2020 | Ministry of Education and Science | |  | 1. Copy of the publication in the State Gazette of the legislative amendments to the Higher Education Act 2. References duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Entry into force of the amendments to the Higher Education Act (evidenced by a)  How: development of the legislation, adoption (a), and reporting (b)  Why: To amend the Higher Education Act, which shall: introduce a revised system of accreditation of higher education institutions, as well as the status of ‘Research University’; allow for the exemption from fees at state higher education institutions for students or recent graduates who sign a traineeship agreement with an employer; update the list of ‘protected specializations’ based on expected labour market shortages; introduce the possibility to conclude up to two agreements between state higher schools and state or municipal schools in the system of preschool and school education. The agreements is expected to promote the acquisition of specialized training in secondary education. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of development and adoption | The objective of the reform is to enhance the effectiveness of higher education across the territory of Bulgaria.  The amendments shall include the introduction of fees exemption for students who sign a traineeship agreement with an employer; new programmes targeting sectors with expected labour market shortages; as well as an updated system of accreditation of higher education institutions | - | None | None | Already achieved? |
| 6 | C1.R2: Higher education reform | Milestone | National Map of Higher Education | Adoption by the Council of Ministers |  |  |  | Q3 | | 2021 | Ministry of education and Science | |  | 1. Copy of the adopted National Map by Council of Ministers 2. Link to and copy of the decision of the Council of Ministers adopting the National Map. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: National Map of Higher Education (evidenced by a)  How: development of the map, adoption (a), and publication (b)  Why: The National Map of Higher Education shall support the formulation of recommendations to promote a more balanced distribution of the higher education offer across the territory. The map shall provide analysis covering: the territorial distribution of higher education offer in the Republic of Bulgaria, including information on the national and regional socio-economic and labour market developments; the resources available in higher education institutions, including academic staff and students. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of development and adoption | The objective of the reform is to enhance the effectiveness of higher education across the territory of Bulgaria.  The map shall provide an analysis of the offer of higher education and resources available across the territory | - | None | None | Already achieved  Consider specifically adding a reference to the elements of the national map that satisfy the requirements in CID (as for other milestones) |
| 7 | C1.R2: Higher education reform | Milestone | Action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Higher Education in the Republic of Bulgaria (2021-2030) | Adoption by the Council of Ministers |  |  |  | Q4 | | 2022 | Ministry of Education and Science | |  | 1. Copy of the adopted Action Plan and of the Strategy to which it refers, as well as a link/links to the website/websites where the two documents may be accessed. 2. Explanatory report demonstrating that the Strategy and the recommendations made therein cover the objectives listed in the description of the milestone and of the reform in the CID annex, and how the measures and actions foreseen in the Action Plan address the objectives of the Strategy. 3. Copy of the decision of the Council of Ministers adopting the Action Plan. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Higher Education in the Republic of Bulgaria (2021-2030) (evidenced by a)  How: development of the action plan (a), adoption (c), and reporting (b)  Why: The action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Higher Education in the Republic of Bulgaria (2021-2030) shall formulate measures and actions, including their timeline, to address the objectives of the strategy. The objectives of the strategy shall cover: the development of a mechanism for updating existing and developing new curricula; a revision of existing provisions regarding state-controlled subsidised admission to public higher education institutions. Changes shall be made in accordance with national and regional developments of the labour market; research enhancement and promotion of higher educations by developing scientific networks; the introduction of additional specialisations and programmes in higher educations with double diplomas; the establishment of training centres for life-long learning in higher education institutions [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of development and adoption | The objective of the reform is to enhance the effectiveness of higher education across the territory of Bulgaria.  The objectives include the adoption of an action plan containing the measures addressing the recommendations of the Strategy for the Development of Higher Education in the Republic of Bulgaria 2021-2030. The Strategy shall set key objectives and make recommendations to foster access to quality higher education, increase the labour market relevance of higher education and promote research, including via the development of international research networks. | Delays in the development of the draft Action plan | None | None | - |
| 8 | C1.I1: STEM centres and innovation in education | Milestone | Establishment of the national STEM centre | Provision in the national legislation indicating the establishment of the national STEM centre |  |  |  | Q4 | | 2022 | Ministry of Education and Science | |  | 1. Copy of the publication in the State Gazette of the national legislation /amendments to the national legislation/ establishing the national STEM centre 2. References duly justifying how the milestone (including all the constitutive elements) was satisfactorily fulfilled. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Provision in the national legislation indicating the establishment of the national STEM centre (evidenced by a)  How: development of the legislation, adoption (a), and reporting (b)  Why: To provide the necessary legislation for the functioning of the national STEM centre. The main responsibilities of the national STEM centre shall include: the organization of trainings for teachers and other pedagogical professionals; the development of teaching material and the set-up and maintenance of an electronic portal and library with publicly available educational resources; the coordination and support of school student activities in STEM fields, including participation in scientific olympic competitions. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of development and adoption | The objective of the investment is to modernise teaching tools and enhance the learning in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects in Bulgarian schools, via the construction and/or refurbishment of a national and three regional STEM centres | - | None | None | It’s unclear from the description what national legislation would be required. There are already many relevant documents: <http://mon-coo.com/%d0%bd%d0%be%d1%80%d0%bc%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b8%d0%b2%d0%bd%d0%b8-%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%ba%d1%83%d0%bc%d0%b5%d0%bd%d1%82%d0%b8/> |
| 9 | C1.I1: STEM centres and innovation in education | Milestone | Signature of contracts for the provision of construction or renovation works for the national and regional STEM centres and to the STEM laboratories in schools | Signed contracts |  |  |  | Q4 | | 2023 | Ministry of Education and Science | |  | 1. a list of the various facilities for which a contract was signed and for each entry, a unique identifier, a reference to the call for tenders in the national public procurement platform and a reference to the signed contract; 2. extract of the relevant documents mentioned in the summary document and explanatory note proving alignment of the technical specifications for the construction/renovation works with the description of the milestone and of the description of the investment in the CID annex.   Personal data shall be anonymised/blacklined whenever not necessary. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Signature of contracts for the provision of construction or renovation works for the national and regional STEM centres and to the STEM laboratories in schools (evidenced by a)  How: tendering and contracting (a), reporting (b)  Why: The contractors shall be selected following successful public procurement procedures. The contracts shall cover: construction or renovation works for the national STEM center and for the three regional STEM centers; construction or renovations works for STEM laboratories in schools, including high-tech classrooms. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of tendering, awarding, contracting | As above | Delays in the launch of the procedures / Delays in the assessment process / Delays in contracting, e.g. due to appeals | None | None | - |
