WORLD BANK GROUP

Romania Partnership

COUNTRY SNAPSHOT
PORTFOLIO ANNEX

April 2017
LENDING PORTFOLIO

ROMANIA: SECONDARY EDUCATION PROJECT (ROSE) PROJECT

Approved: March 16, 2015
Effective: October 14, 2015
Closing: December 31, 2022

Financing in Million US Dollars:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financier</th>
<th>Financing</th>
<th>Disbursed*</th>
<th>Undisbursed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBRD Loan</td>
<td>243.1</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>243.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*World Bank Disbursements as of March 31, 2017
Note: Disbursements may differ from financing due to exchange rate fluctuations at the time of disbursement.

The Program Development Objectives are to improve the transition from upper secondary to tertiary education and increase retention in the first year of tertiary education in project-supported education institutions.

Selected Key Developments:
The ROSE project is structured in three components, with the first two designed to address the academic and personal reasons for poor student performance in upper secondary and in the first year of tertiary education. Component 1, School-Based and Systemic Interventions, would finance supply-side interventions at the school and system levels to address the academic and personal factors hindering Romanian students from transitioning from upper secondary to tertiary education, including dropping out, declining to take the baccalaureate, or scoring a low mark on the baccalaureate. Component 2, University-Level Interventions and Bridge Programs, would support the needs of students who are at risk of dropping out of public faculties in the first year of study. In particular, these students tend to have entered or are likely to enter a faculty with low marks on the baccalaureate (not greater than seven), are more often from rural communities or lower socioeconomic groups, or are Roma students. The third component, which covers project management and monitoring and evaluation (M&E), would finance day-to-day project management activities, M&E activities, project audits, and operational and staffing costs of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (MoESR) Unit for Externally Financed Projects. Project M&E activities would include surveys of high school students attending bridge programs, an impact evaluation of the high school grants program, and an analysis of existing demand-side programs.

Higher-Level Objectives to which the Project Contributes
The objectives of the proposed project are consistent with the World Bank Group’s Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Romania (FY14–17). The CPS has a strategic pillar on growth and jobs creation, with a focus on education and skills. Specifically, the ROSE project would contribute to achieving the country goal on inclusive and efficient labor markets through improved education and skills. It would also contribute to the pillar on social inclusion by instituting policies to rectify inequalities related to socioeconomic status and the marginalization of specific communities, including the Roma population and those living in rural areas. Moreover, the ROSE project would contribute toward achieving the country goal on the provision of inclusive services, which include education, for marginalized communities.
In addition to the national goals articulated in the CPS, the proposed project is aligned with the World Bank Group’s goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. Education is a fundamental building block of human capital, and secondary education in particular provides the higher-level skills that are required for success in the labor market or in more advanced levels of education. A high-quality education is linked to both poverty reduction and productivity growth, both of which contribute to shared prosperity. Also, by supporting interventions targeting high schools and university faculties serving disadvantaged students, the proposed project would especially benefit those students for whom extreme poverty and other socioeconomic disadvantages represent major constraints to secondary school completion and the transition to tertiary education.

The project contributes to CPS Pillar 2 - Growth and Job Creation
Elective surgeries include cataract surgery, knee arthroscopy, surgery of varicose veins, anal surgery (hemorrhoids), carpal syndrome corrective surgery, and removal of osteosynthetic material.

The Health Sector Reform project continues the World Bank’s support to the Romanian Government for the implementation of key elements of its 2000 health reform program begun in 2000 and also for the rehabilitation of the maternity and neonatal care units and selected emergency units (through the Health Sector Reform APL 1 and 2).

The Project Development Objective is to improve access to, and the quality and efficiency of, public health services in Romania. While the proposed project will benefit the entire Romanian population, those who currently have the least access to good quality health services will benefit the most, such as those with limited financial resources or those living in marginalized areas, including Roma, as well as other vulnerable groups that will benefit from enhanced primary health care and community care services.

Defining the role to be played by health facilities in the context of referral health networks, introducing care standards (care pathways) and gender-specific interventions (for example, cancer screening), and increasing access to ambulatory and daycare services for secondary health care will improve the performance of the health system and reduce inequities.

