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EU Recovery Plans and Digitalization in Public Value Creation: An Exploratory Research in European Countries

Zubair Ahmad¹ Paolo Esposito²

Abstract: This study aims to highlight how the EU recovery plan is going to help the European countries in public value creation and social impact through digital transformation in five of the largest European economies during the COVID-19 pandemic era: France, Germany, Italy, Denmark, and Belgium. For this purpose, this study reviews the funding program in detail and analyzes how it is going to help the countries to recover their IT sector, Digital transformation. Interpretivism patterns can be highly suitable for collecting data through the review of European Commission reports and the related literature. The data in this study will be collected through online research methods, through which the EU Commission reports can be analyzed and evaluated how the recovery plan is going to impact the member states and how it works for the best benefit of the public, as well as governments of the EU States. The review analysis also makes it clear that the selected countries are going to use the EU recovery plan and consume associated funds to improve their economic and social condition, which will improve public value, as well as leave a positive social impact through more opportunities and a strong GDP in the future.

Key Words: EU Recovery Plans, Public Value, Digital Transformation, Social Impact, COVID-19

Background

The global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every state around the world. The outbreak of this deadly virus was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. The Pandemic has hit the entire world so hard, due to which the countries and states have been facing several financial and trading issues (Campra et al., 2014). Several governments also made new plans to deal with such financial crises and to recover from their loss with effective strategies. Similarly, in order to help the states in addressing the economic and social issues brought on by the COVID-19 epidemic, the European Union has approved a recovery plan. According to Esposito et al. (2021), the European Union has projected a budget of approximately €750 billion, of which €390 billion will be granted by the EU. The remaining amount will be distributed as loans for the years 2021–2026. The European Union hopes to help European states become better, more resilient, digital, and greener via this investment. They will be better equipped to handle upcoming obstacles as a result.

During the pandemic, the economic and social crises have demonstrated the value of digital advancements in society. Especially when it comes to global networking, digital platforms play an important role in keeping people connected with each other, even during the time of lockdown (Pinto, 2020). Closures and public disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools, education centers, and colleges in many countries. There has been a change in the way teachers convey a positive attitude and learn about different Internet. Online education, distance learning, and Continuing education became the solution to this unprecedented world is widespread throughout the world, although there are problems for teachers and students (Pokhrel, S., & Chhetri, R. 2021).

Furthermore, digital platforms have provided help to medical departments in continuing to provide telehealth services and assisting countries in recovering as quickly as feasible. Moreover, digital

¹ Post-Doc Researcher, Department of Law, Economy, Management and Quantitative Methods (DEMM), University of Sannio, Italy.

² Professor of Accounting, University of Parthenope, Naples, Italy. Email: paolo.esposito@uniparthenope.it

transactions also helped the states stabilize their economies and avert market collapse or resource scarcity for the people. To guarantee the availability of everything in the nation and to keep numerous firms from collapsing, the deliveries were made at home (Hirsch-Kreinsen, 2021). As a result, it was established that digital networking was the foundation of society, and European countries realized that in order to accelerate their advancements in high-quality connectivity, they needed to increase their investments in this area.

This proposal aims to highlight how the EU recovery plan is going to help the European countries in the creation of public value and social impact through digital transformation in five of the largest European economies during and post-COVID-19 era: France, Germany, Italy, Denmark, and Belgium. Before going into further details, it is crucial to better understand that the recovery plan of the EU will not only work for the recovery of the business sector; rather, it will also support the health spending, unemployment, and working of the private sector through €540 billion (EU., 2021). This fund will be used for the recovery of respective sectors and bring social benefits to the European members. Also, the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism will be supported through loans of €672.5 billion. This amount will support the European countries to make more investments with a special focus on the digital and ecological transition. In this way, the recovery plan will not only bring social benefits but also will work great as a sustainable source.

This study is going to use the EU recovery plan and consume associated funds to improve their economic and social condition, which will improve public value, as well as leave a positive social impact through more opportunities and a strong GDP in the future.