| 10 | C1.I1: STEM centres and innovation in education | Target | Finalisation of the construction and renovation works for the national and three regional STEM centres |  | Number | 0 | 4 | Q2 | | 2026 | Ministry of Education and Science | | Еquipment and devices for the centers including the necessary educational STEM sets for establishment of: - Laboratory for “Natural Sciences” - Laboratory for “Green Technologies and Sustainable Development” - Laboratory for "Robotics and Cyber-Physical Systems" - Laboratory for "Design and 3D Prototyping" - Laboratory for "Mathematics and Informatics" | 1. for the national and each of the three regional STEM centres, a list of the new equipment and devices that were delivered and installed; 2. Copies of the certificates of work completion issued in accordance with the national legislation demonstrating that the construction/renovation works were completed and that the new equipment was delivered and installed; | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Finalisation of the construction and renovation works for the national and three regional STEM centres (evidenced by b)  How: Construction, renovation, delivery (a), completion (b)  Why: Following the signature of contracts (milestone 9), the construction or renovation works for the national and three regional STEM centres shall be finalised. In addition, equipment and devices shall be delivered and installed in each centre.  When: specify the dates of completion of works and certification | As above | Delays in the signature of the contracts (Milestone 9) | Yes, in all 4 places | 8 (researchers) | - |
| 11 | C1.I1: STEM centres and innovation in education | Target | Schools with newly built and/or equipped STEM laboratories, including high-tech classrooms |  | Number | 0 | 2243 | Q2 | | 2026 | Ministry of Education and Science | | Equipment and devices for the STEM laboratories and high-tech classrooms, including the necessary educational STEM sets for establishment of schools’ laboratories and high-tech cabinets in accordance with the need in different educational stages. | 1. a list of the schools with newly constructed or renovated STEM laboratories and finalised high-tech classrooms and where new equipment and devices have been installed; 2. For each school, a unique identifier, a description of the nature of the work (construction or renovation, finalisation of high-tech classrooms) and of the equipment and devices that were installed; 3. For each school, the references to the certificates of work completion issued in accordance with the national legislation demonstrating that the construction/renovation works were completed and that the new equipment was delivered and installed; | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Schools with newly built and/or equipped STEM laboratories, including high-tech classrooms (evidenced by a, b, c)  How: Construction, renovation, delivery (a and b), completion (c)  Why: Following the signature of contracts (milestone 9), construction and renovation works of STEM laboratories, including high-tech classrooms, shall be finalised. This shall cover construction works in 1980 schools; renovation works in another 263 schools. In addition, high-tech equipment and devices shall be delivered and installed.  When: specify the dates of completion of works and certification | The objective of the investment is to modernise teaching tools and enhance the learning in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects in Bulgarian schools as well as the establishment of more STEM laboratories in schools, including high-tech classrooms, which are expected to complement the measures of the national programme “Construction of School STEM environment”.  STEM laboratories in schools, including high-tech classrooms are expected to promote digital literacy and enhance teaching methods of STEM subjects. The national STEM centre is expected to act as a centralised unit that develops content, tools and methodologies to support the trainings of both teachers and students. The three regional centers are expected to support the trainings of the teachers and the students, as well as organise conferences, congresses and seminars. | Delays in the signature of the contracts (Milestone 9) | Yes, sample-based | 13 (capacity of education infrastructure) | The milestone will likely have an interim step: Submission of the published tender documents to the European Commission, in line with the specifications listed in the description of the milestone (Q2 2023) |
| 12 | C1.I2: Modernisation of educational infrastructures | Milestone | Signature of contracts for the provision of construction or renovation works to educational facilities | Signed contracts |  |  |  | Q3 | | 2023 | Ministry of Education and Science | |  | 1. a list of the kindergartens, schools and campuses, including for each of them a unique identifier; information on the nature of the work (renovation or construction), the location, reference to the relevant public procurement procedure and reference to the relevant signed contracts. 2. copies and links to the publications of the calls for tender in the national public procurement platform 3. Explanatory report and extracts of the relevant documents mentioned in the summary document explaining the methodology used for the selection of the locations of the newly built educational infrastructures and on the existing educational infrastructures to be renovated proving alignment with the description of the investment in the CID annex.   Personal data shall be anonymised/blacklined whenever not necessary. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Signature of contracts for the provision of construction or renovation works to educational facilities (evidenced by a)  How: tendering (a), contracting (b), reporting (c)  Why: The contractors shall be selected following successful public procurement procedures. The contract shall cover: renovation of existing buildings of 57 kindergartens and 59 schools; renovation of 24 vocational upper secondary schools; construction works for eight new schools and eight new kindergartens;  renovations of 23 dormitories; construction works for three higher education student campuses. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of tendering, awarding, contracting | This investment complements reform 1 ‘Reform in preschool and school education and lifelong learning’. The investment shall consist of the construction and renovation of educational facilities. These educational facilities shall encompass kindergartens, schools, including vocational upper secondary schools, student dormitories and university campuses.  The locations of the newly built educational infrastructures and the existing educational infrastructures to be renovated shall be selected on the basis of objective criteria, notably national priorities stated in National Strategies, and, where relevant, analysis of the educational needs across the territory and other relevant documents, such as Maps and Methodologies adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science. | Delays in the launch of the procedures / Delays in the assessment process / Delays in contracting, e.g. due to appeals | None | None | The milestone will likely have an interim step: Submission of the published tender documents to the European Commission, in line with the specifications listed in the description of the milestone (Q1 2023) |