Key Expected Results:

- At least 70 percent of eligible women age 25–60 to have had one test for cervical cancer in the past three years.
- At least 25 percent of hospitals in the rationalized network contracted by the National Health Insurance House (NHIH) to have been subject to a technical/clinical audit in the previous 12 months and to have shown explicit quality-oriented disease management arrangements, including explicit protocols and quality indicators to fight noncommunicable diseases.
- The first phase of the Hospital Rationalization Plan has been implemented and has achieved the following milestones:
  1. Hospital payment system is updated, based on the results of standardized cost accounting systems implemented in pilot hospitals.
  2. At least 30 percent of all surgeries paid by the NHIH and included in a list of elective surgeries are performed as outpatient and ambulatory surgeries.
  3. The number of public acute beds per 1,000 inhabitants to be reduced to 4.5.

The project contributes to CPS Pillar 1 – Creating a 21st Century Government and CPS Pillar 3 – Social Inclusion

---

1 Elective surgeries include cataract surgery, knee arthroscopy, surgery of varicose veins, anal surgery (hemorrhoids), carpal syndrome corrective surgery, and removal of osteosynthetic material.
ROMANIA: SOCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM MODERNIZATION PROJECT (SASMP)

Approved: May 26, 2011
Effective: April 30, 2012
Revised Closing: December 31, 2017
Financing in Million US Dollars:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financier</th>
<th>Financing</th>
<th>Disbursed</th>
<th>Undisbursed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBRD Loan</td>
<td>710.4</td>
<td>332.97</td>
<td>351.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*World Bank Disbursements as of March 31, 2017
Note: Disbursements may differ from financing due to exchange rate fluctuations at the time of disbursement.

The Project Development Objective. The project aims to improve the overall performance of Romania’s social assistance system by strengthening performance management, improving equity and administrative efficiency, and reducing error and fraud. SASMP plays a significant role in areas such as shared prosperity and knowledge generation and sharing, and the project has already disseminated its experience within the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region and internationally.

Key Expected Results
The project aims to improve the performance of Romania’s social assistance system, with a focus on the Government’s main programs for low-income households, the disabled, and families with children. It is organized around four key results areas, each contributing to the project objective:

- Strengthened performance management: Romania’s social assistance reform is implemented according to a results-oriented strategy and action plan and is supported by a performance management (monitoring and evaluation) system.
- Improved equity: The share of social assistance funds going to the poorest quintile of the population will increase.
- Improved administrative efficiency: Administrative and client costs for means-tested programs will be reduced by 15 percent from baseline value.
- Reduced error and fraud: Programs for low-income households, disability benefits, and family policy programs have strengthened information systems, oversight, and control procedures.

Nine disbursement-linked indicators (DLIs) in all results areas were met: DLI 1: Action Plan; DLI 2: Monitoring Reports; DLI 4: Family Allowance benefits with harmonized means-testing and lower eligibility threshold; DLI 5: Child Raising Benefits using lower replacement income; DLI 8: Harmonized means-testing procedures for the guaranteed minimum income (GMI), financial assistance (FA), and heating benefits disseminated; DLI 13: thematic inspection of four programs; DLI 15: GMI paid through the National Agency for Social Benefits; and DLI 18–20: Harmonized means-testing procedures for the guaranteed minimum income (GMI), financial assistance (FA), and heating benefits disseminated; DLI 13: thematic inspection of four programs; DLI 15: GMI paid through the National Agency for Social Benefits; and DLI 18–20: Harmonized means-testing procedures for the guaranteed minimum income (GMI), financial assistance (FA), and heating benefits disseminated; DLI 13: thematic inspection of four programs; DLI 15: GMI paid through the National Agency for Social Benefits; and DLI 18–20: Harmonized means-testing procedures for the guaranteed minimum income (GMI), financial assistance (FA), and heating benefits disseminated;

The main government priorities are: (i) continue to move toward fewer programs (and introduce a new Minimum Insertion Income scheme) with simpler and standardized application procedures; (ii) improve eligibility criteria for means-tested programs to achieve both stronger targeting and higher coverage of the poor (e.g., by eliminating the list of asset filters that exclude genuinely poor households from means-tested programs); (iii) support the transition from assistance to work for the one-half million adults in the poorest quintile who benefit from cash assistance but do not work; (iv) promote household investments in the human capital of their children; (v) expand the Social Assistance (SA) Management Information System (MIS) (SAFIR) to cover more programs and link to other databases; (vi) improve the capacity to use the MIS for decision making; and (vii) increase Social Inspectorate capacity and authority to enforce action where fraud and corruption are found.

