

Ireland

1. Covid-19 Pandemic and National Recovery and Resilience Plans

Question 1	Based on early indications, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way your country has started implementing the national recovery and resilience plan?	Satisfied
Question 2	How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the involvement of social partners in the implementation so far of your national recovery and resilience plan?	Dissatisfied
Question 3	How confident are you that the European Commission will enforce strong implementation of the reforms in the national recovery and resilience plans across the EU?	Somewhat confident
Question 4	How do you judge the overall economic policy response in your country over the past 24 months to the COVID-19 recession? (e.g. furlough schemes, tax deferrals, state aid schemes)	Excellent
Question 5	How do you judge the overall economic policy response from the European Union over the past 24 months to the COVID-19 recession? (e.g. SURE, Recovery and Resilience Facility, single market)	Excellent
Question 6	To what extent has the COVID-19 pandemic and recession led to scarring i.e. permanent structural damage to your national economy?	To some extent
Question 7	To what extent has the COVID-19 pandemic and recession led to scarring i.e. permanent structural damage to the EU27 economy?	To some extent
Question 8	More specifically, how much lower do you expect GDP in your country to be in 2025 than would have been the case without the crisis?	GDP in 2025 expected to be <u>1</u> % lower than what would have been the case without the pandemic

2. Assessment of Country Specific recommendations 2020-2021 in detail

		Q1: The recommendation is:	Q2: implementation on effort is:	Detailed comments
CSR 1	In line with the general escape clause, take all necessary measures to effectively address the pandemic, sustain the economy and support the ensuing recovery. When economic conditions allow, pursue fiscal policies aimed at achieving prudent medium-term fiscal positions and ensuring debt sustainability, while enhancing investment. Improve accessibility of the health system and strengthen its resilience, including by responding to health workforce's needs and ensuring universal coverage to primary care.	Important	Excellent/No further progress needed	
CSR 2	Support employment through developing skills. Address the risk of digital divide, including in the education sector. Increase the provision of social and affordable housing.	Extremely important	Mixed	
CSR 3	Continue to provide support to companies, notably small and medium-sized enterprises, especially through measures ensuring their liquidity. Front-load mature public investment projects and promote private investment to foster the economic recovery. Focus investment on the green and digital transition, in particular on clean and efficient production and use of energy, sustainable public transport, water supply and treatment, research and innovation and digital infrastructure.	Extremely important	Satisfactory	

		Q1: The recommendation is:	Q2: implementation on effort is:	Detailed comments
CSR 4	Broaden the tax base. Step up action to address features of the tax system that facilitate aggressive tax planning, including on outbound payments. Ensure effective supervision and enforcement of the anti-money laundering framework as regards professionals providing trust and company services.	Helpful (but not a priority)	Excellent/No further progress needed	

3. Reform Progress in your Member State in 2020 & 2021

How would you assess reform progress in 2020 & 2021, for the following broad areas:

Taxation and Public Finances	Excellent
Business environment (regulation/access to markets)	Satisfactory
Labour market	Mixed
Innovation and skills	Mixed
Access to finance and Financial stability	Excellent

Is there any example of an economic reform, specific to your country that BusinessEurope could highlight in its 2022 Reform Barometer?

4. Reform priorities for 2022

	I. Policy Area	II. Concrete Recommendations	III. Are the proposed recommendations already in the agenda of your Government?
Priority 1	Public investment	Engage in planning reform to improve conditions for both public and private sector investment	Yes
Priority 2	R&D and Innovation	Increase Government expenditure on R&D by 20% by 2025 in order to bring Ireland in line with EU norms	No
Priority 3	Tax reforms	Large scale review of tax system underway through Commission on taxation. Ibec has made a wide range of views - broader/stable base needed and an improved balance between taxation of mobile (investment, talent) versus less mobile (assets, consumption).	Yes
Priority 4	Labour market mismatch and labour mobility	Investment in third level education needed after significant cuts since the financial crisis - along with a long-term funding model for the sector. Crucial for skills.	No
Priority 5	Pension and health care reforms	A new Commission on Pensions has made recommendations which Ibec broadly supports - this will include increasing retirement age gradually, the introduction of autoenrollment, as well as higher employer and employee social insurance contributions to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability.	Yes