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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	ANNEX to the Council Implementing Decision on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Estonia

It has come to our attention that a technical mistake occurred in the numbering of the document in ST 12532/21 ADD 1 as from page 1 to page 5.

The **correct numbering** should read as follows:

A.1. Description of the reforms and investments for non-repayable financial support

1.1. Investment: Digital transformation in enterprises

The objective of the measure is to foster the digital transformation of businesses with a particular focus on SMEs and micro-enterprises.

The measure consists in providing financial support to SMEs and micro-enterprises located in Estonia from all sectors for activities and investments relevant to their digital transformation. This financial support, which shall be complemented with the companies' own resources, shall cover one or several of the following aspects:

- the adoption of digital technologies,
- the development of industrial data clouds,
- industrial research, development, testing and piloting activities,
- feasibility studies, advisory and support services,
- training of staff.

The funding shall be allocated through open calls for proposals.

In order to ensure that the measure complies with the ‘Do no significant harm’ Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01), the eligibility criteria contained in terms of reference for the calls for proposals shall exclude the following list of activities: (i) activities related to fossil fuels, including downstream use¹; (ii) activities under the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) achieving projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not lower than the relevant benchmarks²; (iii) activities related to waste landfills, incinerators³ and mechanical biological treatment plants⁴; and (iv) activities where the long-term disposal of waste may cause harm to the environment. The terms of reference shall additionally require that only activities that comply with relevant EU and national environmental legislation may be selected.

The implementation of the measure shall be completed by 31 December 2025.

1.2. Investment: Development of e-construction

The objective of the measure is to contribute to the acceleration of the digital transformation of the construction sector in order to increase its productivity, reduce its environmental footprint and improve the quality of buildings. This investment is also expected to foster a wider and more efficient sharing of data among stakeholders.

The measure consists of three different strands:

- (i) the development of software interfaces between the national e-construction platform (which is being developed under the responsibility of the Construction and Housing Department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications) and existing public and private information systems used in the sector, in order to, inter alia, automate the verifications of the compliance of buildings with various regulatory requirements, as well as the delivery of certificates and authorisations; this includes the training of users of the e-construction platform (including the development of training material);
- (ii) the support to the introduction of international standards and best practices in relation to the digitalisation of construction and building maintenance, including through the introduction of a construction data classification system, the creation of a database on construction materials and

¹ Except projects under this measure in power and/or heat generation, as well as related transmission and distribution infrastructure, using natural gas, that are compliant with the conditions set out in Annex III of the ‘Do no significant harm’ Technical Guidance (2021/C58/01).

² Where the activity supported achieves projected greenhouse gas emissions that are not significantly lower than the relevant benchmarks an explanation of the reasons why this is not possible should be provided. Benchmarks established for free allocation for activities falling within the scope of the Emissions Trading System, as set out in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/447.

³ This exclusion does not apply to actions under this measure in plants exclusively dedicated to treating non-recyclable hazardous waste, and to existing plants, where the actions under this measure are for the purpose of increasing energy efficiency, capturing exhaust gases for storage or use or recovering materials from incineration ashes, provided such actions under this measure do not result in an increase of the plants’ waste processing capacity or in an extension of the lifetime of the plants; for which evidence is provided at plant level.

⁴ This exclusion does not apply to actions under this measure in existing mechanical biological treatment plants, where the actions under this measure are for the purpose of increasing energy efficiency or retrofitting to recycling operations of separated waste to compost bio-waste and anaerobic digestion of bio-waste, provided such actions under this measure do not result in an increase of the plants’ waste processing capacity or in an extension of the lifetime of the plants; for which evidence is provided at plant level.

construction products, the introduction of BIM (Building Information Modelling) in the field of property maintenance;

- (iii) the support to projects (selected through open calls for proposals) aiming at implementing digital construction tools and developing (also prototyping) innovative private and public services connected to the national e-construction platform.

The implementation of the measure shall be completed by 31 December 2025.

1.3. Investment: Development of digital waybills services

The objective of the measure is to support the digitalisation of the exchange of information in road freight transport through the introduction of digital waybills, in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 on electronic freight transport information (eFTI), thus contributing to the smooth functioning of the internal market.

