

The role of accredited certification in the Recovery Plan

Executive Summary



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THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE TIC SECTOR FOR RAPID AND BENEFICIAL SPENDING OF THE NGEU

Spending the approximately 200 billion of the NGEU quickly and beneficially: this is the decisive challenge faced by the public administration authorities for the recovery and resilience of the Italian economy after Covid-19, which also embodies the expectations of citizens on the use of resources.

To achieve it, you need tools that are instantly in place and functioning, capable of ensuring the timely mobilization of resources, given the goal of making the activities and infrastructures operative by 2026, without however reducing compliance with the standards and controls.

Here lies the economic and social value of the TIC sector (Testing Inspection and Certification), consisting of about 2,000 CABs and laboratories accredited by Accredia: to provide, through accredited certification, inspection, testing and calibration activities, a ready-to-use solution for maximizing the impact of European resources on the GDP, businesses and communities, without bypassing standards and controls.

Ultimately, the TIC sector can make its own strategic contribution to national recovery: The Censis-Accredia survey "The role of accredited certification in the Recovery Plan", focusing on the expectations of Italians on NGEU funds and the economic and collective benefits deriving from a wider use of TIC activities, gives clear evidence of this.

TWELVE GOOD REASONS FOR WIDENING THE ROLE OF THE TIC SECTOR

There are twelve good reasons that make it useful for the Italian economy and society to increase the use of the TIC sector activities of certifications, inspections, tests and calibrations, accredited by Accredia, starting with the activities relating to the NGEU.

1. It is the right answer to the dilemma of the public authorities: how to spend the NGEU resources quickly and well to accelerate recovery and maximize its impact on the GDP, businesses and communities, without reducing compliance with standards and controls.
2. It is a ready solution, already tested the public authorities, which has proved efficient, with excellent results in many experiences, from Industry 4.0, to its application in the environmental field and in energy saving, and including local experiences for administrative simplification.
3. It is a tool for the modernization of cultures and practices of the public authorities, because it is a valid alternative to the direct exercise of ex ante controls and verifications by the public authorities which, caught between limited resources and the multiplication of the required formalities, slows down economic action. Thanks to the activities of the TIC sector, the public authorities can refocus on their mission and businesses and citizens see the bureaucratic grip reduced.
4. It responds to the fears of citizens, worried that the necessary speed in spending decisions leads to deviations from the rules and/or a relaxation of controls with the risk of improper use of resources, far from the established objectives.
5. It amplifies the economic impact of NGEU funds, as it generates a further increase in GDP, thanks to the better performance of certified companies compared to others.
6. It amplifies the positive impacts for the community that NGEU funds will generate, for example on environmental sustainability, safety in the workplace and food safety.
7. It favors internationalization, thanks to the common reference to consensual technical standards, defined worldwide and applied uniformly by accreditation bodies and accredited CABs and laboratories. A corollary of this aspect are the international mutual recognition agreements EA, IAF and ILAC signed by Accredia.
8. Horizontally reactivates the trust among businesses, public authorities and citizens in the markets and in the flow of economic relations with mechanisms in line with the ordinary pace of activity of economic parties, without impairing economic activities.
9. It places competence and transparency correctly in the mechanisms of the activity of the many economic parties, since accreditation and certification require high technical skills and recognized impartiality.
10. Once activated on a large and growing scale, the activities of the TIC sector trigger a process of upgrading the action of companies, professionals, and in general, of the subjects who use them in the various fields, making their activities conform to international standards.
11. It facilitates relations between operators in B2B and B2C markets, since companies can easily report their compliance with criteria relating to significant areas and buyers, in turn, thanks to

the symbols of accredited certifications relating to products and/or processes can decide, having all the useful information to evaluate what they buy.

12. It is highly appreciated by businesses, because it enables quick and direct access to public resources by cutting bureaucratic/administrative intermediation, removing any ex ante controls. Whatever the purpose of the public resources made available, rapid access to them allows companies to count them as additional investments compared to those financed through other channels, without resigning themselves to receiving them as repayments delayed over time.