| 13 | C1.I2: Modernisation of educational infrastructures | Target | Finalisation of renovation of schools and kindergartens |  | Number | 0 | 140 | Q2 | | 2026 | Ministry of Education and Science | | Equipment and furniture necessary for providing healthy and quality educational process. | 1. A list of the kindergartens and schools including for each of them a unique identifier; information on the school (kindergarten/school/VET) and the nature of the work (renovation or construction), a description of the equipment and furniture delivered and installed (in line with the further specifications of target) 2. The location and references to the certificates of work completion issued in accordance with the national legislation demonstrating that the construction/renovation works were completed and that the equipment and furniture was delivered and installed. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Finalisation of renovation of schools and kindergartens (evidenced by a and b)  How: Construction, renovation, delivery (a), completion (b)  Why:. Following the signature of contracts (milestone 12), renovation activities in 57 kindergartens, 59 schools and 24 vocational upper secondary schools shall be finalised. In addition, equipment and furniture, shall be delivered and installed.  When: specify the dates of completion of works and certification | As above | Delays in the signature of the contracts (Milestone 12) | Yes, sample based | 13 (capacity of education infrastructure) | Consider clarifying which institution will provide the certificates for work completion.  Also, are they required – here it does not seem to be the case, while for others they are required. |
| 14 | C1.I2: Modernisation of educational infrastructures | Target | Finalisation of the construction of kindergartens and schools |  | Number | 0 | 16 | Q2 | | 2026 | Ministry of Education and Science | |  | 1. a list of the kindergartens and schools for which the construction work has been completed, their location, references to the certificates of work completion (point b), 2. the certificates of work completion issued in accordance with the national legislation. 3. Report by an independent engineer endorsed by the relevant authority including justification that the technical specifications for the construction works are aligned with the description of the target and of the investment in the CID annex and with the technical specifications stated in the relevant contracts (as per milestone 12). | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Finalisation of the construction of kindergartens and schools (evidenced by a and b)  How: Construction and delivery (a), compliance and certification (c and b)  Why: Following the signature of contracts (milestone 12), construction activities for eight kindergartens and eight schools shall be finalized and shall achieve a Primary Energy Demand (PED) that is at least 20% lower than the NZEB requirement (nearly zero-energy building, national directives).  When: specify the dates of completion of works and certification | As above | Delays in the signature of the contracts (Milestone 12) | Yes, sample based | 1 (energy savings), 13 (capacity of education infrastructure) | - |
| 15 | C1.I2: Modernisation of educational infrastructures | Target | Finalisation of renovation activities in student dormitories |  | Number | 0 | 23 | Q2 | | 2026 | Ministry of Education and Science | |  | 1. a list of the dormitories for which the renovation activities have been finalised, their location and references to the certificates of work completion (point b); 2. the certificates of work completion issued in accordance with the national legislation. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Finalisation of renovation activities in student dormitories (evidenced by a and b)  How: renovation and delivery (a), compliance and certification (b)  Why: Following the signature of contracts (milestone 12), the renovation activities in 23 dormitories shall be finalised.  When: specify the dates of completion of works and certification | As above | Delays in the signature of the contracts (Milestone 12) | Yes, sample based | 13 (capacity of education infrastructure) | - |
| 16 | C1.I2: Modernisation of educational infrastructures | Target | Finalisation of construction and/or renovation works of campuses |  | Number | 0 | 3 | Q2 | | 2026 | Ministry of Education and Science | | The renovation of the campuses can encompass construction works. In particular, construction works refer to additional areas of the campuses, which may encompass sidewalks, alleys for pedestrian, bicycle and car parking, outdoor and indoor sport areas, including equipment for indoor and outdoor sport areas, etc. | 1. a list of the campuses, for which the construction or renovation works have been finalised, their location, a description of the finalised construction and renovation works, and references to the certificates of work completion (point b); 2. the certificates of work completion issued in accordance with the national legislation. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Finalisation of construction and/or renovation works of campuses (evidenced by a and b)  How: construction, renovation, and delivery (a), compliance and certification (b)  Why: Following the signature of contracts (milestone 12), the construction or renovation works of three campuses shall be finalised. Construction or renovation works may encompass sidewalks, alleys for pedestrian, bicycle and car parking, outdoor and indoor sport areas.  When: specify the dates of completion of works and certification | As above | Delays in the signature of the contracts (Milestone 12) | Yes | 13 (capacity of education infrastructure) | - |
| 17 | C1.I3: Provision of digital skills trainings and set-up of a platform for adult learning | Milestone | Signature of contracts for the development of the platform for e-learning for adults | Signed contracts |  |  |  | Q2 | | 2023 | Ministry of Labour and Social Policies | |  | 1. copy and link to the publication of the call for tender in the national public procurement platform 2. copy of the signed contracts with the contractual counterparts and of the subsequent amendments to the contracts if any. 3. report by an independent engineer endorsed by the relevant authority including justification that the technical specifications in the contract(s) specifying the functionalities of the platform fully align with the description of the milestone and of the description of the investment in the CID annex.   Personal data shall be anonymised/blacklined whenever not necessary. | Institution/s: Ministry of Labour and Social Policies  What: Signature of contracts for the development of the platform for e-learning for adults (evidenced by b)  How: tendering (a), contracting (b), reporting (c)  Why: The contractors shall be selected following successful public procurement procedures. The contract shall cover the development of the platform for e-learning for adults. The functionalities of the platform shall include: synchronous and asynchronous training options; online module for registration of training providers and participants; online registers of people who have successfully completed training obtaining a certificate, and of people who successfully validate their digital skills obtaining a certificate; a library of offline content; an online catalogue of available training courses  [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of tendering, awarding, contracting | This investment complements reform 1 ‘Reform in preschool and school education and lifelong learning’. The objective of the investment is to improve the up- and re-skilling of the workforce, with a focus on digital skills. This shall be achieved by establishing a digital platform and electronic resources, to promote the uptake of distance learning for adults.  Sub-investment 1: platform for e-learning for adults  The platform for e-learning for adults shall offer access to online courses and learning resources. To cover the needs of the population with low digital skills and the lack of internet connection, this sub-investment shall also include the establishment of a network of digital clubs throughout the country and equipped with laptops and staffed, thus enabling users to access the digital platform for adult learning free of charge. Digital clubs shall be located in existing infrastructures, such as administrative buildings, regional information centers, libraries, and Labour Office Directorates. | Delays in the launch of the procedures / Delays in the assessment process / Delays in contracting, e.g. due to appeals | None | None | Perhaps an IT expert would be more relevant than an engineer (unless this is what is meant). |