Project contributes to CPS Pillar 3 – Social Inclusion
**The Project Development Objective.** The overall development objective of the project is to support the Government of Romania to meet the EU Nitrates Directive requirements by reducing nutrient discharges into bodies of water, promoting behavioral change at the community level, and strengthening institutional and regulatory capacity. The Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control project (INPCP) cofinancing Global Environment Facility (GEF) has the specific objective of reducing, over the long term, the discharge of nutrients into bodies of water leading into the Danube River and Black Sea through integrated land and water management.

**Key Expected Results and Current Achievements:**

The proposed interventions build on the successes of a pilot activity in Calărași County, and help to implement priority actions identified in the Black Sea-Danube Strategic Partnership Nutrient Reduction Investment Fund, the Danube River Strategic Action Plan, and the Danube River Basin Pollution Reduction Program supported by the GEF.

To date, on-the-ground implementation progress includes:

(i) a major public awareness campaign, critical for helping Romania to achieve the EU's Nitrates Directive's objectives, is under implementation, and support to the Ministry of Environment Waters and Forests (MEWF) and awareness to the Ministry of European Funds to ensure that proposals and funds are included under new Operational Programs (2014–20) for implementation of the EU Nitrate Directive;

(ii) construction and delivery of 75 communal and 1,136 household manure platforms in nine training and demonstration sites (TDS) and 25 nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ) communes;

(iii) purchase and delivery of 4,014 household waste segregation plastic bins;

(iv) procurement and delivery of equipment for animal waste management (including 56 front loaders, 62 tractors, 124 agricultural trailers, 56 vacuum tankers, and 56 manure spreaders);

(v) tree planting on 182 hectares in 57 communes;

(vi) completion and delivery of the extension of the Voina Training Center;

(vii) nine small scale community systems (sewage collection and treatment facilities) completed in seven communes;

(viii) extending the national groundwater monitoring network managed by ANAR with the construction of 63 piezometers in nine river basins.

To finalize all project activities and reach all its developmental objectives, an extension of the project closing date for the second time by 18 months (3.4 years cumulative extension) was given to the project in September 2015.

The project's key outcomes:

- Per mid-term measurement: 122 wells monitored in NVZs covered by INPCP showed nitrate (NO₃⁻) concentrations to be at least 10 percent lower as compared to the values measured in 2009 (representing 61.5 percent of targeted zones vs. a final 80 percent target); 52.6 percent of the population in the project area (vs. the 50 percent final target) adopted remedial measures to reduce nutrient discharges, and 17,400 land users (vs. 21,000 final target) adopted sustainable land management practices as a result of the project based on data per mid-term Social Survey, average index for Treatment Groups (11 TDS) and Control Group 3 (10 of the 58 NVZ communes receiving project investments).

- Improved intergovernmental coordination and capacity to report on implementation of the EU Nitrates Directive.

- Test/demonstrate the feasibility of biogas/energy cogeneration from manure/organic household waste.
**Additional Financing:**
The Project remains highly relevant for Romania’s obligations related to the implementation of the EU Nitrates Directive, and is still the only project in Romania that finances direct investments in rural communities for those purposes, bringing, at the same time, important environmental as well as social-economic benefits.

Therefore, a request for continuing to support Romania in implementation of the EU's Nitrates Directive was made by the MEWF and the Ministry of Public Finance (MoPF) in April 2015, and consequently, an Additional Financing new loan of EURO 48 million (US$52.4 million equivalent) was approved by the Board on March 28, 2016. The Loan is expected to become effective by April 14, 2017.

**Donor coordination:** The nitrates reduction investments were identified as an urgent priority and GEF of US$5.5 million under the Danube Black Sea Strategic Partnership provides incremental support for nutrient control measures under the project, of which 96 percent has been disbursed.

The project contributes to CPS Pillar 2 – Growth and Job Creation

---

**ROMANIA: JUSTICE SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

| Approved: January 31, 2017 |
| Effective: not yet effective |
| Revised Closing: December 31, 2023 |

<p>| Financing in Millions US Dollars |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financier</th>
<th>Financing</th>
<th>Disbursed*</th>
<th>Undisbursed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBRD Loan</td>
<td>66.99</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: Disbursements may differ from financing due to exchange rate fluctuations at the time of disbursement.

