

Ensuring a Socially Just Building Decarbonisation

An assessment of Romania's Social Climate Plan



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Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Climate Action,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety



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Executive summary

Romania's Social Climate Plan (SCP) represents a key instrument for addressing the social impacts of the European Union's climate transition, particularly those resulting from the extension of the EU Emissions Trading System to buildings (ETS2). The SCP aims to mitigate energy and transport poverty through targeted investments and measures that support vulnerable households, microenterprises and transport users.

Romania faces significant structural challenges related to energy poverty, energy performance of buildings, and dependence on fossil fuels and biomass for heating, especially in rural areas. A large share of the residential building stock was constructed before modern energy efficiency standards, and requires substantial renovation and modernisation. In this context, the SCP is expected to complement existing national and European legislation and funding mechanisms, including the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, REPowerEU, Cohesion Policy funds and the Modernisation Fund.

The draft Romanian SCP proposes investments in building renovation, energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy deployment, clean mobility and direct income support. The Plan is built around three complementary components.

- 1 The first component focuses on improving the energy performance of buildings through four dedicated investments,** into deep and moderate renovation of multi-apartment buildings, and of single-family houses occupied by energy-poor households in rural areas; the deployment of heat pumps, photovoltaic systems and battery storage; and support for vulnerable microenterprises operating in energy-inefficient buildings. These measures aim to reduce energy consumption, lower greenhouse gas emissions and permanently decrease household energy expenditure.



- 2 The second component addresses transport poverty through investments in accessible and affordable mobility.** The SCP includes measures supporting public transport services in underserved areas, demand-responsive transport solutions, mobility services for marginalised communities, financial instruments for vulnerable microenterprises and a social leasing scheme for zero-emission vehicles.
- 3 The third component provides temporary direct income support to vulnerable households affected by higher energy prices resulting from ETS2.** According to the draft plan, this measure will be implemented during the initial years of ETS2 application and is designed as a transitional instrument until structural measures, particularly building renovation and clean heating investments, generate lasting reductions in household energy costs.

Overall, the Romanian SCP provides a promising framework for supporting a socially just energy transition. However, further clarification is needed regarding governance mechanisms, implementation timelines, financing allocation, and the operational targeting of vulnerable households and worst-performing buildings. While the draft SCP establishes a coherent strategic direction, additional detail would facilitate effective delivery and improve transparency during the implementation period.



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1. Introduction

The Social Climate Fund (SCF), established by [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/955](#), is an EU funding instrument designed to address the social and distributional impacts associated with the introduction of the Emissions Trading System for buildings, road transport and additional sectors (ETS2). The fund aims to support vulnerable households, vulnerable microenterprises and vulnerable transport users, particularly those affected by energy or transport poverty, and to ensure that they can participate in and benefit from the transition towards a climate-neutral economy.

The SCF supports measures and investments that reduce dependence on fossil fuels and provide longer-term protection against rising energy and mobility costs. Eligible interventions may include building renovation and energy-efficiency improvements, the decarbonisation of heating and cooling, the deployment of renewable energy in buildings, and improved access to affordable low- and zero-emission mobility and transport. Member States may also provide targeted temporary direct income support, provided that it complements structural measures and investments addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability.

To access the fund, each Member State is required to prepare a Social Climate Plan (SCP) setting out its national approach for the 2026–2032 period. The plans, which were due to be submitted to the European Commission by 30 June 2025, should identify the vulnerable groups and territories expected to be most affected by ETS2, assess the anticipated social and distributional impacts, and define the measures and investments through which these impacts will be addressed. They should also set out the associated costs, milestones and targets, monitoring arrangements and stakeholder consultation processes. Social Climate Plans therefore serve both as strategic frameworks for national action and as implementation tools for ensuring that SCF support is targeted, coherent and socially effective.

Romania faces significant structural challenges that are directly relevant to the objectives of the SCF, including high levels of energy poverty and a large stock of energy-inefficient residential buildings. Many households, particularly in rural areas, rely on outdated heating systems, firewood or fossil fuels, while low-income households often lack access to the financing needed to improve the energy performance of their homes.