The measure consists in supporting:

- (i) service providers in the establishment of eFTI platforms to enable the deployment of digital waybills (eCMR - electronic Consignment Note),
- (ii) transport and logistics enterprises in the interfacing of their systems and processes with the eFTI platforms, enabling them to use digital waybills (eCMR).

The corresponding projects shall be selected through two distinct calls for proposals.

The implementation of the measure shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

1.4. Reform: Skills reform for the digital transformation of businesses

The objective of the reform is to contribute to strengthening the capacity of businesses at management level to steer and foster the digital transition, as well as to ensuring the availability of sufficient ICT professionals possessing up-to-date skills and knowledge, so that Estonian companies can fully seize the opportunities offered by the digital transition. It also aims at offering new career opportunities to both employed and unemployed people through upskilling and retraining in ICT, as well as through a better recognition of skills acquired outside formal learning. The measure also aims to contribute to increasing the participation of women in ICT training and ICT professions.

The measure consists of the four following strands:

- (i) the training of managers in companies (SMEs in particular), in order to increase their ICT skills and knowledge, and raise their awareness about the potential gains from the use of ICT,
- (ii) a revision of the content and organisation of the training of ICT experts, taking into account the latest technological developments, the growing importance of cybersecurity and the needs of companies,
- (iii) a pilot for the redesign of the qualification framework for ICT specialists,

(iv) the upskilling and retraining of ICT specialists, including in cybersecurity.

The implementation of the measure shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

1.5 Reform: Supporting the competitiveness of enterprises in foreign markets

The objective of the measure is to increase the export capacity and competitiveness of Estonian companies, including notably those of the ICT sector. The measure is expected to be particularly relevant for SMEs. It shall also take advantage of the possibilities offered by digital tools.

The measure consists of three sub-measures:

- (i) the development of export strategies aimed at specific countries or regions;
- (ii) the establishment of business centres located in key export markets;
- (iii) the promotion of Estonian products and services (from the ICT sector in particular) through physical, virtual or hybrid missions and events.

The implementation of the measure shall be completed by 30 June 2026.

1.5.1. Sub-reform: Country and regional strategies

This sub-reform consists in the development of a series of comprehensive export strategies addressing key target countries and regions, i.e. those which represent a high growth potential for Estonian companies. They shall include specific chapters on export opportunities for the ICT sector and, more broadly, digital solutions developed in different application areas (such as governance, education or transport).

These strategies aim at providing advice to companies entering or already operating in the concerned markets.

The countries and regions to be addressed by the strategies shall be identified through an analysis to be carried out as part of the implementation of this sub-measure.

The implementation of this measure shall be carried out in synergy with the activities of Enterprise Estonia, among other partners.

1.5.2. Sub-reform: Innovative business centres in key export markets

This sub-reform consists in establishing business centres in seven foreign countries (inside and/or outside the Union) considered as important export markets. These business centres shall contain suitable equipment for physical, virtual as well as hybrid meetings, receptions and presentations which will be organised by Estonian enterprises across all sectors targeting the particular market. That equipment can also be used outside events, for introduction to any potential client of a cluster or a particular enterprise in Estonia. The business centres shall contribute to the promotion of Estonian companies, support them locally in their export activities, and help attract foreign

investors. The activities of the business centres shall be carried out in synergy with the activities of Enterprise Estonia, among other partners.

The location of the business centres shall be identified after an analysis to be carried out as part of the implementation of this sub-measure.

1.5.3. Sub-reform: Global e-export impact groups and virtual stages

This sub-reform consists in setting up groups of representatives of both public authorities and other stakeholders, including notably private companies, and supporting the promotion of Estonian products and services (from the ICT sector in particular) by these groups, through missions and participation in physical, virtual or hybrid events.

The implementation of this sub-reform also includes the reinforcement of the promotion of Estonian products and services at major events with the use of digital tools. The so-called ‘virtual stages’ shall create more opportunities of participation for Estonian stakeholders and showcase Estonian digital solutions. These ‘virtual stages’ shall consist of technical solutions combining physical and digital elements to enable either an export-related event in Estonia to reach global audiences, or Estonian exporters to participate in global events organised abroad.

The implementation of this measure shall be carried out in synergy with the activities of Enterprise Estonia, among other partners.