Since 2005, the Bank has supported judicial reform in Romania through the Judicial Reform Project (JRP), a USD 130 million investment project which was closed on March 31, 2017. The Government has requested a follow-up investment lending operation to support the implementation of key aspects of its Strategy for the Development of the Judiciary (2015-2020), and of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy. The Bank will finance primarily ICT hardware and civil works, focusing on the courts, the National Trade Registry Office (NTRO) and the prosecution service (known as the Public Ministry). Implementation of project activities will complement and leverage POCA funding and support the implementation of the recommendations of the Romania Judicial Functional Review 2012.

**The Project Development Objective.** The project's development objective is to improve the efficiency and accessibility of targeted justice institutions.

**Key Expected Results and Current Achievements:**

The primary beneficiaries of this project will be the key justice institutions serving citizens and businesses in Romania, namely: the Ministry of Justice, the courts, the Public Ministry and the NTRO. The project will also work with CSOs and key justice stakeholders including attorneys, insolvency practitioners and bailiffs. The ultimate beneficiaries of improved justice services are citizens and businesses. Community awareness and engagement activities will reach out to beneficiaries and specific vulnerable groups directly. There were around 3 million cases pending with the courts and 1.8 million cases pending with the prosecution service in 2015. The number of persons affected by the justice system is significantly greater when one considers that criminal
cases involve defendants, witnesses and victims of crime. It is estimated that 65 percent of those affected by the justice system are men and 35 percent women. At the NTRO in 2015, there were approximately 113,000 registrations and approximately 43,000 requests for data from the NTRO archives. The number of NTRO users is estimated to be at least 100,000 per year, of which 60 percent are men and 40 percent are women.

JSIP will achieve the following four results:

1. **Improving accessibility in courts:** Facilities at select court sites will meet EU minimum standards for accessibility. Results data will be disaggregated by court site, and by type of standards (e.g. facilities for victims of crime, facilities for juveniles, disabled access);

2. **Improving efficiency in courts, prosecutor offices and the NTRO:** A more reliable ICT environment will enable courts, prosecutor offices and the NTRO to perform core functions without disruption. The improved ICT environment will also be capable of supporting upgrades to the integrated case management systems. Results data will be measured by ICT technical reports using national systems;

3. **Improving access to NTRO services:** NTRO users will be able to access key business information online 24/7 through a web portal, rather than travelling in person to make data;

4. **Improving efficiency of NTRO services:** NTRO users will experience a faster response time in accessing business information. Results data will be measured by comparing the difference between the current 5-day response time for in-person service with the online access to information via the NTRO portal.

The project contributes to CPS Pillar 1 – Creating a 21st Century Government
## TRUST FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
<th>Value Mil $</th>
<th>Disbursed</th>
<th>Undisbursed Mil $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHRD Improved Policy Making and Institutional Framework for People with Disabilities P128150/TF 10417</strong></td>
<td>Assist the Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Protection to develop a more effective protection of persons with disabilities through improved disability assessments and better information on persons with disabilities for policy making.</td>
<td>April 25, 2012</td>
<td>October 25, 2017</td>
<td>1.715</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>1.365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GEF Romania Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project P099528/TF 058040</strong></td>
<td>To reduce over the long term the discharge of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous) into bodies of water leading to the Danube and Black Seas through integrated land and water management.</td>
<td>December 8, 2008</td>
<td>May 31, 2017</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5.29</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CF Afforestation of Degraded Agricultural Land Project P075959/TF 052716</strong></td>
<td>To reduce greenhouse gas concentrations through carbon sequestration in planted trees and in soils.</td>
<td>October 2, 2003</td>
<td>December 31, 2020</td>
<td>3.07*</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*out of which US$ 1.6 mil. cancelled in FY12 at Borrower's request.*
**ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF THE ROMA EDUCATION FUND–ROMANIA TO IMPLEMENT THE “READY SET GO” PROJECT IN ROMANIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signed: June 12, 2015</th>
<th>Key Partners: Financial Mechanism Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration: 22 months</td>
<td>Value: €0.75 million (US$0.84 million)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project objectives:** To enhance the staff capacity of the Roma Education Fund - Romania and other partners implementing the “Ready Set Go” project in the areas of project planning, management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, data analysis, procurement, and financial management. The Roma Education Fund (REF) was cofounded by the World Bank and the Open Society Institute (OSI) in December 2004 in the framework of the “Decade for Roma Inclusion” initiative with the ultimate objective of closing the educational gap between Roma and non-Roma children by providing better access to quality education. The REF is the largest and most influential international nongovernmental organization (NGO) working the field of Roma education. It operates in 16 countries in Europe, including Romania, where the significant number of REF projects supported by EU-funded operational programs in Romania led to the establishment of a REF branch in Bucharest, Romania (REF Romania).