The remaining sections include a detailed literature review to explain the EU recovery plan, the Components of the EU recovery plan, Financial strategies, and development in digital transformation. The interpretivism method is used to collect data through the review of European Commission reports and associated literature. The data was collected through online research methods, through which the EU Commission reports were analyzed and evaluated how the recovery plan is going to impact the member states and how it will work for the best benefit of the public, as well as governments of the EU States.

RQ1: *How the EU recovery plan is going to help the European countries in public value creation?*

RQ2: *What is the social impact of digital transformation in EU Economies during the pandemic era?*

Literature Review

The pandemic is a leading cause of demise, disability, and injury, and governments need to work together to prevent it (Dong, 2022). The outbreak of the coronavirus at the end of 2019 caused not only great pain and death for people (Devpura & Narayan, 2020) but also massive economic imbalances, inflation, and a slowdown in consumption around the globe (Shaikh, 2021; Tahir & Batool, 2020; Vasileiou et al., 2021; Baldwin & Di Mauro, 2020). Esposito and Arcidiacono (2021) published a report which highlighted that the pandemic has hit the European states too hard, along with other regions of the world. Lockdown and stay-at-home strategies were implemented as necessary measures to draw the line and control the spread of the disease (Sintema, 2020). The states had been facing a GDP decline, and the economy showed severe recession. This brought several issues, such as trading, employment, and finance challenges, to the European region. Thus, the EU decided to include all member states in the recovery plan and serve them with better financial support.

For this purpose, the EU has proposed a recovery plan with financial aid of up to €2.018 trillion. On the one hand, NGEU provides finance, and this financing is based on borrowing activities that the European Commission conducts on behalf of the EU.

The opportunity to implement digital innovation, particularly in education and industry, to address all financial and social concerns has been made possible by the COVID-19 pandemic (Dhawan, 2020). During the pandemic, e-learning resources have been crucial in helping schools and colleges support students' studies in college and homework and help in the corporate sector, too (Subedi et al., 2020). Some of these online platforms still in use today include collaboration and integration such as Microsoft Teams, Canvas, Google Classroom, and Blackboard, which helps teachers to create lessons, instructions, and develop skills (Petrie, 2020). European states are beginning to demonstrate how they intend to use Next Generation EU



(NGEU) funds, the EU's flagship for the coronavirus recovery. At the end of April, countries began to present their plans to return and resume work. A quick first look shows that the plans of the four largest EU countries, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain, have some important effects, although they all spent at least 37% on air and 20% on digitalization (Darvas et al., [2022](#)).

Components of the EU Recovery Plan

A closer look at the European recovery plan reveals that it is made up of several parts, all of which are intended to assist the European states on a social and economic front. In addition to the usual EU budget, it identified a number of significant dangers to the recovery plans' effectiveness, including a lack of focus and bias, illegal project management, delayed work, and a lack of European dimension and capacity to perform such complex services. The major components of the recovery plan are as follows;

Recovery and Resilience Facility Component: The EU will provide financial funding of €672.5 billion in the form of loans and grants (EU., [2021](#)). This fund will be used to deal with the pandemic crises and lead the countries to the social and economic progressive path. The European countries will be encouraged to use this amount to mitigate the economic and social consequences of COVID-19 so that the countries will become more resilient. This will also prepare the European countries to deal with future economic, social, ecological, and transitional challenges (Commission, [2021](#)).

Support for Cohesion and Territories in Europe Component: This component of the EU Recovery Plan has a budget of €47.5 billion. This budget is specifically managed to deal with the crisis response in the European countries. Already, the pandemic has hit Europe so hard and has left every sector highly affected (Commission, [2021](#)). Thus, this budget will be used to deal with the consequences of these pandemic crises and help the countries improve their green, digital, and resilient programs.

Next Generation EU Component: This brings additional funds for EU programs, which aim to bring advancement to the region. With the help of this component, the European Union aims to start multiple projects in the region, including Horizon 2020, Rural Development, Invest EU, and Just Transition Fund (FTJ). When analyzing these programs in detail, each aims to help the countries to improve their economy and social conditions (EU., [2021](#)). Thus, these programs also bring several employment opportunities for the people and will improve their quality of life. In other meanings, these programs aim to improve the living well-being of Europeans and thus are expected to leave a positive social impact on the EU member States.

