

SPRING 2012 REFORM BAROMETER – ITALY

	<u>Level</u>			<u>Rank</u>			<u>Gap</u>		<u>Areas of Action</u>
	2010	2011	Change	2010	2011	change	EU top 5	Gap ¹	
Pillar I									
1 GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity- PPP)	24456	24855	1,6%	18	18	0	NL AT IE SE DK	-22%	
2 GDP per capita (€ at 2000 prices)	23524	23555	0,1%	17	17	0	DK IE SE NL AT	-33%	
3 Labour productivity per hour worked (PPP)	33,7	34,3	1,8%	16	16	0	NL BE FR IE DE	-24%	
4 Labour productivity per person employed (PPP)	59974	61037	1,8%	14	14	0	IE BE AT FR NL	-12%	
5 Private investment (excluding non residential, %GDP)	7,5	7,8	0,4	5	5	0	SK AT BE IT CZ	-0,6	■
6 Industrial activity (% total value added)	18,7	18,7	0,0	18	18	0	SK CZ IE RO HU	-11,7	■
7 R&D expenditure (% GDP) *	1,3	1,3	0,0	22	22	0	FI SE DK DE AT	-1,9	■
8 Operating surplus (% total value added)	42,0	40,9	-1,1	16	18	-2	BG GR RO LT IE	-14,2	■
Pillar II									
9 Current Account (% GDP)	-3,5	-3,6	-0,2	22	26	-4	SE DK NL LU DE	-9,3	■
10 Export market share (gain from 2000)	-20,4	-21,4	-1,0	29	29	0	LT RO HU BG CZ	-84,6	■
11 Net export contribution to GDP	-0,2	0,5	0,7	23	19	4	PT IE GR SK HU	-2,6	■
12 Relative yearly gain in global trade share (% total trade)	-0,06	-0,02	0,0	16	14	2	EE LT LV BG CZ	-0,12	■
13 Relative unit labour cost (gain from 2000)	6,3	7,3	0,9	18	20	-2	DE SE AT PL GR	14,3	■
14 High-tech exports (% total exports) **	5,9	6,8	0,9	22	21	1	MT LU HU IE CY	-23,2	■
Pillar III									
15 Employment rate (% working age population)	56,9	57,1	0,1	18	18	0	AT NL LU DE CY	-13,3	■
16 Employment rate 15-24 (% population 15-24)	20,5	19,3	-1,2	29	28	1	NL DK AT DE UK	-34,0	■
17 Employment rate 55-64 (% population 55-64)	36,6	37,4	0,8	28	28	0	SE DE DK UK FI	-23,2	■
18 Annual hours worked (per capita)	1778	1778	0,0%	13	13	0	PL PT CZ GR HU	-10%	■
19 Labour participation (% working age population)	63,2	63,1	-0,1	30	31	-1	SE DK NL PT DE	-16,7	■
20 Working age population (as % total population)	65,7	65,5	-0,2	28	28	0	SK PL CY LT RO	0,9	■
21 Unemployment rate (% labour force)	8,4	8,3	-0,1	18	18	0	AT NL LU DK MT	2,9	■
Pillar IV									
22 Gross debt - general government (% GDP)	118,4	120,5	2,0	29	29	0	EE BG LU RO SE	97,9	■
23 Net debt - general government (% GDP)*	-98,1	-97,0	1,1	28	28	0	EE DK BG RO SE	-102,5	■
24 Government budget balance (% GDP)	-4,6	-4,0	0,7	14	14	0	HU SE EE LU FI	-2,5	■
25 Primary balance (% GDP)	-0,1	0,9	1,1	5	7	-2	HU SE DE EE IT	-1,5	■
26 Tax burden (% GDP)	42,6	42,6	0,0	27	25	2	BG LT LV RO SK	14,7	■
27 Highest marginal tax rate, individual rate (%)	43,0	43,0	0	19	19	0	BG CZ LT RO SK	26	■
28 Public investment (% total public expenditure)	4,4	4,0	-0,1	28	29	-1	RO PL BG LV LT	-11,0	■
Pillar V									
29 Net foreign assets (% GDP) *	30,8	29,9	-0,9	14	14	0	LU NL CY BE DE	105,6	■
30 Net financial assets, households (% GDP) *	182,7	175,0	-7,8	3	3	0	BE IT MT NL CY	4,1	■
31 Net financial liabilities, non financial corporations (% GDP)*	-130,6	-126,5	4,1	20	20	0	SK DE NL GR DK	66,1	■
32 Regulatory tier 1 capital to risk weighted assets *	7,5	8,6	1,1	32	30	2	EE BE MT LU RO	-6,3	■
33 Non performing loans to total gross loans	7,0	9,9	2,9	24	20	4	FI LU SE AT BE	-2,1	■
34 Loans to private sector (% GDP) *	103,9	110,3	6,4	14	15	-1	RO SK PL CZ LT	58,6	■
35 Bank liabilities (%GDP) *	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	RO SK PL LT BG	N/A	■

■ Five best
■ Lowest third

1. Percentage points, when not indicated otherwise

* 2009/ 2010 data
** 2008/ 2009 data

A methodological note can be found in the report or [here](#).