THE NUMBERS

Assured compliance with the rules

For 56.4% of Italians, NGEU resources must be spent quickly, but with reliable mechanisms for verifying compliance with rules and regulations; for 30.4% under strict control by the State, even at the cost of slowdowns, and for just 6.5% by loosening the controls in order to speed things up (table 1).

Spend quickly and well: this is the prevailing mood of Italians, who say no to speed in exchange for bypassing regulations and controls. In fact, 75.5% fear that the pressure to spend NGEU resources quickly will lead to reduced controls, for example in matters of corruption, illegality, environmental protection (Table 2). On the other hand, past experiences of using European funds are a wake-up call, given that by 2020, of the 72.4 billion euros that Europe allocated to our country in the 2014-2020 period, 50 billion have been spent 50.8% (36.8 billion euros), less than the EU average (55.8%) and far less than comparable countries such as France (66.1%) and Germany (61.9%).

If the management of the NGEU becomes the testing ground to demonstrate that you have learned from experience, the use of accredited certifications, inspections, tests and calibrations is the best means to achieve this.

Table 1 – Italians and the NGEU: opinions on priorities with respect to its use, by educational qualification (percentage values)

In your opinion, what is the main need at this stage with respect to the use of NGEU money (that will come from the EU for the Italian economy recovery plan?)	Middle School	High School diploma	University Degree	TOTAL
Spend them quickly, but using reliable mechanisms that certify compliance with the rules on the environment, corruption, quality, etc.	40,7	55,9	64,6	56,4
Strict control of the state or a state body, even at the cost of slowing down spending and activities	39,1	30,7	25,7	30,4
Spend them quickly, at the cost of reducing any type of control and verification	7,0	7,1	5,2	6,5
Don't know	13,2	6,3	4,5	6,7
TOTAL	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Censis survey 2021

Table 2 – Italians and the NGEU fund: fear of spending quickly ignoring controls concerning corruption, illegality etc. by age group (percentage values)

On the use of NGEU funds: Do you see the risk that there is too much pressure to spend the money soon, with a high risk of fewer controls (for example on corruption, illegality, etc.)?	18-34	35-64	Over 64	TOTAL
Yes	70,9	76,4	77,4	75,5
No	14,2	10,6	12,8	12,0
Don't know	14,9	13,0	9,8	12,5
TOTAL	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Censis survey 2021

Tool for modernization of the public authorities

Around the NGEU, the fears of Italians about the public administration authorities and their role in the use of resources are significant: as many as 75.8% fear the excess of power of bureaucracies and 66.6% fear that the excessive number of laws and rules to be respected increase the bureaucratic obstacles (table 3-4).

The TIC sector can give concrete answers to the fear of over-bureaucratization of the decision-making and implementation processes of the NGEU. In fact, the activities carried out by the bodies and laboratories accredited by Accredia are a tool for the modernization of cultures and practices of the public administration authorities, as a valid solution for the direct exercise of ex ante controls and verifications capable of favoring the refocusing on the part of the public administration authorities on their mission and to loosen the bureaucratic grip on businesses and citizens.

However, if the modernization of the public administration authorities is one of the objectives indicated by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), it is also true that in the immediate future if a public administration authority introduces fluidifying processes within its procedures, this becomes the premise for its realization.

Table 3 – Italians and the NGEU funds: fear of excessive power of the bureaucracy according to geographical area (percentage values)

Do you see the risk for the use of NGEU funds that too much space and power is given to bureaucracy?	North-west	North-east	Center	South & islands	TOTAL
Yes	73,4	81,0	77,6	73,6	75,8
No	15,2	8,6	9,0	13,7	12,2
Don't' know	11,4	10,4	13,5	12,6	12,0
TOTAL	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Censis survey 2021

Table 4 – Italians and the NGEU funds: fear of excessive laws and regulations according to educational qualifications (percentage values)