| 18 | C1.I3: Provision of digital skills trainings and set-up of a platform for adult learning | Target | Fully operational digital clubs |  | Number | 0 | 760 | Q3 | | 2024 | Ministry of Labour and Social Policies | | To count towards the target, digital clubs must be equipped with computers and/or laptops and have access to an internet connection, to provide access to the platform for adult learning. | 1. a list of the fully operational digital clubs and for each club a unique identifier; information on the location of the club and specifying the building (such as an existing administrative building/regional information centre/library/Labour Office Directorate), a list of equipment which was delivered and installed; reference to the internet connection of the club; reference to the certificates of work completion issued in accordance with the national legislation demonstrating that the construction/renovation works were completed, where relevant, and that the new equipment was delivered and installed. 2. extract of the provision in the relevant national legislation indicating that access to the digital clubs and their services is free of charge; 3. a list of the staff of the digital clubs who completed a training to support the work of the digital clubs, including a unique identifier for each person of the staff and of the digital club where the individual works.   Personal data shall be anonymised/blacklined whenever not relevant for the completion of the target. | Institution/s: Ministry of Labour and Social Policies  What: Fully operational digital clubs (evidenced by a)  How: operationalising od the digital clubs (a), ensuring access (b), staffing (c)  Why: The digital clubs shall provide free access to the platform for e-learning for adults (milestone 19) and its online training courses. The clubs shall be: open to public and free of charge; staffed and equipped with computers which ensure connection to the platform for e-learning for adults. In addition, the staff of the clubs shall have received trainings to support the activities of the clubs  [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates when the clubs have become operational and staffed, also the date of the adoption of the relevant national legislation | As above | Delays in the signature of the contracts (Milestone 17) | Yes, sample-based | 7 (digital services) | Consider defining what is the a) extract of the provision in the relevant **national legislation** indicating that access to the digital clubs and their services is free of charge. |
| 19 | C1.I3: Provision of digital skills trainings and set-up of a platform for adult learning | Milestone | Fully operational platform for e-learning for adults | Platform developed and publicly available |  |  |  | Q3 | | 2024 | Ministry of Labour and Social Policies | |  | 1. Publicly available link to the platform; 2. certificate of works completion issued in accordance with the national legislation. | Institution/s: Ministry of Labour and Social Policies  What: Fully operational platform for e-learning for adults (evidenced by a and b)  How: development, completion (b), publishing (c)  Why: The platform for e-learning for adults shall include the modules implementing the functionalities outlined in milestone 17.  When: specify the dates when the platform was developed and fully operational | As above | Delays in the signature of the contracts (Milestone 17) | None | 7 (digital services) | Consider adding evidence on tendering (if envisioned) |
| 20 | C1.I3: Provision of digital skills trainings and set-up of a platform for adult learning | Target | Number of people with a certificate in digital skills acquired through participation in a training |  | Number | 0 | 200000 | Q2 | | 2024 | Ministry of Labour and Social Policies | |  | 1. a list of the individuals who received a certificate after completing a training in digital skills, and for each individual: a unique identifier, the official reference to the certificates of training completion issued in accordance with national legislation, certifying basic or medium skills of the individual and showing that the individual was a registered unemployed or employed person. Personal data shall be anonymised/blacklined whenever not necessary; 2. A copy or link to the invitation to participate in the digital trainings, specifying that the training is free of charge. 3. a report issued by the responsible body (such as the XX) confirming that the certificate acquired by the participants attest basic and/or medium level of digital skills in accordance with the European Digital Competences Framework DigComp2.1. | Institution/s: Ministry of Labour and Social Policies  What: Number of people with a certificate in digital skills acquired through participation in a training (evidenced by a and c)  How: providing a link (b), provision of training, certification (a), ensuring compliance (c)  Why: To count towards the achievement of the target, a registered unemployed or employed person must have obtained a digital skills certificate, attesting basic and/or medium level of digital skills, after having attended a training in digital skills.  [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of publication of the training, key milestones in the delivery of the training (e.g. reaching 50,000). | This investment complements reform 1 ‘Reform in preschool and school education and lifelong learning’. The objective of the investment is to improve the up- and re-skilling of the workforce, with a focus on digital skills. This shall be achieved by establishing a digital platform and electronic resources, to promote the uptake of distance learning for adults.  The trainings shall be free of charge and cover basic and medium digital skills, consistent with the European Digital Competences Framework DigComp2.1, for unemployed and for employed people. The successful completion of the training shall be testified by a certificate. | Delays in reaching milestones, e.g. 50,000 trained | None | 10 (participants), 14 (youth supported) | Consider if b) is necessary (A copy or link to the invitation to participate in the digital trainings, specifying that the training is free of charge).  The target will likely have an interim step: Progress report to the European Commission, detailing the progress achieved towards fulfilling the target (what percentage of the targeted persons possess a certificate in digital skills acquired through participation in training by Q2 2023), with information regarding the target group reached (age group, employment status, gender). (Q2 2023) |
| 21 | C1.I3: Provision of digital skills trainings and set-up of a platform for adult learning | Target | Number of people with a certificate in digital skills acquired through participation in training |  | Number | 200000 | 500000 | Q2 | | 2026 | Ministry of Labour and Social Policies | |  | As above | As above | As above | Delay in the achievement of target 20 | None | 10 (participants), 14 (youth supported) | As above  The target will likely have interim steps, detailing the progress achieved towards fulfilling the target |
| 22 | C1.I4: Youth centres | Target | Finalisation of the construction and renovation works for youth centres and for a national focus centre |  | Number | 0 | 21 | Q1 | | 2025 | Ministry of Education and Science | | The explanatory note justifying that the technical specifications for the construction  /renovation works are in line with the description of the target and of the investment in the CID annex is prepared and submitted by the Ministry of Education and Science | 1. links to the publications of the tender procedures in the national public procurement platform. 2. A list of the youth centres and the national focus centre and for each centre, information on its location and a short description of the nature of the works in the centre (renovation or construction); 3. for each youth centre and the national focus centre, the certificate of construction/renovation work completion issued in accordance with the national legislation; 4. methodology explaining that the locations of the youth centres have been selected on the basis of relevant criteria, in particular, youth unemployment and share of young people from vulnerable groups, including Roma; 5. explanatory note justifying that the technical specifications for the construction/renovation works are in line with the description of the target and of the investment in the CID annex. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Finalisation of the construction and renovation works for youth centres and for a national focus centre (evidenced by b, c)  How: tendering (a), contracting and certification (b and c), reporting (c and e)  Why: The objective of the investment is to foster young people’s skills, encompassing digital, entrepreneurial and financial literacy, in order to promote social inclusion and employability of young people, encompassing those from vulnerable groups, including Roma. Following the successful public procurement procedures, construction and renovation works for 10 youth centres located in district centres, for 10 youth centres located in non-district centres and for one national focus centre shall be finalised.  [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of tendering, awarding, contracting | The objective of the investment is to foster young people’s skills, encompassing digital, entrepreneurial and financial literacy, in order to promote social inclusion and employability of young people, encompassing those from vulnerable groups, including Roma.  The locations of the youth centres shall encompass district and non-district cities and shall be selected on the basis of relevant criteria, in particular, youth unemployment and share of young people from vulnerable groups, including Roma  The national focus centre is expected to coordinate the activities and set out the objectives of the youth centres | Delays in public procurement | Yes, sample based | 11 (job searching), 14 (youth supported) | No related milestone (e.g. on tendering), which makes it more difficult to monitor. |
| 23 | C1.I4: Youth centres | Target | Students/young people registered in at least one of the activities of the youth centres. |  | Number | 0 | 19500 | Q2 | | 2026 | Ministry of Education and Science | |  | 1. a unique identifier; 2. the activity in which the individual participated; 3. information of whether the individual has also successfully completed training and an examination of digital competence issued by a youth centre and, if so, reference to the certificate issues following the examination; 4. specification of the age at the time of participation in the activity, 5. Information on whether the individual belongs to a vulnerable group, including Roma.   Personal data shall be anonymised/blacklined whenever not necessary. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Students/young people registered in at least one of the activities of the youth centres (evidenced by a, b)  How: registering for an activity (a and b), completion of an activity (c), reporting (d and e)  Why: The objective of the investment is to foster young people’s skills, encompassing digital, entrepreneurial and financial literacy, in order to promote social inclusion and employability of young people, encompassing those from vulnerable groups, including Roma. 19500 young people (under 29), encompassing those from vulnerable groups, including Roma, shall register in at least one of the activities of the youth centres, including trainings or group counselling. In addition, 4700 young people, included in the target of 19500, shall have successfully completed an examination of digital competence after participating in trainings at the youth centers.  [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of key milestones (e.g. 5,000 people trained registered/trained) | As above | Delays in the achievement of target 22 | None | 10 (participants), 14 (youth supported) | The target will likely have an interim step: Progress report to the European Commission, detailing the progress achieved towards fulfilling the target (By Q2 2025, what percentage of the number of students/young people targeted by Q2 2026 were registered in at least one of the activities of the youth centers), with information about the type of activities in which young people are involved, employment status, age group, gender and if they belong to the vulnerable group. (Q2 2025) |

| **#** | **Related measure (reform or investment)** | **M/T** | **Name** | **Qualitative indicators (for milestones)** | **Quantitative indicators (for targets)** | | | **Date for completion** | | **Responsibility for reporting and implementation** | **Further specification (if necessary)** | **Verification mechanism** | | | | **Possible early warning indicators** | | **On the spot checks** | | **Relevant common indicators** | | **Comment** | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  | **Unit** | **Baseline** | **Goal** | **Q** | **Year** |  |  | **A. Evidence provided** | **B. Detailed justification** | **C. Contribution to achievement of the objectives (link)** |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| 24 | C2.R1: Common policy for the development of research and innovation | Milestone | Provisions in the law indicating the entry into force of new Research and Innovation Act and screening of amendments to other legislative acts required | Provisions in the law indicating the entry into force of the Research and Innovation Act, finalised report on the need for amendments to other legislative acts required |  |  |  | Q2 | 2023 | Ministry of Education and Science |  | 1. A detailed explanatory document that explains for each of the elements listed in the description of the milestone that concern the content of the Research and Innovation Act, an explanation how the Act covers the element, including references to the relevant provisions indicating the entry into force and to the provisions which fulfil the relevant elements of the milestone, with appropriate links to or copies of any other document(s) mentioned in the explanatory document. 2. Evidence on the consultation of the relevant ministries, agencies, and stakeholders, including higher education institutions and representatives of the private sector in the preparation of the Act and an explanation how their views were taken into account. 3. The report on the amendments to other legislative acts as specified in the milestone. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Provisions in the law indicating the entry into force of new Research and Innovation Act and screening of amendments to other legislative acts required (a and c)  How: development and consultation (b), entry into force and reporting (evidenced by a and c)  Why: The Research and Innovation Act (the ‘Act’) shall enter into force. The Act shall set out the legislative framework of the new policy for the of research and innovation.  The Act shall:  • define the legislative parameters of the national policy for the development and financing of research and innovation;  • regulate the role and responsibilities of each of the institutions involved in the process of policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in the field of research and innovation;  • define the instruments and mechanisms for policy implementation in the field of research and innovation policy.  With regard to technology transfer policy, the Act shall define:  • the principles and rules governing the development and funding of technology and knowledge transfer policy;  • the role and functions of each of the institutions involved in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policy for technology transfer.  The Act shall replace the Research Promotion Act. The Act shall also amend intellectual property rights legislation to enhance the coherence of the national framework for intellectual property rights and technology transfer taking into account the recommendations of the World Bank ‘Enhancing the Contribution of Bulgaria’s Public Research to Innovation: A Survey-based Diagnostic BULGARIA COUNTRY NOTE’, the World Bank, 2020 and on the recommendations of the Joint Research Centre ’Strategic Evaluation of the Bulgarian Centres of Competence and Centres of Excellence and Recommendations for their Further Development’, European Commission Joint Research Centre, 2021.  The preparation of the Act shall be carried out with the involvement of the relevant ministries, agencies, and stakeholders, including higher education institutions and representatives of the private sector. The report on the amendments to other legislative acts shall summarise the findings of an exhaustive screening of all relevant primary and secondary legislation, including the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Act, the Higher Education Act, and the Academic Staff Development Act, that require amendments for the entry into force of the Research and Innovation Act. The report shall list the legislative acts to be amended, the required changes and a timetable for the amendments. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of development, consultation, and entry into force | The objective of the reform is to foster an efficient policy coordination in all phases of research and innovation and to spur the Bulgarian innovation outcome. This will be done through the creation of a research and innovation ecosystem that ensures close links between academia and the business sectors.  The Research and Innovation Act shall:  - define the legislative parameters of the national policy for the development and financing of research and innovation;  - regulate the role and responsibilities of each of the institutions involved in the process of policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation in the field of research and innovation;  - regulate technology transfer activities;  - amend the legislation on intellectual property rights, building on the recommendations of the World Bank received in the country report on knowledge transfer, as well as on the recommendations of the Joint Research Centre.  The preparation of the Act shall be carried out with the involvement of the relevant ministries, agencies, and stakeholders, including higher education institutions and representatives of the private sector. | Delays in the preparation and submission of the bill for the new Research and Innovation Act | | None | | None | | The milestone will likely have an interim step: Research and Innovation Act as adopted by the Council of Ministers submitted to the Parliament (Q4 2022) | |
| 25 | C2.R1: Common policy for the development of research and innovation | Milestone | Establishment of the Innovation Board | Operational Innovation Board and first meeting has taken place. Internal regulation of the Board published |  |  |  | Q3 | 2023 | Ministry of Innovation and Growth |  | 1. Ministerial order or equivalent document proving the establishment of the Innovation Board 2. A list of the Board Members, and for each Member information on the organisation the members representing, the nationality of the Board Member. 3. a description of the transparent procedure through which the Members were selected, showing that Bulgarian and international scientists as well as business representatives were considered, in compliance with the description in the CID annex 4. Copy of or link to the internal regulation of the Board, specifying its mandate, composition, function and other internal rules, in accordance with the description of the milestone, and link to its publication. Minutes of the first meeting of the Innovation Board | Institution/s: Ministry of Innovation and Growth  What: Establishment of the Innovation Board (a)  How: establish (a), staff (b and c), establish procedures (d)  Why: The Innovation Board shall be an advisory body to the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Innovation and Growth, and co-chaired by the two ministers. It shall advise on and propose policies for the development of research and innovation. The members of the Innovation Board shall be selected among Bulgarian and international scientists and business representatives. Representatives of the business sector shall amount to at least 1/3 of the total members of the Innovation Board. All members shall be selected on the basis of a transparent procedure, and shall be appointed for a period of at least five years. The Innovation Board shall be permanent and its internal regulation shall specify that it meets at least six times a year. The Innovation Board shall be tasked to support consistency of the policy in the field of research and innovation with other national policies and strategies, including the Integrated Energy and Climate Plan, the Higher Education Strategy, the National Roadmap for Improving the Potential for the Development of Hydrogen Technologies, Industry 4.0 Strategy. The mandate, composition, function and internal rules of the Innovation Board shall be laid out in its internal regulation, which shall be made public.  [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of establishment and operationalising | The objective of the reform is to foster an efficient policy coordination in all phases of research and innovation and to spur the Bulgarian innovation outcome. This will be done through the creation of a research and innovation ecosystem that ensures close links between academia and the business sectors.  The Innovation Board shall be an advisory body to the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Innovation and Growth, co-chaired by the two ministers.  The members of the Innovation Board shall be selected among Bulgarian and international scientists and business representatives. The Board shall include at least 17 representatives of the business sector. They shall be selected based on a transparent procedure and appointed for a period of at least 5 years.  The Innovation Board shall be permanent and meet at least 6 times a year. It shall advise the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Innovation and Growth on all the matters related to the research and innovation policy. | Delays in the drafting of the Ministerial order and the internal procedures of the Innovation Board | | None | | None | | - | |
| 26 | C2.R1: Common policy for the development of research and innovation | Milestone | Legislative acts identified in the report on the amendments to other legislative acts amended and entered into force/ secondary legislative acts entered into force | Provisions in the law indicating the entry into force of all the legislative acts identified in the report on the amendments to legislative acts (milestone 24) and of all the necessary secondary legislative acts related to the Research and Innovation Act |  |  |  | Q4 | 2024 | Ministry of Education and Science |  | 1. Copy of the publications in the State Gazette (in regard primary legislation) 2. Council of Ministers’ Decisions (in regards to secondary legislation) 3. References duly justifying how the milestone was satisfactorily fulfilled (references to the relevant provisions indicating the entry into force and to the provisions which fulfil the relevant elements of the milestone (notably, the different amendments identified in the report on amendments to other legislative acts (milestone 24)) | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and Science  What: Provisions in the law indicating the entry into force of all the legislative acts identified in the report on the amendments to legislative acts (milestone 24) and of all the necessary secondary legislative acts related to the Research and Innovation Act (a and b)  How: development and adoption of primary legislation (a), Council of Ministers’ Decisions (b), reporting (c)  Why: All the relevant legislative acts identified in the report on the need for amendments to other legislative acts under milestone 24 shall be amended as required and enter into force. All the necessary secondary legislative acts related to the Research and Innovation Act shall enter into force.  [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of establishment and operationalising | The objective of the reform is to foster an efficient policy coordination in all phases of research and innovation and to spur the Bulgarian innovation outcome. This will be done through the creation of a research and innovation ecosystem that ensures close links between academia and the business sectors.  Entry into force of the Research and Innovation Act and related legislative acts; | Delays in milestone 24 and the identification of secondary acts | | None | | None | | - | |
