

## **Government approves Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan to submit to Brussels this week**

*Moncloa Palace, Madrid, Tuesday 27 April 2021*

**The Plan contains 212 investments and reforms which will be allocated 140 billion euros from the European funds between 2021 and 2026. The government also authorised the distribution of more than 680 million euros to the regional governments for vocational training for employment.**

The Council of Ministers approved the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan for the Spanish Economy which it will submit to Brussels this week for its evaluation after its presentation by the President of the Government, Pedro Sánchez, on 14 April in the Lower House of Parliament.

The Minister for the Treasury and Government Spokesperson, María Jesús Montero, described it as the "most ambitious economic plan in our country in its recent history", which will lay the foundations "so that future generations can enjoy a better, more sustainable, more productive and more social country".

### **Spain to receive 140 billion euros between 2021 and 2026**

María Jesús Montero recalled that the agreement reached at the European Council on 21 July has led to the implementation of the largest package of support to tackle the economic crisis stemming from COVID-19, thanks to which Spain will receive 140 billion euros between the years 2021 and 2026, 70 billion of which are direct transfers.

The 212 measures that these funds will be allocated to are set out in the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, which includes 110 investments and 102 reforms, with four cornerstones for transformation: the ecological transition, the digital transformation, social and territorial cohesion and gender equality. Its aims include modernising the productive fabric and the public authorities, highlighted María Jesús Montero, boosting the growth potential of the economy, boosting the creation of quality jobs, developing towards a greener and more sustainable economy, and reducing social inequalities.

The Government Spokesperson stressed that the Plan has already started to be implemented while awaiting approval from the European Commission, which has two months to review it. This can be seen in the fact that more than 2 billion euros have already been distributed to the regional authorities for different projects, in accordance with the agreements reached at the different sector conferences. María Jesús Montero described this distribution as an example of the framework of co-governance and respect for the jurisdiction of each public authority that will implement the Plan.

### **Plan to modernise the justice system**

The minister announced that the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan will also finance the Justice 2030 "Project 0", which provides for an investment of 400 million euros over the next three years to implement homogenous and interoperable digital infrastructures.

The three specific projects are the Modernisation of Infrastructures, Digital Immediacy and Digital Public Faith, and Digital Services for citizens, companies and groups.

The government authorised the distribution on Tuesday of the first 20.6 million euros under "Project 0" among the regional governments with transferred powers on justice matters.

### **More than 680 million euros for vocational training for employment**

The government approved the proposed distribution of more than 680 million euros to the regional governments for vocational training for creditable employment. The amount is 13.18% higher than in 2020.

548.7 million euros will be allocated to training for unemployed workers, 115 million to training for workers and the remaining 19.5 million to specific programmes implemented by the autonomous regions, both for workers and for the unemployed.

Also in relation to education, the government has approved 14 new professional qualifications in the National List of Professional Qualifications, and updated another 11 qualifications. The National List now has 687 qualifications.

## **Integrated and single vocational training system**

The Minister for Education and Vocational Training, Isabel Celaá, framed these agreements within the decisions that have been adopted since 2018 to consolidate a single integrated vocational training system for the education system and for training for employment. "We must ensure that training becomes a natural part of people's lives, of people's professional lives, guaranteeing lifelong updates, qualifications and the retraining of professional skills".

This integrated system will be consolidated in a new Vocational Training Act, currently being drawn up.

Isabel Celaá claimed that these changes respond to four structural challenges. The first is to accredit the high number of workers in our country who lack formal accreditation of their professional skills - 48% of the active population, or 11 million people. The second is to reduce the number of people that exclusively have one initial qualification so that they can obtain an intermediate qualification, given that by the year 2025, 50% of job positions will require this. "We have a clear task ahead of us on this matter", said Isabel Celaá.

The third and fourth challenges are to increase the number of training hours and the number of places, since the average in Spain is below half the European average in the number of students enrolled.

<https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/presidente/actividades/Paginas/2020/espana-puede.aspx> (Spanish)

*Non official translation*