Financial Planning of the EU Recovery Plan

Financial funding is of great significance for any State or the country, as without appropriate funds, it is difficult for them to manage their resources and project expenditures. Without financial planning, administrators have no way of knowing if their strategies are realistic (Pivnicny, [1989](#)). Thus, the European Union aims to provide effective financial aid to the member states and help them to improve their economic and social conditions, which will not only bring advantages for the region, but also for the people. Better services and opportunities for living will be provided by developed states. Additionally, it will make it possible for the native people of the region to invest in many fields and enhance their social contribution (Campra et al., [2014](#)). In this way, the recovery plan will also work as a catalyst to improve the public value and thus will leave a positive impact on the well-being of the states, as well as the public. However, the EU did not just grant the budget and offer the amount as a loan; rather, it has developed proper financial strategies to let the EU members know how they can avail of the recovery plan for a better future for Europe (Commission, [2021](#)). Following are the strategies, instruments, and funding plan associated with the EU recovery plan.

Funding Strategies: Despite extensive and growing efforts to evaluate public research and development programs, we know little about their long-term impact. EU Commission has made better plans for the member states. It combined different funding instruments and techniques to develop its funding strategy and improve the transparency of the plan. For this purpose, the market participants were invited for transparent communication (Commission, [2021](#)). Through such communication, the EU Commission can

evaluation how they can raise their necessary funds for the better future of the member states and how they are going to get back that amount. Furthermore, they combined the strategies in the following manner: The transparency meetings will be called on an annual basis, and the member states will be required to show how they have been using their funds. During these meetings, the annual borrowing decision will be made by the EU Commission. This will not only increase transparency of fund usage, but also will show predictability to investors. The EU Commission will not directly deal with the member states when providing funds; rather, they will be connected with each other through banking programs, which will track the performance of member states and evaluate how the funds will be used in the future. The EU Commission will also use the funding instruments to assess how the members need funds and how to manage the liquidity needs in the best possible way.

The EU Commission will also combine syndications and auctions to ensure the cost-effectiveness of financing plans (EU., [2021](#)).

Funding Instruments: The best thing about the EU recovery plan is that it is not planned for 5 to 10 years. Rather, the Commission is issuing a 3 – 30-year bond with the member states (Commission, [2021](#)). This will help them to ensure that the recovery plan is implemented successfully, and it is going to bring great advantages for the member states, as well as the entire Europe. Specifically, the Next Generation EU plan brings great opportunities for the Commission to create strong EU bonds, through which they will not only help each other but also work together to lead the region towards higher success and development (EU., [2021](#)). In this way, it will also leave positive social impact on the region, as the people will be able to get better opportunities. Moreover, the Commission will issue shorter-term securities with funding sources, which will provide access to the money market through which the investors will be able to get small amounts and contribute well to the economy and social progress of the region.

Funding Plans: The Commission will release semi-annual funding plans and borrowing choices every year. This is necessary to provide good financial management, where openness with the Council and Parliament is fundamental. On the one hand, the annual borrowing decisions will determine the amounts of short- and long-term funding and set a maximum for the operations scheduled over a one-year period. The semi-annual financial plans, on the other hand, will specify the borrowings that will be made over the course of the following six months and will work to ensure that there is enough money available to meet payment obligations. Thus, the Commission will announce the dates of the auction as well as the intended amounts to be financed.

Methodology

Whenever analyzing the impact of any specific program or initiative, methodology and structure of data collection are of paramount importance, as it leaves deep influence over the validity of the study. Therefore, choosing the optimal approach for data collecting and analysis comes after determining the study's goal and research objectives. Understanding the research paradigm, which is divided into three categories: interpretivism, positivism, and realism, is essential for this goal. Every research paradigm type is selected with a specific goal in mind and aids in the collection of reliable data. Therefore, the most important step in increasing the value of existing research is to determine which category performed the best.