Do you see the risk for the use of NGEU funds that there are too many laws and regulations to follow?	Middle School	High School diploma	University Degree	TOTAL
Yes	67,6	66,4	66,4	66,6
No	15,0	20,1	21,5	19,8
Don't know	17,4	13,5	12,1	13,6
TOTAL	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Censis survey 2021

Higher GDP and social impact

Accredited certification, inspection, testing and calibration services broaden the economic impact of NGEU funds, generating an additional increase in GDP. Assuming that by 2023 the objective is to reach 150 thousand certified companies under accreditation (60 thousand more than now), the share of GDP growth expected in the same period attributable to this stock would be equal to 28%, in other words, an additional contribution to the GDP of about 30 billion euros.

The annual social benefits would also be greater, with a value of 2.2 billion euros: around 920 million euros for the environment and energy, around 520 million euros for safety in the workplace and around 740 million euros for food safety. More certified companies means more GDP and more social benefits: this is why it is desirable that access criteria be applied to NGEU funds that stimulate the use of accredited certification.

Ultimately, given the results that accredited services ensure to parties holding certification to the community, it would be rational at this point to make the expansion of the number of companies that use them a political objective.

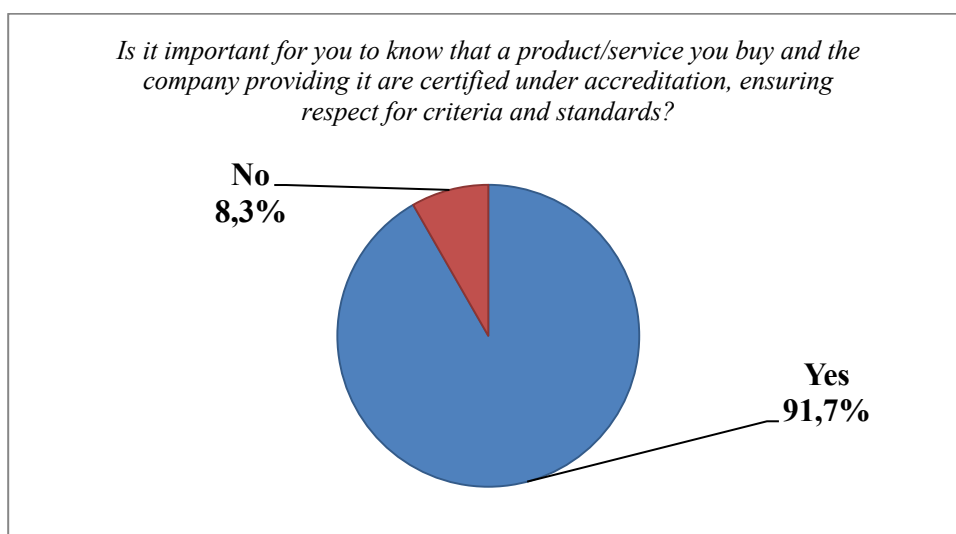
Quality and competence for assurance and trust

For 91.7% of Italians it is important that the products and/or services they purchase and/or the company from which they are purchased are certified, so as to be informed of any compliance with certain criteria and standards.

In particular, 95.2% of Italians give importance to the safety of products and services, for example in the field of food safety, medical devices, etc.; 90.8% to health and safety at work, 90% to environmental sustainability; 87.7% to quality management; 86.7% to respect for legality and the fight against corruption and 78.7% to the protection of personal data and the protection of privacy (figures 1-2).