Rising energy and transport costs may therefore disproportionately affect vulnerable groups unless adequate and well-targeted support is provided. In this context, the introduction of ETS2 presents both an opportunity to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels and a risk of exacerbating existing social inequalities.

The draft Romanian Social Climate Plan acknowledges these structural challenges and proposes an integrated package of measures and investments aimed at reducing the long-term exposure of vulnerable groups to energy and transport costs. Rather than relying exclusively on short-term compensation, the plan prioritises structural interventions to improve the energy performance of buildings, accelerate the deployment of clean heating technologies and renewable energy systems, and expand access to sustainable mobility. These measures are complemented by temporary direct income support intended to mitigate the immediate impacts of ETS2 during its initial implementation. The plan is therefore expected to play an important role in ensuring that the implementation of climate policies in Romania is socially inclusive and publicly acceptable.

The buildings sector represents a central component of the Romanian SCP. The draft plan includes dedicated investments for the energy renovation of multi-apartment buildings occupied by vulnerable households, the renovation and decarbonisation of single-family houses in rural areas, and the installation of heat pumps, photovoltaic systems and battery storage. It also includes support for vulnerable microenterprises operating in energy-inefficient buildings. Together, these interventions are intended to address both the immediate affordability challenges faced by vulnerable groups and the structural factors that contribute to their continued exposure to high energy costs.

The SCP has been developed in connection with existing national and EU policy and funding frameworks, including Romania's Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan, the National Building Renovation Plan, the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, REPowerEU and the Modernisation Fund. According to the draft plan, these instruments are intended to complement one another by combining broader structural investments financed through existing programmes with the targeted social measures supported by the SCF. Effective coordination between these instruments will be essential to avoid duplication, address potential funding gaps and maximise the overall impact of public investment.



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2. Identification of vulnerable households and worst-performing buildings

Identification of vulnerable households

Romania continues to face significant challenges related to energy poverty, particularly among low-income households, rural populations, older people and socially marginalised groups. According to Eurostat, 10.8% of Romania's population were unable to keep their homes adequately warm in 2024, compared with an EU average of 9.2%. Vulnerable households are generally identified based on income levels, energy expenditure burdens, housing quality and dependence on inefficient heating systems.

The Romanian SCP is broadly consistent with the concept of energy poverty set out in the revised EU [Energy Efficiency Directive \(Directive \(EU\) 2023/1791\)](#). Its measures primarily target vulnerable households affected by poor energy performance of buildings, dependence on fossil fuels and increased energy costs associated with ETS2, while also addressing transport poverty through dedicated mobility measures. Special attention is expected to be directed toward rural households relying on firewood, coal or fossil fuels for heating, as well as urban residents connected to inefficient district heating systems. Vulnerable local administrative units and disadvantaged regions are also considered priority areas.

Identification of worst-performing buildings

Romania's residential building stock contains a high share of energy-inefficient buildings. Approximately 70% of residential buildings were constructed before 1990, when thermal insulation standards were significantly less stringent.



The urban housing stock is dominated by apartment blocks built during the socialist period (1961-1990), while many rural dwellings are detached houses with poor thermal insulation and inefficient heating systems. Consequently, a large share of the residential building stock requires deep energy renovation.¹ Many buildings suffer from inadequate thermal insulation, outdated heating systems and poor energy performance. Moreover, almost half of Romania's population still relies on wood for heating, while in rural areas this share reaches around 80%, often using old stoves with efficiencies of only around 15%. At the same time, around 8 in 10 buildings require energy renovation because of their age and poor energy performance

Worst-performing buildings are typically identified using energy performance certificates (EPCs), energy audits and national building performance classifications. Buildings with the highest energy consumption and lowest efficiency ratings should be prioritised for renovation under the upcoming national and EU-funded programmes. Particular emphasis needs to be placed on residential buildings occupied by vulnerable and energy-poor households, especially multi-family residential buildings and single-family homes.

