

INFRASTRUCTURE FORUM

**Infrastructure: new challenges and opportunities for a long-term growth in
MENA countries**

2nd December 2021

A new vision for Italy (and for the MED)

- **Strategic role** of the Mediterranean and **Italy's pivotal position**, also for trade and investments.
- Next Generation EU is creating momentum for relaunching our economy: “**bouncing forward better**”.
- The **National Resilience and Recovery Plan (NRRP)** is key to transform Italy in a more **sustainable, resilient, green and digital country**.
- MIMS (Ministry for Sustainable infrastructure and Mobility since March 2021) is the highest beneficiary of the NRRP and the Complementary Plan's resources: **61,3 billion EUR** (out of 221,1 billion EUR).
- Objectives for MIMS: relaunch **economic growth** and contribute to Italy's **sustainable development**; improve the **quality of life** of citizens and **competitiveness** of businesses; reduce **inequalities** between territories; accelerate the **digital and green transition** through reforms and new investments in infrastructures and mobility to ensure economic, social and environmental **sustainability**.
- The **green transition** has the potential to foster economic, social and political cooperation in the MED.

Mims is central to NRRP implementation

MIMS aims at achieving **6 strategic objectives** by investing in infrastructure projects and implementing reforms



Contribute to Italy's recovery and create a new path for the country's sustainable development according to the SDGs of UN 2030 Agenda



Accelerate the ecological and digital transition to improve the country's resilience against climate change and achieve the objectives of the EU Green Deal and "Fit for 55" Agenda



Improve people's quality of life and reduce social inequalities



Improve connectivity and reduce North-South gaps



Contribute to the increase of GDP and employment



Accelerate the construction of infrastructure and increase competitiveness



Accelerate the ecological and digital transition

“Iron option” for modal shift: an estimated saving of 2.3 million tons of CO2 emissions per year

- High-speed railways and regional lines (700 km)
- Development of the European railway system ERTMS for speed increase, and security
- Purchase of new trains

Hydrogen testing for un-electrified railways

- 50 hydrogen trains in the South and Val Camonica

“Green” local public transport and rapid mass transport

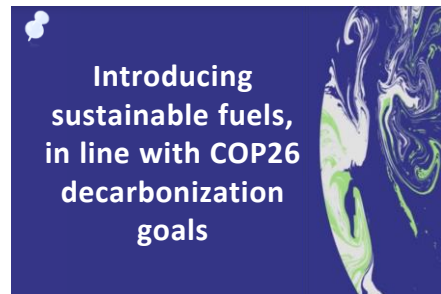
- Renewal of the Mediterranean fleet with low environmental impact ship
- Hydrogen rail transport experimentation

Renewal of electric and hydrogen bus fleet

- 3,200 electric/hydrogen buses in urban areas
- 2,000 methane buses for suburban transport

Improving services’ quality and efficiency

- Digitization of Italy’s logistics systems
- Digitization of local public transport (Mobility as a service)





Increase competitiveness

Speeding up and simplification of procedures for infrastructure investments

- New procedures for the sharp reduction of time for NRRP projects

Reduce costs and more competition

- Enhanced connection between markets and production system, with the reduction of barriers to entry

Faster and more environmentally friendly freight transport

- Renewal of rolling stock for freight transport to reduce air and noise pollution

Modernization and enhanced connection of transport systems

- Optimization of air and rail traffic flows to improve infrastructure management and lower land consumption

Digitisation of logistics

- Innovative and technological interventions for energy saving and emission reduction

Ecological transition of the naval fleet

- Ship refitting and electrification of docks to reduce emissions and pollution in port cities (Cold Ironing)



Improve connectivity

Maritime transport and ports

- Construction of the new port of Genoa breakwater
- Modernization and development projects in the Port of Trieste
- Electrification of docks at Ten-T ports (Cold Ironing National Plan)
- Energy efficiency and waste management in ports (Green ports)
- Increase ports' capacity (Venice, La Spezia, Naples and Cagliari)
- Increase ports' maritime accessibility (Vado Ligure, Ravenna, Civitavecchia, Naples, Salerno, Taranto, Brindisi and Trapani)

Rail transport

- Development of high-speed and high-capacity lines to improve connectivity between Italian Northern and Southern Regions
- Strengthening East-West connections
- Upgrading of rail hubs serving urban areas and other routes
- Connection of 11 ports, 11 airports and 9 intermodal nodes

Other initiatives to carry out the digital and green transition

Objectives



Innovations in decision making processes and **policy evaluations** to introduce sustainability in project planning and design.

New guidelines for projects' evaluation which require to evaluate the respect of the principle «Do No Significant Harm» for the environment.

New **competences and skills** to enable public institutions to carry out the transition and shift towards a new vision focused on sustainability.

New Center for the innovation and sustainability of infrastructures and mobility systems with researchers and technologists.

Adopt **mitigation and adaptation policies** to improve resiliency of infrastructure against climate change and natural disaster.

New Commission to evaluate the impact of climate change on infrastructure; new Working Group to identify policies aligned with the «Fit for 55» package.

Increase the **financial resources** available to cope with the huge global infrastructure gap and invest in the ecological transition.

New Commission to design innovative financial instruments, increase the use of PPPs and attract private financial resources.

Opportunities for MENA REGION

- **Investing in sustainable and digital infrastructure to relaunch our economies and reduce our impact on climate change.** Investments in sustainable and digital infrastructures are essential in our NRRP. Commitment towards the EU Green Deal and decarbonization targets.
- **Sharing knowledge** on green infrastructures and technologies (like hydrogen for railways, biofuels for maritime transport, digitization of logistics) **to reduce the technological gap** between the MENA region and EU. Potential **step change in the region**.
- Italy is accelerating the digital and ecological transition to create **high-tech logistic platforms**. As global value chains are increasingly becoming regional with ongoing reshoring and nearshoring processes, **MENA region's countries will be increasingly relevant as political and economic partners for Italy and for Europe**.
- As public resources are insufficient to cope with the huge global infrastructure gap, **reinforcing economic ties** and collaboration between our economies will be the first step **to fill technological and infrastructure gaps by catalysing new financial resources** and exploit foreign direct investments in MENA region and EU.



Mims

Ministero delle infrastrutture
e della mobilità sostenibili