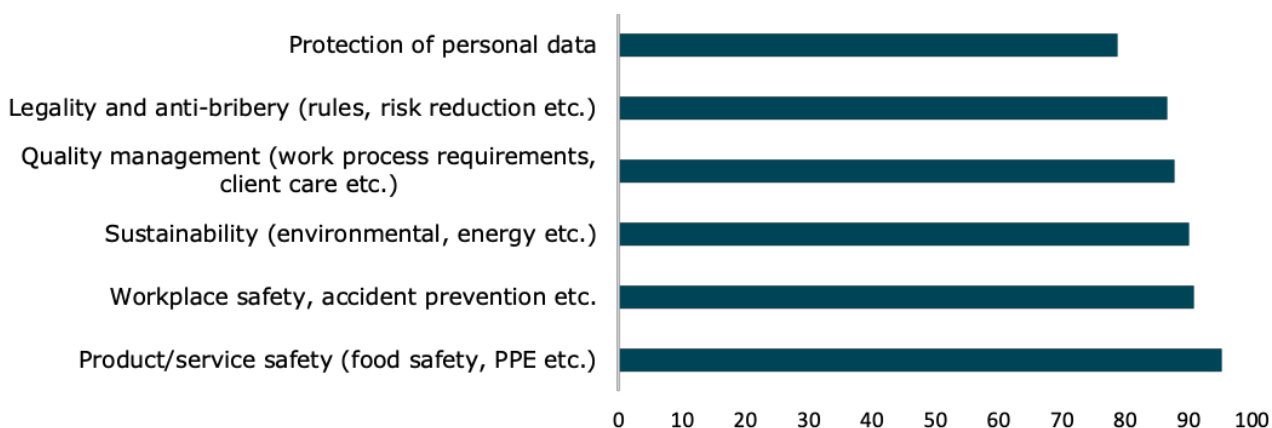
A package of complex qualitative aspects that enter into the purchase choices together with the price of the services carried out under accreditation, ensuring the application of international standards in the various areas of companies, products, processes, services, not only allow a quick exchange of information between contractors but also a protection for the buyer. An strong movement to raise the offer to international standards that facilitates trade, resolves information asymmetries within the markets and reassures consumers.

Figure 1 – The importance of accredited certification for products, services and companies (percentage values)



Source: Censis survey 2021

Figure 2 – Factors about which Italians are most careful when buying a product or service, or choosing a producer (percentage values)



Source: Censis survey 2021

Six NGEU missions, many conformity assessment services

To understand how accredited certification is able to contribute to the socially shared objective of spending the resources that arrive quickly and beneficially, in line with the objectives of the NGEU and in compliance with laws and values, it is useful to build a concrete reference with which to identify, for each of the six missions that define the core of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, the accredited conformity assessment schemes already in place that could become a reference to help evaluate and identify the parties and projects to be financed.

To do this, a Synoptic Table was created, by way of example only, which distributes the accredited conformity assessments (certifications, inspections, tests and calibrations) among the six missions (Table 1).

The Table indicates, in a simple and clear way, the categories and certification schemes and how TIC services provide a ready-made solution for application. All detailed technical information is published on the website www.accredia.it in the sections "How to apply" and "Accredited services".

Table 1 – Active TIC services for missions of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan within the NGEU