How the definition of energy poverty is operationalised at national level

Romania does not currently provide a standalone legal definition of energy poverty. Instead, the concept is operationalised through the legal definition of the vulnerable energy consumer established by [Law No. 226/2021](#) on social protection measures for vulnerable energy consumers. Under Article 3(1)(a), a vulnerable energy consumer is defined as a single person or family who, due to health conditions, age, insufficient income or isolation from energy sources, requires social protection measures and additional services to ensure at least minimum energy needs. The law establishes eligibility criteria and both financial and non-financial support measures aimed at preventing and combating energy poverty, including heating allowances, energy supplements, support for energy-efficient equipment and building renovation, and protection against disconnection in situations of energy crisis

Romania operationalises energy poverty primarily through socioeconomic indicators linked to income vulnerability, housing conditions and energy affordability. Existing social protection mechanisms, heating aid schemes and energy subsidies are usually used to identify vulnerable consumers.

The SCP intends to strengthen this operational framework by integrating climate-related vulnerability indicators associated with ETS2 impacts. For the preparation of the SCP, the identification of households, transport users and microenterprises vulnerable to the impacts of ETS2 was supported through a dedicated technical support instrument project financed by the European Commission. The analytical work included the development of context-specific vulnerability indicators, statistical modelling of ETS2 distributional impacts, territorial analysis and stakeholder consultations. While the SCP refers to a sub-national analysis and the identification of vulnerable territories and target groups, the detailed methodology has not yet been published as part of the official SCP documentation.

1. OECD (2026), OECD Economic Surveys: Romania 2026, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/4844067e-en>.



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3. Assessment of measures and investments

Romania's draft Social Climate Plan is structured around three main components: (i) investments in the buildings sector, (ii) measures addressing transport poverty and sustainable mobility, and (iii) temporary direct income support for vulnerable households. The building component represents the largest share of the planned investments and is intended to provide long-term reductions in energy expenditure through energy renovation, electrification of heating and deployment of renewable energy systems.

Component	Investment / Measure	Main objective	Main beneficiaries
 Buildings	Investment I1	Energy renovation of multi-apartment buildings	Vulnerable households
 Buildings	Investment I2	Heat pumps, photovoltaic systems and battery storage	Vulnerable households
 Buildings	Investment I3	Energy renovation and decarbonisation of rural single-family houses	Energy-poor households
 Buildings	Investment I4	Renovation of buildings used by vulnerable microenterprises	Vulnerable microenterprises
 Transport	Measure 1 and Investments I1-I5	Accessible and affordable sustainable mobility	Vulnerable transport users
 Income support	Direct income support	Temporary compensation for ETS2-related price increases	Vulnerable households

Table 1: Overview of the investments included in the Romanian Social Climate Plan



3.1 Assessment of investments within the buildings component

With a total budget of €3.44 billion, the building component contributes to the green transition by enhancing the energy performance of the building stock. Its investments focus on the energy renovation of multi-family and single-family residential buildings, the modernisation of technical building systems, and the integration of clean energy technologies, such as heat pumps and photovoltaic installations.

Investment I1 Energy renovation of multi-apartment buildings	
 Description	Investment I1 targets the energy renovation of multi-apartment residential buildings occupied by vulnerable households. The investment supports moderate and deep renovation measures, including thermal insulation of building envelopes, replacement of windows and roofs, modernisation of heating systems and improvements in overall energy performance.
 Assessment	This investment is well aligned with the objectives of the Social Climate Fund because it addresses both energy poverty and emissions reduction. Targeting vulnerable households living in inefficient apartment buildings is likely to generate substantial and lasting reductions in energy expenditure.
 Strengths	• Direct targeting of vulnerable households. • Long-term reduction of energy costs. • Strong complementarity with the National Building Renovation Plan.
 Potential gaps	• Limited information on prioritisation criteria where demand exceeds available funding. • Implementation may be constrained by condominium decision-making procedures.