Depending on the type of research, the research paradigm's categories are modified. The concept of a realistic approach to facts is the foundation of realism. This merely indicates that realism is the best course of action if the individual is interested in debating facts and experiences. This is most effective when the researcher has to compare reality with fact (Olsen, [2007](#)). In positivism, facts are observed and measured using various techniques. This includes gathering data via surveys, focused groups, interviews, and questionnaires. To put it another way, the positivist approach is founded on the quantitative approach, which uses software like Excel and SPSS to analyze statistical data and measure quantities (Scotland, [2012](#); Saunders et al., [2012](#)). Interpretivism, the final research paradigm type, is predicated on a review of existing literature or the information provided by other scholars. Other qualitative information is also included, including news stories, website content, academic viewpoints, and textbooks. (Myers, [2008](#); Saunders et al., [2012](#)).



Now, the proposal aims to highlight how the EU recovery plan is going to help the European countries in accounting treatment and its social impact in five of the largest European economies in 2020 and 2021: France, Germany, Italy, Denmark, and Belgium. Thus, the Interpretivism pattern is highly suitable for collecting data through the review of European Commission reports and associated literature (Saunders et al., 2012). The data was collected through online research methods, by which the EU Commission reports were analyzed and evaluated how the recovery plan is going to impact the member states and how it will work for the best benefits of the public, as well as governments of the EU States and related literature regarding how the recovery plan is going to help the mentioned countries in different ways, and how this will impact their economy and social situations.

The analysis was done through a review of all the financial plans and strategies for the selected countries, where each country was studied separately to evaluate whether the recovery plan is going to affect the economy and social condition of all member states or whether the impact can be different on each member.

Peer discussion with a senior colleague in the field, long-term collaboration, and participant verification a methods of increasing the reliability of the research (Pratt et al., 2020).

Analysis

European Recovery Plan is of great significance for all member states, as it enables them to get required financial aid for three to thirty years and get their projects done. For this plan, the EU managed a central financial system, through which it ensured the availability of €672.5 billion, which is distributed among member states in the form of loans and grants (EU, 2021). The member states of the EU can use this fund for different projects, such as agricultural development, technology development, industrial re-establishment, and other purposes. The major reason for establishing the EU recovery plan is to help the member states cover their economic loss, which they faced as a result of the pandemic. COVID-19 has hit the world so hard and thus left the worst impact on all economic and social matters worldwide. Especially it caused a rapid reduction in the GDP growth of different states, including EU states. Thus, the EU Recovery Plan budget is specifically managed to deal with the crisis response in the European countries (Commission, 2021). With this budget, the European Union aims to start multiple projects in the region, including Horizon 2020, Rural Development, Invest EU, and Just Transition Fund (FTJ). These programs also bring several employment opportunities for the people and will improve their quality of life.

Now, as the current study aims to investigate the social and public value impact of digital transformation through the EU recovery plan on selected five countries and the recovery and resilience facility, thus the detailed analysis is given below;

Germany: The Pandemic has hit Germany so hard that it left a major impact on its economic growth. It not only affected the provision of services to the public but also left the worst impact on the production of goods. In 2020, the economy showed a severe recession, and the public faced multiple challenges associated with their economic and social conditions (Esposito & Braga, 2021). In such a scenario, the GDP showed a decline of 5% at the end of 2021, and the economic output fell badly. Even in some areas, the stock of Germany collapsed, except in the construction sector. The government also made several financial strategic plans to recover the loss and help the public in establishing the economy of the state. For this purpose, the government improves its expansionary, monetary, and fiscal policy measures. However, the country still faces several financial challenges, such as bankruptcies, increasing poverty, employment challenges, and challenges associated with healthcare facilities (Fillmann, 2020).

