

THE EU'S RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY: A MODEL FOR GOVERNANCE AND FINANCING?

Friday, 04 April 2025

9.45 – 17.00 CEST

Venue:

Elinor Ostrom Room, Palazzo Buontalenti (Via Cavour 65, 50129 Firenze, Italy)

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The European Union's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) represents one of the most ambitious financing instruments in EU history. Launched in response to the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the RRF is not only an important tool for economic recovery but also a potential blueprint for the future of EU governance and funding. With several years of implementation behind us, this moment offers the opportunity to examine how the RRF has worked in practice and assess its achievements to date. Meanwhile, in Brussels, EU institutions are turning their attention to the future of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), with the first proposals for a future MFF expected later this year. The European Commission has already announced that the RRF governance model will serve as a blueprint for the future of cohesion funding, setting the stage for debates about the long-term evolution of EU financing instruments.

But how effective has the RRF been in delivering on its promises? What lessons can it teach us about the evolving role of the EU in shaping economic and social policies across member states? And how suitable is the RRF model for future financing instruments?

This event is co-organized by Florence STG and the University of Florence and sponsored by the Jean Monnet Module REPLAN-EU. It aims to bring together cutting-edge academic research on the RRF's implementation across Europe and insights from leading EU decision-makers from the European Commission, the European Court of Auditors and national administrations. Join us for an academic-practitioner discussion on the RRF's functioning to date and its potential to serve as a model for future EU financing.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Please note the times below are indicative and subject to change

09:45 – 10:00

Welcoming remarks

George Papaconstantinou | European University Institute
Enrico Borghetto | University of Florence

10:00 – 11:15

Panel 1: The RRF Governance Model: Design and Implementation

Stronger Conditionality for Stronger Compliance? Analysing the NGEU's Effect on the Implementation of European Semester Recommendations

Igor Guardiancich | University of Padua
Mattia Guidi | University of Siena
Enrico Borghetto | University of Florence
Lucia Quaglia | University of Bologna

Re-centralization in the Shadow of Europeanization? The Role of Subnational Authorities in the Implementation of the RRF in Four Decentralised Member States

Marie-Thérèse Wilhelm | Pompeu Fabra University
Joan Miró | Pompeu Fabra University

Enhancing the Performance Orientation of EU Funding Governance: Lessons from the RRF and the Cohesion Policy Funds

Jonathan Zeitlin | University of Amsterdam and European University Institute
David Bokhorst | European University Institute
Edgars Eihmanis | University of Tartu

11:15 – 11:45

Coffee break

11:45 – 13:00

Roundtable 1: The RRF in Action: Achievements, Challenges, and Open Questions

Luc Tholoniati | European Commission, DG ECFIN
Pedro Dominginhos | Monitoring Commission of the Portuguese Recovery and Resilience Plan
Ivana Maletić | Member of the European Court of Auditors

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch break



14:00 – 15:15

Panel 2: The Politics of the RRF

EU Economic Governance Between Executive Dominance and Parliamentary Scrutiny: Assessing the Implementation of NGEU in Southern Europe

Andrea Capati | LUISS

Thomas Christiansen | LUISS

Ana Mar Fernandez-Pasarín | UAB Barcelona

Contested Governance of National Recovery and Resilience Plans in the EU's Neoliberal Periphery: Between EU Technocracy, Redistributive Reforms and Domestic Politicization

Edgars Eihmanis | University of Tartu

The RRF as a Transition Stabilizer: Analysing Government Turnover in Italy, Slovakia and the Netherlands

David Bokhorst | European University Institute

15:15 – 15:45

Coffee break

15:45 – 17:00

Roundtable 2: What Future for the RRF Model in EU Economic Governance?

Maria Teresa Fábregas | European Commission, SG Recover

Ginevra Bruzzone | Mission Structure for the Italian Recovery and Resilience Plan

George Papaconstantinou | European University Institute

17:00 – 18:00

Closing cocktail