Table 2: Overview of investment #1 of the Social Climate Plan



Investment I2 Heat pumps, photovoltaic systems and battery storage	
 Description	Investment I2 supports the installation of heat pumps, rooftop photovoltaic systems and battery storage solutions in multi-apartment buildings occupied by vulnerable households.
 Assessment	The integrated combination of electrification, renewable electricity generation and storage represents one of the strongest elements of the Romanian SCP. The investment addresses affordability, decarbonisation and resilience to future energy price increases simultaneously.
 Strengths	• Combines energy efficiency with renewable generation. • Reduces dependence on fossil fuels. • Improves household resilience to energy price volatility.
 Potential gaps	• Success depends on grid capacity and installation supply chains. • Further detail on maintenance and operational responsibilities would be beneficial.

Table 3: Overview of investment # 2 of the Social Climate Plan

Investment I3 Renovation and decarbonisation of rural single-family houses	
 Description	Investment I3 focuses on energy-poor households in rural areas and combines building renovation with the replacement of fossil fuel-based heating systems.
 Assessment	This investment is particularly important because rural households are among the groups most exposed to the social impacts of ETS2. The combination of renovation and clean heating technologies directly addresses the structural causes of energy poverty.
 Strengths	• Strong targeting of the most vulnerable rural households. • Addresses poor building performance and fossil fuel dependence simultaneously. • Likely to generate substantial reductions in energy consumption.
 Potential gaps	• Administrative outreach in remote rural areas may be challenging. • Additional support for project preparation could improve uptake.

Table 4: Overview of investment #3 of the Social Climate Plan



Investment I4 Renovation of buildings used by vulnerable microenterprises	
 Description	Investment I4 supports energy efficiency improvements and decarbonisation measures in buildings used by vulnerable microenterprises.
 Assessment	The inclusion of vulnerable microenterprises broadens the social scope of the plan beyond households and acknowledges that small businesses may also face significant cost increases under ETS2.
 Strengths	• Addresses energy vulnerability in the small business sector. • Supports both competitiveness and decarbonisation.
 Potential gaps	• The eligibility criteria for identifying vulnerable microenterprises could be described in greater detail.

Table 5: Overview of investment #4 of the Social Climate Plan

3.2 Overall assessment of the proposed investments

Overall, the Romanian SCP demonstrates a strong emphasis on structural measures rather than on temporary compensation. The largest share of planned resources is directed towards improving the energy performance of buildings occupied by vulnerable households, which is consistent with the objectives of the Social Climate Fund and with the long-term decarbonisation pathway established in the [Romanian National Energy and Climate Plan](#).

The combination of building renovation, electrification of heating and renewable energy deployment is likely to provide lasting reductions in household energy expenditure while simultaneously reducing greenhouse gas emissions. From a targeting perspective, the proposed measures appear broadly appropriate for households and microenterprises most exposed to the impacts of ETS2. In particular, the focus on rural energy-poor households and residents of energy-inefficient multi-apartment buildings reflects the vulnerability analysis presented in the SCP.

However, several implementation aspects would benefit from further clarification, including the operational methodology for prioritising beneficiaries, the coordination between national and local authorities, the sequencing of investments and the monitoring framework for measuring social outcomes. These issues do not undermine the overall strategic direction of the plan but addressing them would strengthen transparency and improve the likelihood of effective implementation.



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4. Governance

4.1 Governance framework

The Romanian Social Climate Plan establishes a governance framework intended to ensure the effective implementation, coordination and monitoring of measures financed through the Social Climate Fund. The plan recognises that the successful delivery of investments requires close cooperation between national authorities, regional and local administrations, implementing bodies and other stakeholders.

The Ministry of Investments and European Projects (MIPE) is designated as the national coordinating authority responsible for the overall management of the SCP and for ensuring compliance with the requirements of [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/955](#). In this capacity, MIPE is responsible for coordinating the preparation, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the plan, while also ensuring consistency with other EU-funded programmes and national strategic documents.