PRIORITIES FOR REFORM IN 2012

	I. Policy Area	II. Concrete Recommendations	III. Are the proposed recommendations already in the agenda of your Government?	
			Yes	No
Priority 1	16	Reduce public expenditures, eliminate one level of government (provinces), sell public companies	x	
Priority 2	6	Open internal market to reduce firms' costs and increase efficiency	x	
Priority 3	14	Raising the retirement age, reducing the cost of health care by increasing the efficiency of the system	x	
Priority 4	19	Change the composition of the tax system by shifting the burden from firms and labour to consumption, property and unearned income	x	
Priority 5	18	Promoting Public-Private partnership; introducing new rules to speed up the approval of investment projects	x	

Policy areas

1. Business Environment - Regulatory barriers to entrepreneurship
2. Business Dynamics - Start-up conditions
3. R&D and Innovation
4. ICT
5. Competition policy framework
6. Sector specific regulation (telecom, energy)
7. Market integration - Openness to trade and investment
8. Active labour market policies
9. Job protection
10. Labour supply measures for specific groups (older workers, women...)
11. Wage bargaining and wage-setting policies
12. Labour market mismatch and labour mobility
13. Making work-pay: interplay of tax and benefit system
14. Pension and health care reforms
15. Quality of fiscal institutions and budgetary framework
16. Consolidation of public expenditures
17. Public sector efficiency
18. Public investment
19. Tax reforms
20. Access to bond markets
21. Access to equity markets
22. Venture capital and SME financing instruments
23. Bank lending conditions
24. Long term investment instruments

REFORM PROGRESS IN 2011

	I. Policy Area	II. Concrete Recommendations	III. Are the proposed recommendations already in the agenda of your Government?		How do you assess reform progress over the past year? (1 for excellent progress; 5 for no progress) *		Are these priorities properly identified in the National Reform Programme submitted by your government in 2011?	
			Yes	No	Comments	Rank	Yes	No
Priority 1	5	Simplification of the business regulatory framework; reduction of the tax burden on firms in the context of a fiscal system reform	X			5	x	
Priority 2	16	Reduction of primary expenditure; implementation of spending review; the cut of unuseful public bodies (such as Provinces)	X			3	x	
Priority 3	18	Planning an increase in public investment expenditure of up to 2.5% of GDP; promoting Public-Private partnership; introducing new rules to	X			5		x
Priority 4	17	Better definition of decentralized governments' functions to reduce demarcation disputes; reduction of the administrative burden for firms;	X			5		x
Priority 5	8	Reforming the education system in order to increase the percentage of graduates and highly-skilled professionals; developing training	X			3	x	

* Please see list of areas on page 2 "reform priorities for 2012"

* Rank of reform progress: 1. Excellent/ no further progress needed; 2. Satisfactory; 3. Mixed; 4. Unsatisfactory; 5. No progress

REFORM PROGRESS IN OVERALL POLICY AREAS 2011

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Mixed</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>No progress</i>
Productivity and investment					X
International competitiveness				X	
Labour market			X		
Public finances		X			
Financial stability		X			

EUROPEAN SEMESTER

1. Do you believe the European Semester will bring a real change to policy coordination in Europe?

<i>Yes, absolutely</i>	<i>To a large extent</i>	<i>To some extent</i>	<i>Not enough</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
			x	

2. Basing your analysis on the National Reform Programme submitted by your government, would you consider that it reveals a greater commitment from your country to this process?

<i>Yes, absolutely</i>	<i>To a large extent</i>	<i>To some extent</i>	<i>Not enough</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
	x			

the Italian NRP was submitted by the previous Government, and that the current Government has already committed to (if not approved - i.e. the recent reform of the Italian pension system) a thorough reform agenda;

3. Do you believe the National Reform Programme submitted by your government properly reflects the key challenges in your country?

<i>Yes, absolutely</i>	<i>To a large extent</i>	<i>To some extent</i>	<i>Not enough</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
			x	

4. The Commission's country specific recommendations for your country are:

<i>Excessively complacent</i>	<i>Slightly too positive</i>	<i>Absolutely appropriate</i>	<i>Slightly too negative</i>	<i>Excessively harsh</i>
		x		

5. Are the country-specific recommendations being properly implemented?

<i>Yes, absolutely</i>	<i>To a large extent</i>	<i>To some extent</i>	<i>Not enough</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
				x

6. Are commitments concerning the euro plus pact properly addressed by your government in the NRP?

<i>Yes, absolutely</i>	<i>To a large extent</i>	<i>To some extent</i>	<i>Not enough</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
			x	

7. Do you believe the Commission recommendations in this area to be appropriate?

<i>Yes, absolutely</i>	<i>To a large extent</i>	<i>To some extent</i>	<i>Not enough</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
	x			