| 27 | C2.I1: Programme to accelerate economic recovery and transformation through research and innovation | Milestone | Notifications awarding projects by innovative SMEs and higher education institutions and research organisations | Notification of the award |  |  |  | Q2 | 2023 | Ministry of Innovation and Growth (MIG) and  Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) | MIG is responsible for SMEs projects,  MoES is responsible for higher education institutions and research organisations’ projects | 1. In regard the SMEs’ projects a copy of the selection criteria, ensuring the priority to green and digital projects and that selected projects comply with the DNSH Technical Guidelines. 2. In regard the higher education institution and research organisations’ projects a copy of a guidance for call of proposals respecting the DNSH principal. 3. copy of the award notifications extract of the relevant parts of the notifications of award confirming that  SMEs, higher education institutions and research organizations awarded did not receive funding under Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe 4. the list of SMEs, higher education institutions and research organizations awarded | Institution/s: Ministry of Innovation and Growth (MIG) and Ministry of Education and Science (MoES)  What: Notifications awarding projects by innovative SMEs and higher education institutions and research organisations (c and d)  How: establishing selection criteria (a), guidance (b), awarding (c and d)  Why: Notifications of award shall be sent to the projects proposals by the innovative small and medium-sized enterprises awarded the Seal of Excellence quality label and project proposals by higher education institutions for Horizon Europe. Notifications of award shall be sent to innovative project proposals by Bulgarian higher education institutions and research organisations which did not receive European funding under the widening of participation and dissemination of the excellence component of Horizon Europe European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, namely Twinning and European Research Area (ERA).The selection criteria shall ensure that priority is given to green and digital projects as well as that the selected projects comply with the Technical Guidelines “Do not cause significant harm” (2021/C58/01) through the use of the exclusion list specified in the description of the measure and the requirement to comply with relevant EU and national environmental legislation.  [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of launching procedures and award notifications | The investment’s objective is to enhance Bulgaria’s research and innovation performance and the effectiveness of technology transfer and foster information-sharing among research universities in Bulgaria; the investment consists of putting in place an effective financing system of research and innovation activities that rewards project proposals by innovative small and medium enterprises and higher education institutions. | - | | None | | None | | - | |
| 28 | C2.I1: Programme to accelerate economic recovery and transformation through research and innovation | Target | Completed projects by innovative SMEs and higher education institutions and research organisations |  | Number | 0 | 50 | Q2 | 2026 | Ministry of Innovation and Growth (MIG) and  Ministry of Education and Science | MIG is responsible for SMEs projects,  MoES is responsible for higher education institutions and research organisations’ projects | a) a list of 50 projects (38 projects by innovative SMEs, 10 Twinning projects, and two ERA Chairs) and providing, for each of them, the following information:   * brief description; * official references for completion | Institution/s: Ministry of Innovation and Growth (MIG) and Ministry of Education and Science (MoES)  What: Completed projects by innovative SMEs and higher education institutions and research organisations (a)  How: following award (see milestone 27), implementation and completion (a)  Why: Completed projects in compliance with the requirements under milestone 27. These shall include 38 projects by innovative SMEs, 10 Twinning projects, and two ERA Chairs.  [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of completion | As above  The investment shall include the following activities:    - Financing of 38 projects by Bulgarian small and medium enterprises which have been awarded the quality label "Seal of Excellence" under Horizon Europe;  - Financing of 10 projects by Bulgarian higher education institutions which were given a high "above the threshold" evaluation (i.e. above 10 points) by the European Commission, but did not receive European budget funding in the area "Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence" of FP Horizon Europe;  - Financing for two European Research Area (ERA) Chairs; | Delays in milestone 27 | | Yes, sample-based | | 6 (digital companies), 8 (researchers), 9 (companies supported), 14 (youth supported) | | The target will likely have an interim step: Progress report detailing the progress achieved towards fulfilling the target (what is the progress status of projects? How many were completed for SMEs, Twinning projects, ERA Chairs by Q2 2024) (Q2 2024) | |
| 29 | C2.I1: Programme to accelerate economic recovery and transformation through research and innovation | Target | Signature of contracts with research higher education institutions |  | Number | 0 | 9 | Q4 | 2022 | Ministry of Education and science |  | 1. List of the nine selected research higher education institutions; 2. Copies of Council of Ministers’ decisions; 3. Guidance and requirements for preparation of Innovation Programs, laying down the conditions for the activities to be carried out with the funds, including plan for research development and technology transfer, the participation in a network among the nine higher education institutions; 4. Copies of documents establishing (1) a peer-review committee and (2) a monitoring and evaluation committee within the MoES’s structures in charge of the procedures for selection and subsequent monitoring of the innovation programmes; 5. Copies of the peer-review reports. 6. Copies of the signed contracts with innovation programs; | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and science  What: Signature of contracts with research higher education institutions (f)  How: selecting (a), deciding (b), providing guidance (c), procedures (d), peer-reviews (e), contracting (f)  Why: Signature of contracts with 9 research higher education institutions based on a decision of the Council of Ministers. The procedure for the selection and subsequent monitoring of the innovation programmes, based on peer-review, shall be carried out by a monitoring and evaluation committee established within the Ministry of Education and Science. Each contract shall lay down the conditions for the activities to be carried out with the funds, based on the innovation programs submitted by the higher education institutions. These shall determine a concrete plan for research development and technology transfer, and shall specify the participation in a network among the nine research higher education institutions, taking into account gender equality and the importance of green innovations. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: specify the dates of a, b, c, d, e, and f | As above  The investment shall include the following activities:  - Funding the implementation of innovation programmes by nine research higher education institutions in Bulgaria. | Delays in the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation committee | | None | | None | | Is number 5 really needed? | |
| 30 | C2.I1: Programme to accelerate economic recovery and transformation through research and innovation | Target | Reports on the implementation of the Innovation Programmes |  | Number | 0 | 9 | Q4 | 2024 | Ministry of Education and Science |  | 1. Reports on the implementation of the Innovation Programmes, approved by the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee and in line with the specifications included in the CID Annex; 2. Reports by the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee including recommendations for future developments. | Institution/s: Ministry of Education and science  What: Reports on the implementation of the Innovation Programmes (a and b)  How: reporting (a and b)  Why: The reports shall present the results achieved by each of the research higher education institutions. The reports shall include information on the activities implemented and the indicators achieved for each sub-programme included in the strategic innovation agendas of each higher education institution. The reports shall be approved by a Monitoring and Evaluation Committee. The members of the Committee shall prepare a report on the progress of each of the research higher education institutions with implementing their innovation programmes and provide recommendations for their future development. The reports shall be published. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: present the results/recommendations as of Q3/Q4 2024 | As above | Delays in milestone 29 | | None | | 8 (researchers) | | - | |