Implementation of the SCP relies on cooperation with sectoral ministries, particularly the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Youth and Social Solidarity, and other institutions responsible for individual investments. The plan therefore adopts a multi-level governance approach reflecting the cross-sectoral nature of energy poverty and transport poverty. However, although local authorities are expected to play a direct role in implementing the measures set out in the SCP, the plan does not specify the mechanisms through which they will be involved or clearly define their responsibilities.

4.2 Objectives, targets and milestones

The Romanian SCP establishes a clear strategic objective of mitigating the social impacts associated with the introduction of ETS2 while supporting the transition towards a climate-neutral economy. This objective is pursued through a combination of structural investments aimed at reducing long-term energy and transport costs and temporary income support measures designed to cushion the initial impacts of carbon pricing.



The plan defines general objectives of the investments and measures, such as improvements in the energy performance of residential buildings, increased deployment of renewable energy technologies, replacement of fossil fuel-based heating systems, enhanced access to sustainable mobility and targeted support for vulnerable households and vulnerable microenterprises. While the strategic objectives are clearly formulated, implementation milestones remain relatively high level and would benefit from additional operational detail, particularly regarding intermediate milestones and corrective measures in the event of delays.

4.3 Implementation timeline

The Romanian SCP follows the implementation period established under the Social Climate Fund Regulation, covering the period 2026–2032.² The plan distinguishes between preparatory activities, structural investments and temporary income support during the first years of ETS2 implementation.

The sequencing of measures reflects the strategic intention to combine immediate protection for vulnerable households through temporary income support with longer-term investments in building renovation, electrification and sustainable mobility. This integrated approach recognises that structural investments require longer implementation periods before generating measurable reductions in household energy expenditure.

Although the overall implementation timeline is presented, further detail regarding annual implementation schedules and expected completion dates for individual components and investments would improve transparency and facilitate monitoring.

4.4 Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

The governance arrangements described in the SCP provide an institutional framework at the strategic level by designating MIPE as the national coordinating authority and establishing a dedicated monitoring committee responsible for overseeing implementation. However, the plan remains relatively general regarding the institutional responsibilities for implementing individual measures and investments. In particular, for the buildings component, the SCP does not clearly specify the operational responsibilities of the institutions involved, nor does it explain how coordination between national authorities and other actors will be organised during project delivery. This limited level of institutional detail may create uncertainties during implementation and could affect the timely and effective achievement of the objectives of the buildings component, particularly those related to the identification of beneficiaries, project delivery and monitoring of results.

2. The first trading of allowances was supposed to start in 2027, but in November 2025, the European Parliament and the Council formally delayed the application of ETS2 by one year.



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5. Synergies with other strategic documents

The Romanian Social Climate Plan has been designed to complement existing national and European policy frameworks supporting the energy transition, climate neutrality and social inclusion. Rather than duplicating existing funding instruments, the SCP seeks to address the social impacts of the extension of the EU Emissions Trading System by targeting vulnerable households, vulnerable transport users and vulnerable microenterprises through dedicated investments and temporary income support. The complementarities with the main strategic documents are outlined below.

National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP)

The SCP directly supports the implementation of Romania's National Energy and Climate Plan by contributing to several of its key objectives, including improvements in energy efficiency, decarbonisation of the buildings sector and increased deployment of renewable energy sources. While the NECP establishes Romania's long-term energy and climate objectives, the SCP complements these ambitions by financing measures specifically targeting vulnerable households that might otherwise be unable to participate in the energy transition. Investments in building renovation, heat pumps and photovoltaic systems therefore contribute simultaneously to achieving the NECP's energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction targets while addressing energy poverty.

National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP)

The SCP complements the National Recovery and Resilience Plan by focusing support for energy renovation beyond the investments financed under the NRRP. Whereas the NRRP focuses primarily on accelerating the renovation of public and residential buildings as part of Romania's green transition, the SCP introduces a stronger social dimension by prioritising vulnerable households and vulnerable microenterprises. The two instruments therefore pursue similar decarbonisation objectives while addressing different target groups and funding needs.



