



# Helping power the EU's recovery: Recovery and Resilience Facility

CIFAL Flanders and SDSN Belgium  
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## The Commission's "whole of government approach" to SDGs



18.11.2020: Commission Staff working document "Delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals – A comprehensive approach"

## The European Semester = EU's economic governance framework

- **Annual** integrated cycle for **coordination** of Member States'
  - ✓ **Economic** policies (incl. surveillance of fiscal policies & macro-economic imbalances)
  - ✓ **Employment** policies
  - ✓ **Social** policies
- **Well established, dynamic & agile instrument**
  - ✓ European Pillar of Social Rights
  - ✓ Strengthened link with cohesion policy
  - ✓ **2020 cycle: Integration of Sustainable Development Goals** 
  - ✓ 2021 cycle: Refocus & enhanced role in response to COVID-19 crisis

## The European semester takes the form of a continuous dialogue



- Sets out **policy priorities** (Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy)
- Analyses & monitors **economic & social developments** and assesses progress
- Adresses **country-specific recommendations**

- Submits **policy plans** (National Reform Programme)
- Submits **fiscal plans** as euro-area member (Stability Programme and draft budgetary plan)

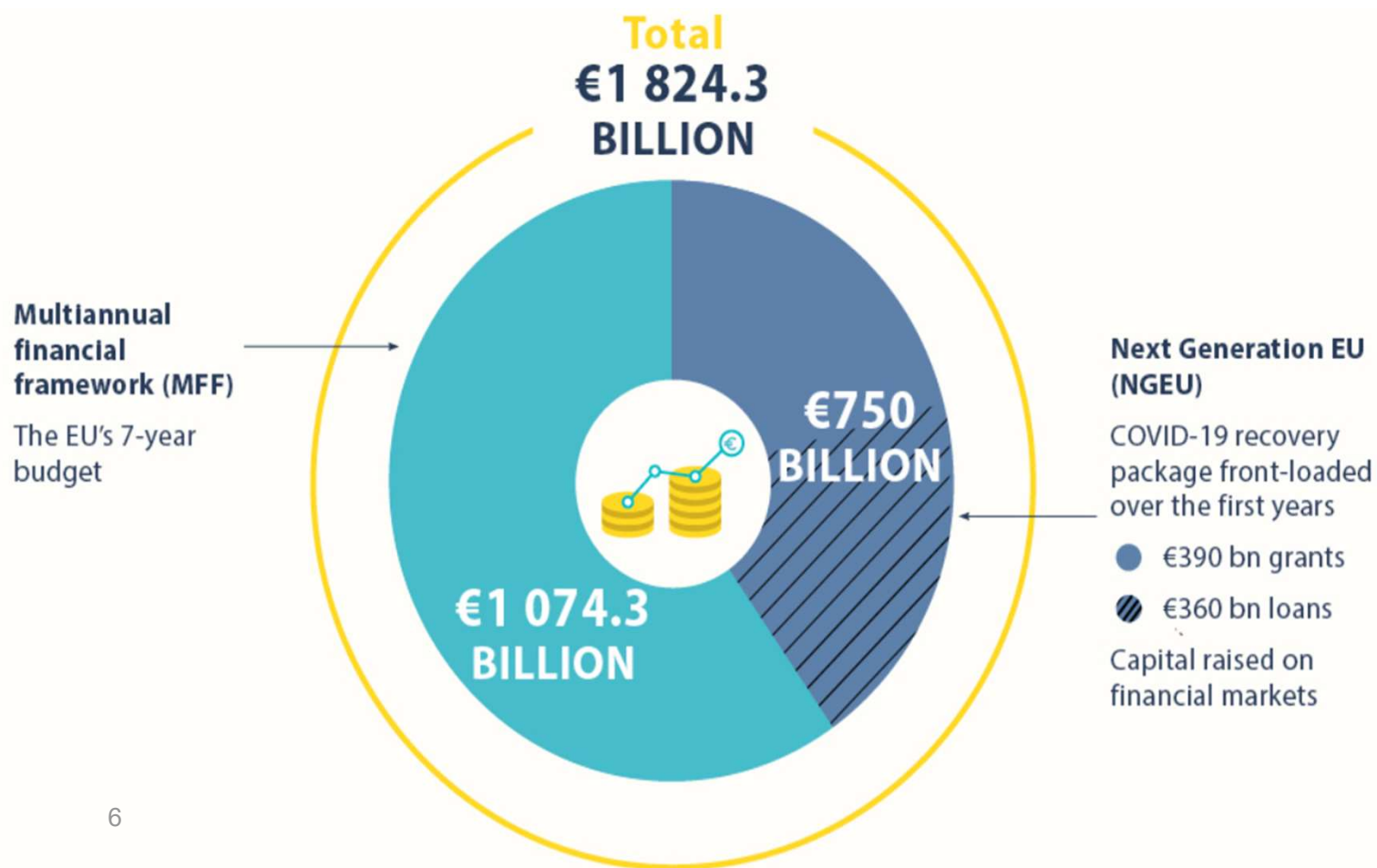
# Competitive sustainability is at the heart of the EU social market economy...