| 31 | C2.I2: Enhancing the innovation capacity of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences | Milestone | Upgraded Joint Innovation Centre within the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences | Upgraded Joint Innovation Centre operational |  |  |  | Q1 | 2023 | Bulgarian Academy of Science |  | * 1. Signed contracts and job descriptions of experts engaged in four fields, in conformity with the description in the CID annex;   2. Proof of establishment of three Science and Innovation councils in line with the description in the CID annex;   3. Certificate of completion of works confirmed by the relevant Ministry justifying setting up an operational electronic portal for communication with businesses and stakeholders and link to the portal | Institution/s: Bulgarian Academy of Science  What: Upgraded Joint Innovation Centre within the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (a, b, and c)  How: staffing (a), establishment of councils (b), completion of works (c)  Why: The upgrade of the Centre shall be based on the Joint Research Centre recommendations Strategic Assessment of Bulgarian Competence Centres and Centres of Excellence and recommendations for their further development, 2021. The Centre shall serve as a focal point for Institutes of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences to liaise with business representatives. The main elements of the upgrade shall include:- increasing the number and qualification of staff: four professionals, one for each of the following areas of expertise: intellectual property rights, commercialization of innovation, one for technology transfer with a focus on green and digital technologies, one for information technology, relations with business and with scientific collectives and Centres of Excellence and Competence;- establishing three Science and Innovation councils, each with a different specialisation and composed by seven members, to coordinate the activities of the Centre. They shall be responsible for the selection of innovation projects and shall oversee their implementation;- setting up an operational electronic portal for communication with businesses and stakeholders. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: after completion of staffing, establishing councils, and works | The investment aims to enhance the innovation capacity of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS). The investment includes projects to:  - modernise the physical and digital infrastructure of BAS and in particular to renovate two buildings;  - restore the infrastructure at 14 BAS locations, upgrade the Joint Innovation Centre;  - install fibre connectivity and deploy a Euro Quantum Communication Infrastructure (QCI) network. | Delays in the signature of contracts for experts and for works | | None | | 8 (researchers) | | - | |
| 32 | C2.I2: Enhancing the innovation capacity of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences | Milestone | Deployment of Quantum Communication Infrastructure network | Quantum network and optical route operational |  |  |  | Q2 | 2023 | Bulgarian Academy of Science |  | * 1. certificate of works completion in accordance with national legislation and in conformity with European QCI Action Plan and the National QCI Plan, signed by the contractor and the competent authority ,   2. proof of operationalisation of the optical route of the first phase of Euro QCI. | Institution/s: Bulgarian Academy of Science  What: Deployment of Quantum Communication Infrastructure network (a and b)  How: implementation, works completion (a), and operationalisation (b)  Why: The deployment of the Euro Quantum Communication Infrastructure (QCI) network shall cover the completion of works and the operationalisation of the optical route of the first phase of Euro QCI. The implementation of the Quantum Network shall be based on the European QCI Action Plan and the National QCI Plan. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: after operationalisation | As above | Delays in contracting | | Yes | | 8 (researchers) | | - | |
| 33 | C2.I2: Enhancing the innovation capacity of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences | Milestone | Refurbishment of the research infrastructure of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences | Completed construction works and operating and commissioning license issued |  |  |  | Q3 | 2025 | Bulgarian Academy of Science |  | 1. the list of individual renovations completed, the size of the renovations in m2, and the primary energy saving achieved; 2. the list of end-of-works certificates, certificates of acceptance of works, or equivalent supporting evidence issued in accordance with the national legislation; 3. the list of research equipment purchased, and for each equipment, the building/research institute where the equipment was delivered to and the reference to the proof of delivery; 4. and the type of works undertaken (in line with the description of the measure in the CID annex); 5. Proof of installation of high speed fibre network; 6. Proof of installation of DDoS security platform. | Institution/s: Bulgarian Academy of Science  What: Refurbishment of the research infrastructure of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (a, c, d)  How: implementation, works completion (a, c, d), and certification (b, e, f)  Why: The refurbishment shall cover the following works: reconstruction and upgrading of an applied research building (Block 12 in campus at BAN 4km); the refurbishment of a demonstration centre building (b 29a in campus at BAN 4km); the purchase of research equipment, the rehabilitation of approximately 4 000 m² of research area covering 14 research institutes; and the improvement of the capacity, speed and security of internet connections (high speed fibre network) and the installation of a DDoS security platform to ensure the fast and secure transfer of large data within and between Institutes of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: after certification | As above | Delays in contracting | | Yes | | 8 (researchers) | | The milestone will likely have an interim step: Signature of contracts for construction works (reconstruction and upgrading of an applied research building (Block 12 in campus at BAN 4km); the refurbishment of a demonstration centre building (block 29a in campus at BAN 4km); the purchase of research equipment, the rehabilitation of approximately 4 000 m² of research area covering 14 research institutes)  Progress report detailing the progress achieved towards fulfilling the milestone (status of advancement of construction works, installation of a DDoS security platform) (Q4 2023) | |
| 34 | C2.I2: Enhancing the innovation capacity of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences | Target | Completed research projects in the field of green and digital transition |  | Number | 0 | 38 | Q2 | 2026 | Bulgarian Academy of Science |  | a) a list of completed research projects and for each of them  - a brief description of the project,  - the total amount awarded to the project.  b) A report by peer-reviewers proving that the selection was open and competitive and in compliance with the Technical Guidelines “Do not cause significant harm” (2021/C58/01). | Institution/s: Bulgarian Academy of Science  What: Completed research projects in the field of green and digital transition (a)  How: implementation, project completion (a), peer-review and attesting a transparent selection and compliance (b)  Why: To complete research projects in the field of green and digital transition to Technology Readiness Level 7. The selection of projects shall be open and competitive and will be carried out by the Scientific and Innovation Councils created and with the help of peer reviewers. The selection criteria shall ensure that the selected projects comply with the Technical Guidelines “Do not cause significant harm” (2021/C58/01) through the use of the exclusion list specified in the description of the measure and the requirement to comply with relevant EU and national environmental legislation. The total amount of funding shall be EUR 9.14 million, with 80% (EUR 7.31 million) for green transition projects and 20 % (EUR 1.82 million) for digital transformation projects. [provide references to the above in the summary document]  When: after peer-review (b) | As above  Furthermore, it includes the financing of research projects to enhance the innovation output of BAS, with a particular focus in the field of green and digital technologies. | Delays in the selection of projects | | Yes, sample-based | | 8 (researchers) | | The target will likely have an interim step: Progress report detailing the progress achieved towards fulfilling the target (what is the progress status of projects? How many were granted/completed?) (Q2 2024) | |