REPowerEU

The SCP is closely aligned with the objectives of the REPowerEU Plan, particularly those related to reducing dependence on fossil fuels, increasing energy efficiency and accelerating the deployment of renewable energy technologies. Investments supporting heat pumps, rooftop photovoltaic systems and battery storage contribute directly to the diversification of energy sources and the electrification of residential heating. By targeting vulnerable households, the SCP complements REPowerEU's energy security objectives with measures aimed at ensuring a socially fair energy transition.

National Building Renovation Plan (NBRP)

The strongest synergies are observed with Romania's Long-Term Renovation Strategy (and its subsequent National Building Renovation Plan). Both strategic documents identify the renovation of the existing building stock as a key instrument for improving energy performance and reducing greenhouse gas emissions of buildings. The SCP complements these strategies by providing dedicated financial support for vulnerable households living in worst-performing buildings, thereby ensuring that the benefits of deep renovation are also accessible to groups facing the highest risk of energy poverty. In this respect, the SCP acts as the social implementation pillar of Romania's long-term renovation policy.

Cohesion Policy programmes

The SCP complements the European Cohesion Policy programmes by financing measures specifically designed to address the social consequences of climate policies. While Cohesion Policy supports broader investments in energy efficiency, urban development, sustainable mobility and public infrastructure, the SCP introduces targeted interventions for vulnerable groups expected to be most affected by ETS2. This complementary approach reduces the risk of funding overlaps while ensuring that social inclusion objectives are integrated into the green transition.

Modernisation Fund

The SCP and the Modernisation Fund pursue complementary objectives in supporting Romania's energy transition. The Modernisation Fund primarily finances large-scale investments in energy infrastructure, renewable energy production, district heating systems and energy efficiency improvements. By contrast, the SCP focuses on the end users of the transition, namely vulnerable households and microenterprises. Together, the two instruments address both the supply side and the demand side of decarbonisation, increasing the overall effectiveness of Romania's climate and energy policies.



Overall assessment

The Romanian SCP demonstrates a strategic coherence with the main national and European policy frameworks supporting the green transition. The plan does not aim to create parallel interventions, but to introduce a dedicated social dimension focused on mitigating the distributional impacts of ETS2. The strongest synergies are observed with the National Energy and Climate Plan, the National Recovery and Resilience Plan and the National Building Renovation Plan, particularly in relation to energy renovation, clean heating technologies and renewable energy deployment.

Nevertheless, while the measures of the SCP can be considered as strategic links with these policy frameworks, the plan does not provide information on practical coordination with other funding instruments, including how potential overlaps will be avoided, how investments will be sequenced and how synergies will be monitored during implementation. Further clarification of these coordination arrangements would strengthen the overall governance framework and improve the efficiency of public investment.



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6. Public consultation and representation

Romania conducted a public consultation process based on the principles of multi-level governance, involving public authorities, economic and social partners, civil society organisations and other stakeholders throughout the preparation of the SCP. In this direction, the Ministry of Investments and European Projects carried out a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify the institutions and organisations relevant to the implementation of the Social Climate Fund. The mapping covered all key sectors addressed by the SCP, including buildings, energy, transport, mobility and infrastructure, with the aim of ensuring broad institutional representation during the drafting process. The Ministry also launched an open call for expressions of interest, following which several organisations (NGOs) were selected to participate in the thematic working groups responsible for preparing the SCP.

However, feedback from several organisations and civil society representatives indicates that certain aspects of the consultation process could have been strengthened. The main concerns were related to:

- **the process for establishing the extended working group, including the transparency and visibility of the call for participation**
- **the lack of, or limited access to, successive draft versions of the SCP during its preparation, with the draft plan being published for public consultation only at the end of October 2025 and stakeholders being given a one-month period to submit their comments.**

Stakeholders also expressed concerns that the final version of the SCP did not adequately reflect the proposals submitted for developing a methodology for identifying vulnerable households, or for establishing more transparent and objective criteria for allocating financial resources.