Missions National Recovery and Resilience Plan	Existing accredited conformity assessment schemes and relative standards
<p>DIGITALIIZATION, INNOVATION, COMPETITIVENESS, CULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitalization, innovation and security in the public administration • Digitalization, innovation and competitiveness of the production system • Tourism and culture 4.0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Calibration of industrial instruments and on-site – Certification and testing against sector technical standards, tests for guaranteeing cybersecurity: Penetration Test & Vulnerability assessment – Certification of products and inspections by notified bodies for the New Approach Directives – Certification of anti-bribery management systems (UNI ISO 37001) – Certification of products and services of ICT sector professionals (UNI 11506) – Certification <i>Dream&Charm</i> for accommodation facilities – Certification of cloud services for the management of personal data (ISO/IEC 27017, ISO/IEC 27018) – Certification of management systems for Business Continuity (UNI EN ISO 22301) – Certification of information security management systems (UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 27001) – Certification of human resources experts (UNI 11803:2021) – Certification of innovation managers (series ISO 56000)
<p>GREEN REVOLUTION AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green business and circular economy • Energy transition and sustainable local mobility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Environmental testing – Calibration of instrumentation for detecting environmental parameters (including detectors of pollution from chemical substances, radiation and acoustics) – Certification of environmental management systems (UNI EN ISO 14001) and EMAS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency and building renovation • Protection and enhancement of the territory and of the water resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Certification of products and services by environmental sector (for example, liquid biofuels, solid biofuels, absence of formaldehyde in wood, etc.) - Certification of products made with recycled/recuperated materials (<i>Second Life Plastic and ReMade in Italy</i>, UNI PdR 88) - Certification of sustainable event management systems (UNI ISO 20121) - Sustainable fishing - <i>Friend of the Sea</i>, and sustainable forests - <i>FSC</i> - Certification of machines used in agriculture - Environmental technology inspections (<i>ETV General Verification Protocol</i>) - Verification and validation of greenhouse gas emissions ETS, GHG, MRV, <i>Carbon Footprint</i> (UNI EN ISO 14067), etc. - Certification of organic agricultural production (Reg. CE 834/2007) - Certification of products with geographical indication (Reg UE 1151/2012) - Certification of professional persons in the environmental sector (Fgas, waste systems); - Certification of management systems and energy experts (UNI CEI EN ISO 50001, UNI CEI 11339); - Certification companies providing energy services ESCO (UNI CEI 11352) - Asset Management (UNI ISO 55001) - Environmental product declarations (UNI EN ISO 14025) - Verification of ethical claims (UNI ISO/TS 17033) - Verification of ethical claims of responsibility for sustainable development (UNI PdR 102) - Certification of management systems for sustainable and traceable cocoa (UNI EN ISO 34101) - Certification of <i>Oil&Gas</i> management systems (UNI EN ISO 29001)
<p>INFRASTRUCTURES FOR SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High speed railways and road maintenance 4.0 • Integrated intermodalities and logistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical tests in the railway sector (for example dimensional, electrical and electromagnetic compatibility, mechanical, on rolling stock components) - Calibration of instruments dedicated to rail and road mobility - Certification of professionals in the railway sector, logistics (e.g. engineer etc.) - Certification of railway sub-systems and components Laws n. 50 and 57/2019) - Certification Ifs logistics - Certification of road safety management systems (UNI ISO 39001) - Inspections for the verification of operations for the purpose of validation
<p>LEARNING AND RESEARCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of skills and right to study • From research to business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Certification of management systems of Learning services outside formal education (UNI ISO 21001, UNI ISO 29993) - Production of reference materials - Biobanks
<p>INCLUSION AND COHESION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour policies • Social infrastructures, families, communities and the third sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Certification of H&S workplace management systems (UNI ISO 45001) - Certification of management systems for sustainable development in communities (ISO 37101)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special actions for territorial cohesion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Certification of quality management systems (UNI EN ISO 9001) – Certification for internal corporate H&S head officer – Certification of management systems for combating and preventing bullying (UNI PdR 42) – Certification of safety management systems for organizations with major accident hazards (UNI 10617) – Verification and validation of claims – Certification of management systems educational organizations (UNI ISO 21001) – Certification of management systems for learning services outside formal education (UNI ISO 21001, UNI ISO 29993)
<p>HEALTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity and telemedicine assistance • Innovation, research and digitalization of health care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Medical analysis laboratories – Point of Care Testing – Calibration of instruments for medical use – Testing of face masks for medical use (UNI EN 14683) – Testing of devices for the protection of respiratory tracts (UNI EN 149) – Food safety tests – Certification of professionals in the health sector – Certification of medical devices (equipment and electro-medical systems, laser devices etc.) – Certification of quality management systems for medical devices (UNI CEI EN ISO 13485) – Certification of good manufacturing practices of cosmetics (ISO 22716) – Certification of <i>Facility Management</i> management systems (UNI EN ISO 41001) – Certification of traceability systems in the agrifood chain (UNI EN ISO 22005) – Certification of food safety management systems (UNI EN ISO 22000) – Reference measurements in the medical sector – Production of reference materials – PPE

Source: Censis Data

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