The EU Commission has made better plans for the member states. It combined different funding instruments and techniques to develop its funding strategy and improve the transparency of the plan. For this purpose, the market participants were invited for the transparent communication. Germany also participated in these meetings, and Chancellor Angela Merkel agreed with the expenditure of €300 billion in subsidies to deal with digital development and improvement of other sectors (Fillmann, 2020). Already, Germany has established strong network connectivity via 5G connectivity, but still, the country aims to improve its digital development, which will not only enhance social connectivity but also help the business sector to perform its best in all situations. Particularly when it comes to public value, people want the

sector to grow since it might lead to greater corporate investments in the area, better healthcare opportunities, and more employment prospects. Therefore, when network connectivity improves, the nation will offer its citizens additional outsourcing options. In particular, it will enable residents in rural areas to work from home, receive higher-quality education, and find better jobs without ever leaving their homes. In addition, cutting-edge digital technology will enhance healthcare facilities for everyone, ensuring that those living in rural places have timely access to telehealth. In this way, the government will bring more employment opportunities, better healthcare for the public, and more advancement in the region. Though the recovery plan was not implemented till the middle of 2021, it is expected that with the implication of the European Recovery Plan, Germany will be able to deal with its financial crises and will improve its GDP growth in the future. Not only this, but also it will bring great investments in the business sector, which will also help the people to improve their living and get better facilities from the government. Specifically, better healthcare, effective production, and economic growth will bring great social benefits to the public (Martin, [2021](#)).

France: COVID-19 hit France in 2020, after which President Emmanuel Macron announced a complete lockdown in the country. This lockdown affected all business activities, including bars, restaurants, nightclubs, cinemas, and malls (Jacob, [2020](#)). This all resulted in severe economic loss to the country, as well as social wellbeing was highly affected (du Tresor, [2020](#)). At that time, only the business sectors with better digital networks could survive and offer better services to consumers. Not only this but also the education system and healthcare system had to rely totally on teleservices for the students and patients, respectively. This proved that digital advancement is of great significance for the social well-being of society, as well as for maintaining public value in France.

To deal with the adverse impacts of the pandemic, the EU Commission introduced a recovery plan to help its member states deal with all financial and social crises. According to the recovery plan, the EU aimed to provide financial funding of €672.5 billion in the form of loans and grants to the EU member states. This fund is meant to be used for dealing with the pandemic crises and lead the countries to the social and economic progressive path. Already, the pandemic has hit Europe so hard and has left every sector highly affected (du Tresor, [2020](#)). Thus, the recovery budget aimed to deal with the consequences of these pandemic crises and help the countries improve their green, digital, and resilient programs. Specifically, the digital transformation will enable the country to improve social connectivity and business activities and thus regain its position in the market. According to the estimates, France will require €100 billion, out of which €40 billion will come from the Next Generation EU program, whereas €40.9 billion will be granted through the Recovery and Resistance Facility. With such steps, France will become the third-largest beneficiary of the funds and will be enabled to improve its public well-being (Commission, [2021](#); EU, [2021](#)). Thus, the recovery plan is of great public value and well is expected to leave a highly positive social impact on the public (Pollet, [2021](#)).

Italy: Out of all EU member states, Italy was the hardest hit by COVID-19. Initially, the government decided to impose a lockdown in the country to prevent any adverse healthcare impacts of COVID-19. However, the lockdown affected the economy of the country in the worst way and resulted in a 9% decline in its GDP in 2020. This was approximately a loss of €156 billion. This not only affected the business world but also the food services, hotel industry, healthcare services, and other social services were highly affected (Pesole, [2020](#)). Due to this, the public faced several social challenges, such as a lack of employment opportunities, increasing expenditures, and a lack of social assistance (Pesole, [2020](#)). Also lack of connectivity among people resulted in several psychological challenges. Thus, the only solution to these problems was found in network connectivity, which enabled people to stay connected, talk via video communication channels, get healthcare services via telehealth, attend schools and colleges via online platforms, and continue business activities via online websites. This proved digital connectivity as a blessing for maintaining social well-being and improving public value. Therefore, Italy is now concerned with improving its digital transformation and development. Thus, the Italian Government found the EU recovery plan as the best option to get rid of all economic and social challenges.