- ✓ Building an **economy** that **works for people & the planet**
- ✓ Help EU & Member States achieve UN **Sustainable Development Goals**
- ✓ On track for **climate neutrality** in 2050

5 Indicative matching of SDGs w/ competitive sustainability guiding principles

## Recovery & Resilience Facility at the heart of EU Recovery Plan

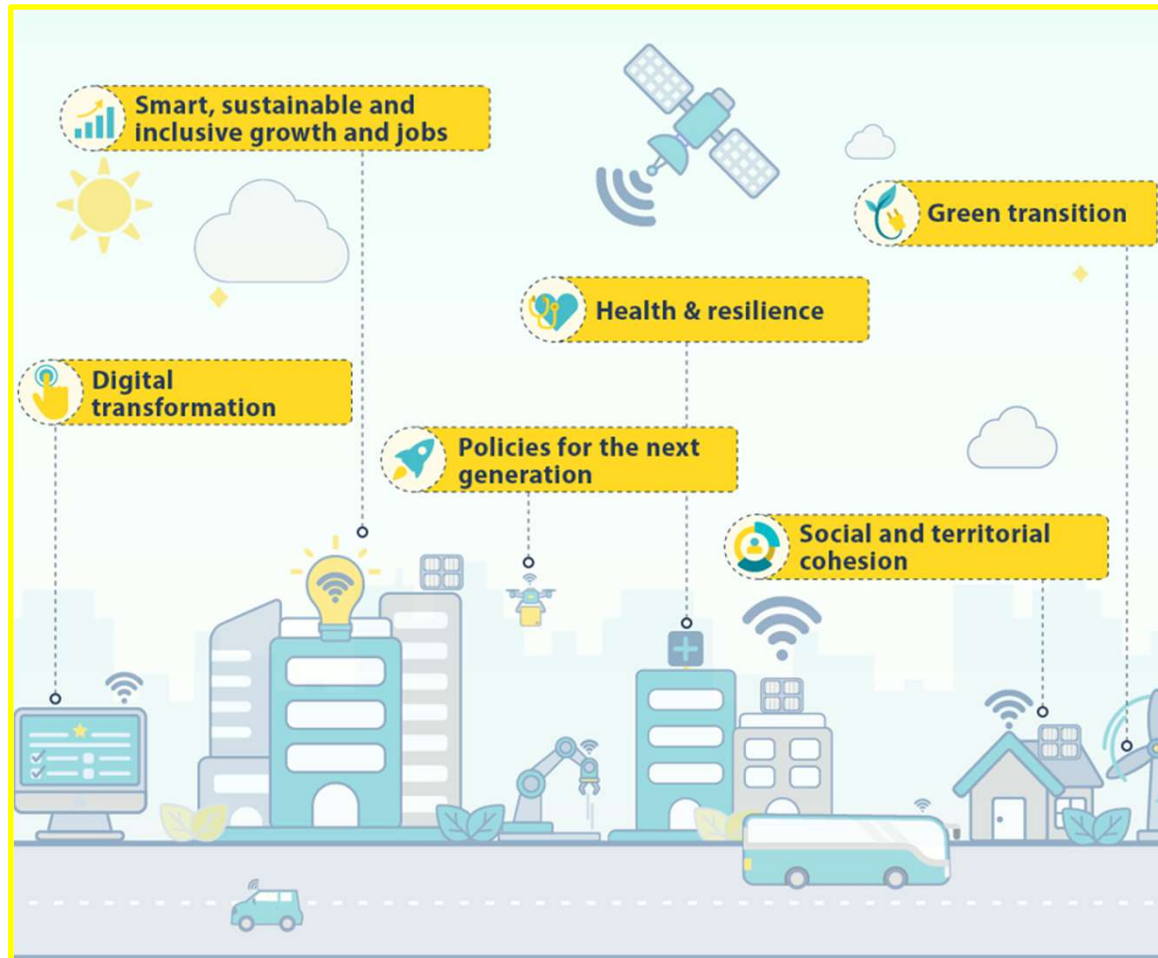


## How does the Recovery and Resilience Facility work?





## The Facility has six policy pillars



## Six SDG Transformations\*

1. Education, gender & inequality
2. Health, well-being & demography
3. Energy decarbonisation & sustainable industry
4. Sustainable food, land, water & oceans
5. Sustainable cities & communities
6. Digital revolution for sustainable development

\*Sachs J D, Schmidt-Traub G, Mazzucato M, Messner D, Nakicenovic N, Rockström J (2019). [Six Transformations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals](#). *Nature Sustainability*



## National Recovery & Resilience Plan – some key features



### National Recovery & Resilience Plan

- **Coherent package of reforms & public investments**
- **Performance-based:**
  - SMART milestones & targets, clear timeline
  - Costs reasonable, plausible & commensurate
  - Disbursement linked to performance
- **National ownership key** = important role of stakeholders in preparation
- **Complementarity**
  - Consistency w/ other initiatives (e.g. National Reform Programme, National Energy and Climate Plan, partnership agreements under cohesion policy)
  - Complementarity of funding: “additionality principle”: no double EU funding of same cost
- **State aid compliance**
- **Audit & controls**

## Supporting the green transition = implementation of EU Green Deal



**Decarbonise power generation and industry**



**Promote a more circular economy**



**Protect and restore biodiversity**



**Strengthen sustainable mobility**

- **Min. 37% of climate-related** expenditure
- **Each** measure to respect “**do no significant harm**” principle

## Supporting the digital transition



**Improve  
connectivity**



**Help citizens  
develop digital  
skills**



**Deploy cutting edge  
technologies**



**Improve cyber  
security**

- Min. **20%** of **digital-related expenditure**

# A tool to address common Member State challenges



- **7 EU flagship areas**
- **Multi-country/cross-border projects** scaling up EU strategic digital & green capacities