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7. Financing

Romania is expected to benefit from approximately €6 billion under the Social Climate Fund, including the required national co-financing. The buildings component accounts for €3.44 billion of the total allocation, including €859.75 million to be provided through national co-financing. However, the SCP does not provide a breakdown of the financial allocation across the individual investments within the buildings component, limiting the transparency of the proposed financing framework.

In accordance with the Social Climate Fund Regulation, Romania will ensure the mandatory national co-financing of at least 25% of the total estimated costs of the SCP. The national contribution will be financed through a combination of reallocations from Cohesion Policy programmes under shared management and allocations from the state budget, enabling Romania to access the full financial support available under the Social Climate Fund.

Additional financial support is expected from complementary EU instruments such as the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, REPowerEU, Cohesion Funds and the Modernisation Fund.



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8. Conclusions

The Romanian Social Climate Plan provides a coherent framework for addressing the social impacts associated with the implementation of the new EU Emissions Trading System. The plan demonstrates a clear commitment to supporting vulnerable households, vulnerable transport users and vulnerable microenterprises through a balanced combination of structural investments and temporary income support measures.

However, several areas would benefit from further clarification and improvement:

-  The institutional responsibilities for implementing individual measures, particularly within the buildings component, remain relatively general and could be described in greater operational detail.
-  The monitoring framework focuses primarily on implementation arrangements, while providing limited information on methodologies for evaluating the long-term social impacts of the proposed measures.
-  The SCP lacks a clearly defined methodology and sufficiently detailed criteria for identifying vulnerable households eligible for support, which may affect the transparency and consistency of beneficiary selection
-  The financial framework would benefit from greater detail, particularly regarding the allocation of financial resources among individual investments and the practical arrangements for national co-financing.
-  The consultation process could be further strengthened by providing greater transparency on how stakeholders' comments were reflected in the final version of the SCP and by ensuring broader participation throughout the implementation phase.
-  The coordination mechanisms between the SCP and other funding instruments could be described in greater detail, particularly with regard to avoiding overlaps, ensuring complementarity and monitoring synergies during implementation.



Overall, the Romanian SCP provides a solid basis for supporting a socially fair climate transition. While the proposed package of measures is broadly consistent with the objectives of the Social Climate Fund and demonstrates good strategic coherence with existing national and EU policy frameworks, further operational detail would strengthen implementation readiness and improve confidence that the proposed investments will effectively reach the most vulnerable households and contribute to a just and inclusive transition.

Checklist

	Category	Assessment
Content	Identification of vulnerable households	 Included
	Identification of worst-performing buildings	 Included
	Information on operationalisation of energy poverty definition	 Partially included
	Existing/planned financing measures	 Included
	Building renovations	 Included
	Affordable energy-efficient housing/social housing	 Included
	Electrification of heating and cooling	 Included
	Renewable energy integration and storage	 Included
	Connection to district heating systems	 Included
	Connection to smart grids	 Included
	Information and awareness measures	 Included
	Technical support for renovations	 Included
	Support for public/private entities	 Included
	Direct income support	 Included
Governance	Targets and milestones	 Partially included
	Clear implementation timeline	 Partially included
	Roles and responsibilities	 Included
	Monitoring mechanisms	 Partially included
Synergies with other strategic documents	Synergies with NECP, National Recovery and Resilience Plan and other strategies	 Included
Public consultation	Public consultation	 Included
	Stakeholder participation	 Included
	Stakeholder feedback integration	 Partially included
Financing	Total cost of the plan	 Included
	National contribution	 Partially included



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9. References

- European Commission – Social Climate Fund framework
- Romania National Recovery and Resilience Plan
- REPowerEU measures for vulnerable households
- Public consultation documents issued by the Ministry of Investments and European Projects (MIPE)
- National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP/PNIESC)
- Stakeholder reports and civil society assessments regarding Romania's Social Climate Plan

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