According to the reports (Commission, [2021](#)), the Italy government is planning to use the Next Generation EU Plan to allocate resources and accomplish its six missions. For this purpose, the government



also decided to use all possible resources of RFF, through which it will have access to €191 billion, which it will use for the recovery from financial crises. The amount will be taken as a loan, and the amount will be consumed in multiple projects till 2023 (Commission, [2021](#)), whereas the major focus will be the digital transformation to 5G and improvement in network connectivity. Overall, the Italian government aims to spend this amount on a total of six missions. The first mission is to attain digitalization and innovation and promote competitiveness (EU, [2021](#); Pesole, [2020](#)). Through this mission, the government will improve its productivity and will gain great economic and public sector advantages. It will also open several opportunities for the citizens and business sector. The second mission is a green and ecological revolution, through which the country will adopt sustainable development strategies and attain European Green Deal goals by 2030. The third mission is to develop the infrastructure through sustainable mobility (Pesole, [2020](#)). This will include projects to improve transport infrastructure and reduce gaps between south and north Italy, which has remained the priority of the country since the beginning of the twenty-first century (Lewis, [2004](#)). The fourth mission is to improve education and research, which is extremely important to improve national awareness and improve public performance in different fields. The fifth mission is inclusion and cohesion, through which the objective is to fulfill the priorities of the PNRR. This will also work best to increase investment by the parties to fight against discrimination and other youth-associated issues. The final and most important mission is to improve health, through which the government will be able to provide better facilities to the public and improve their quality of lifestyle.

Denmark: As an EU member state, Denmark has established a strong, robust welfare system, due to which it did not face much of economic and social issues. However, COVID hit its economy, too, and due to this, it faced some challenges. Especially, COVID made it clear to every country that without networking, technological advancement, and digitalization, the country cannot progress. This will help the state to improve social connectivity and help people get better opportunities online, even in a crisis situation. Thus, Denmark decided to improve its technology and improve this sector for important regulatory functions in society (Baldwin, 2020). Also, before COVID-19, Denmark had sold an industrial and trade-based economy, but the lockdown hit its activities, and the crisis broke out in the country, as happened in other member states. As trade and industrial activities are highly affected throughout the world, Denmark also faces some financial challenges (Marinov, [2020](#)).

These financial crises needed rapid solutions, for which the country decided to use the EU recovery plan, which aims to bring advancement to the region. With the help of this component, the European Union aims to start multiple projects in the region, including Horizon 2020, Rural Development, InvestEU, and Just Transition Fund (FTJ). When analyzing these programs in detail, each aims to help the countries to improve their economy and social conditions (EU, [2021](#)). Thus, these programs also bring several employment opportunities for the people and will improve their quality of life. In other meanings, these programs aim to improve the living well-being of Europeans and thus are expected to leave a positive social impact on the EU member States. Thus, the Danish government plans to get a loan of around €1.6 billion from the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility and allocate €46 million under the Just Transition Fund (Marinov, [2020](#)). This will help the country to improve its rural development and contribute to its green development, as well as digitalization.

Belgium: Along with other countries, Belgium has also faced several financial and social challenges due to the Pandemic. It is also one of the countries whose economic and social condition was highly affected by the lockdown. Especially the second wave hit Belgium too hard, and the country had to pay huge financial losses to fight against the virus. Nearly 30% of the Belgian households were badly affected by the COVID restrictions, and 70% of the GDP was impacted via lockdown. The major reason for such a rapid fall was the lack of digital development. Businesses require more digital connectivity with their consumers to offer their services, whereas people also face multiple networking challenges in gaining access to healthcare services, educational services, and daily social connectivity. Thus, the government decided that transformation to 5G would help them to serve the people in a better way and fulfill their needs efficiently. With such digital advancement, the state will be able to bring more employment opportunities and business advancements in the region, which will also have a positive impact on the social well-being of people, as well as the GDP growth of Belgium.

Thus, Belgium found the EU recovery plan as a great help, through which the Commission is issuing a 3 – 30-year bond with the member states. This will help them to ensure that the recovery plan is implemented successfully, and it is going to bring great advantages for the member states, as well as the entire Europe. Specifically, the NextGenerationEU plan brings great opportunities for the Commission to create strong EU Bonds, through which they will not only help each other but also work together to lead the region towards higher success and development (Commission, [2021](#)). In this way, it will also leave positive social impact on the region, as the people will be able to get better opportunities. Now, Belgium will get support from the NextGenerationEU recovery plan, and the political actors will play their part to ensure that the associated project achieves success. The country will use these funds to improve its industrial matters, public facilities, digitalization, and sustainable development.