## FLAGSHIP AREAS FOR INVESTMENTS AND REFORMS

### POWER UP

Clean technologies and renewables

### RENOVATE

Energy efficiency of buildings

### RECHARGE AND REFUEL

Sustainable transport and charging stations

### CONNECT

Roll-out of rapid broadband services

### MODERNISE

Digitalisation of public administration

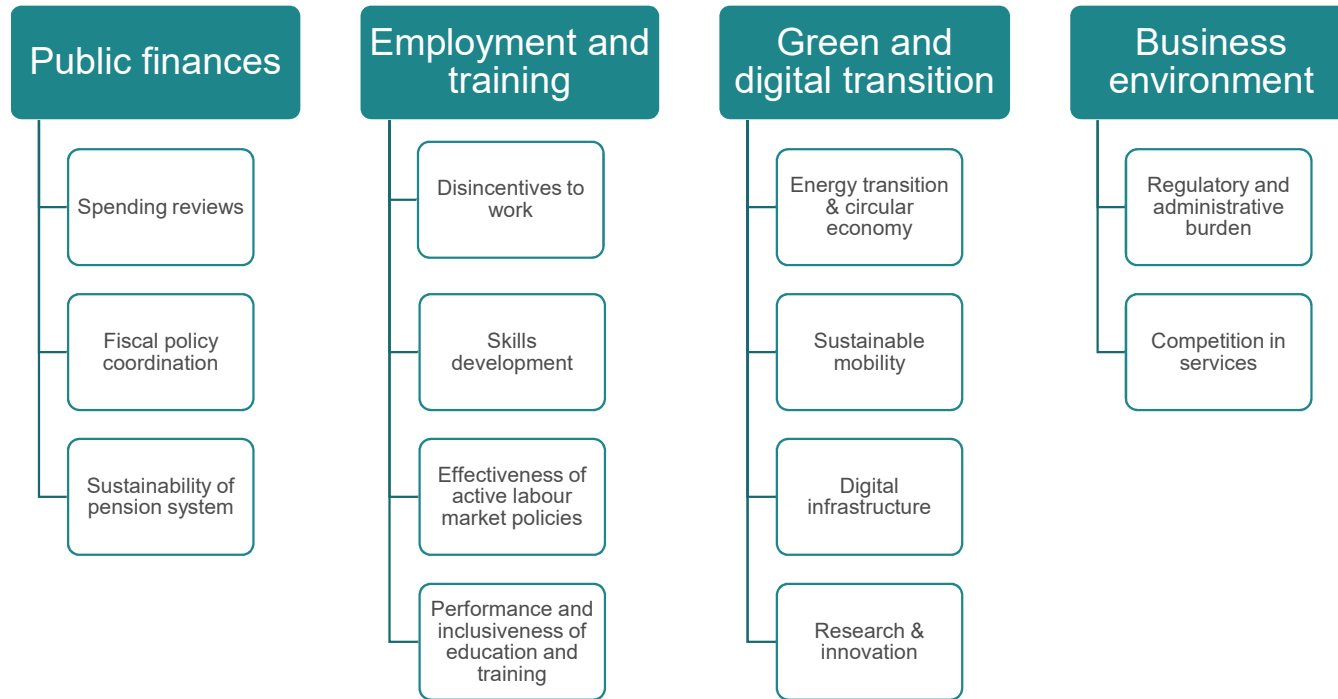
### SCALE-UP

Data cloud capacities and sustainable processors

### RESKILL AND UPSKILL

Education and training to support digital skills

# Country-specific challenges in 2019-2020 Country-Specific Recommendations – example of Belgium





## Key messages



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- **SDGs are clearly embedded in the European Semester of economic governance**
- **The Recovery and Resilience Facility is solidarity in action.** It offers a historic opportunity for the EU and Member States to kickstart economic repair and recovery in a sustainable way, **accelerating the 2030 UN Agenda delivery** in this way
- **National ownership** will be key to ensure the Facility is a **lasting success**

## Further information

- **European Semester:**

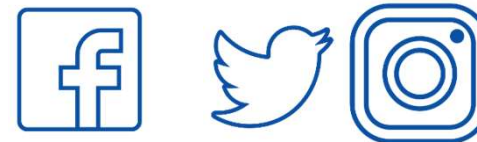
- 2019 Country specific recommendations for Belgium: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019DC0501&from=EN>
- 2020 Country specific recommendations for Belgium: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32020H0826\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32020H0826(01))
- Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1658](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1658)

- **EU Recovery Plan:**

- EU Recovery Plan: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/recovery-plan-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/recovery-plan-europe_en)
- Recovery and Resilience Facility: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en)
- Recover Taskforce: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/recovery-and-resilience-task-force\\_en#Documents](https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/recovery-and-resilience-task-force_en#Documents)

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# Thank you

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