Conclusion

The proposal aimed to highlight how the EU recovery plan is going to help the European countries in Public value generation and social impact through digital transformation in five of the largest European economies during post Pandemic (Covid-19): France, Germany, Italy, Denmark, and the Belgium. To attain the objective, a review of already published reports and literature was done, and collected data was analyzed to evaluate the social and public value impact on selected countries. Digital transformation has brought great advantages for the entire globe. It brought the unprecedented transition to mass home working, outsourcing, business, living standards, and leisure in life. The quality of connectivity is also expected to bring more advancement for the European countries, as it will help them to improve their connectivity along with economy and social standards. Especially during the pandemic, digital connectivity has proved to be the biggest source of business survival. Now, with the advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Information Technology (IoT), countries can improve their educational system, business opportunities, social connectivity, and economic growth (Darvas et al., [2021](#)). This will help the nations to stay active and connected even in the worst phases of crises. Not only this, but even in normal situations, internet connectivity enables nations to outsource talented employees and get their jobs done in the best possible way. It helps people to work remotely and even helps students from remote areas to complete their education. People's views have shifted, and telehealth services now enable healthcare to be delivered anywhere in the world. While setting up a single headquarters at a particular station, the companies are selling their goods to several different locations. This demonstrates that the greatest approach to spreading corporate, educational, healthcare, social, and awareness-related services globally is through digital connectivity, which even eliminates the need for significant investments like real estate or trip expenses.

Thus, the EU and the Member States are not concerned about increasing their funds for improving their digital networking and building high-quality network infrastructure to help people stay connected online and work harder for the better economy of Europe in the future. The EU is also concerned with bringing 5G in almost all areas of European member states so that they can improve their business activities and market conditions. This will not only help the states to improve their economic situation. However, improvements in digital connectivity are not an easy task; rather it requires enough funds for digital infrastructural developments, which can be provided with mutual support of all EU member states. The EU created the European Union Recovery Plan for this reason, which requires all member states to share cash in order to assist other states because it is based on centrally managed EU finances. The desired member states will get the total amount of the gathered cash as a loan, which they can use for their regional and digital development and repay in accordance with the principles of the EU recovery plan (Darvas et al., [2021](#)). All selected states, France, Germany, Italy, Denmark, and Belgium, consume the EU recovery plan in the best possible way and develop their regions for the sake of positive social and public value outcomes. The best thing about the EU recovery plan is that it aims to facilitate the member states with long-duration loans with minimal interest and great central support in all decision matters. According to this plan, each state will be able to get a loan for up to thirty years, which help them to make a proper development plan for the State and implement it successfully (EU., [2021](#)). This plan is the best opportunity for the States to start different projects associated with network connectivity, which will enable people to stay connected, talk via video communication channels, get healthcare services via telehealth, attend schools and colleges via online platforms, and continue business activities via online websites. Particularly when it comes to



public value, people want the sector to grow since it might lead to greater corporate investments in the area, better healthcare opportunities, and more employment prospects. Therefore, when network connectivity improves, the nation will offer its citizens additional outsourcing options. In particular, it will enable residents in rural areas to work from home, receive higher-quality education, and find better jobs without ever leaving their homes. In addition, cutting-edge digital technology will enhance healthcare facilities for everyone, ensuring that those living in rural places have timely access to telehealth.

All States must establish a proper report regarding how they consumed the EU recovery plan and what outcomes were achieved through its associated funds. This will also be helpful for the EU and other organizations to propose other recovery plans and financial aid to the States in the future. Especially the reports must include suggestions regarding how coming plans can be improved with respect to loan return policy or other financial and social measures. In this way, better recovery plans will be introduced in the future, which will bring more opportunities for the States to strengthen their GDP and gain more financial and social outcomes.

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