The Bank will provide capacity-building assistance and technical advice to the REF staff throughout the project’s lifecycle. The Bank’s Advisory Services will include capacity-enhancement activities and technical advice in the following areas: i) project management and implementation; ii) project monitoring and evaluation and data analysis; and iii) financial management and procurement.

**ROMANIA: PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STRATEGY UNIT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signed: February 25, 2016</th>
<th>Key Partners: General Secretariat of the Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration: 25 months</td>
<td>Value: RON 6.43 million (US$1.59 million)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project objectives:** To strengthen Romania’s central strategic planning function. The RAS will help the Prime Minister’s office achieve this objective through the establishment of a Strategy Unit and a design of strategic planning and monitoring processes and tools.

The project has four main components: (i) design of the National Strategy Management Framework and Procedures; (ii) support for the establishment of the Strategy Unit; (iii) methodology and procedures for preparing strategic documents; and (iv) monitoring and evaluation.

**ROMANIA: DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAPACITY OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TO CARRY OUT IMPACT STUDIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signed: March 9, 2016</th>
<th>Key Partners: General Secretariat of the Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration: 25 months</td>
<td>Value: RON 12.67 million (US$3.11 million)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Project objectives:** To strengthen the capacity of the Romanian administration for evidence based policy making. The main types of activities to be undertaken in order to achieve the project goal are: impact assessment studies carried out in selected institutions, training modules, the set-up of a community of practice, and advocacy events. Through these activities, the proposed RAS will seek to achieve a set of outcomes, which will be tracked by a number of key indicators. The main goals of this project are to increase administrative capacity required to undertake an evidence –based policy making process, by enhancing relevant knowledge and skills, develop comprehensive impact studies following best practice methodologies, and raise awareness across the political and civil society spectrum regarding the need for evidence-based regulation.

The project aims to: (a) create and expand technical capacities within the Romanian administration for the use of RIA by providing best practice examples of impact assessments for relevant legislation through the development of five impact studies in collaboration with selected institutions within the Romanian administration, emphasizing a learning-by-doing approach; (b) strengthen the technical capacities within the public administration through the provision of training, study tours, technical assistance, and knowledge exchanges; and (c) increase public awareness regarding the role and importance of RIA through advocacy and awareness events for universities, civil society, NGOs, journalists.
ROMANIA: ASSISTANCE TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR INFORMED DECISION-MAKING ON INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Signed: March 30, 2016  
Duration: 36 months  
Value: RON 7.8 million (US$ 1.98 million)  
Key Partners: National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training Development

**Project objectives:** To strengthen the strategic and monitoring capacity of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research of Romania to make informed decisions on investments in education infrastructure. Specifically, this RAS will (i) support the preparation of a draft Strategy for Infrastructure Investments in Education Institutions, and (ii) build and enhance capacity within the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research for the preparation and monitoring of the National Strategy for Infrastructure Investments in Education Institutions.

The Ministry of Education and Scientific Research will prepare the National Strategy for Infrastructure Investments in Education Institutions (NSIEI) based on the draft Strategy for Infrastructure Investments in Education Institutions (SIIEI) to be developed under this RAS. The NSIEI will be fundamental to inform decisions on investments in infrastructure, and to increase the absorption of European Union Structural and Investment Funds for the 2014-2020 programming period.

---

ROMANIA: DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS FOR THE DE-INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF PARENTAL CARE AND THEIR TRANSFER TO COMMUNITY-BASED CARE

Signed: May 12, 2016  
Duration: 29 months  
Value: RON 12.38 million (US$ 3.13 million)  
Key Partners: National Authority for the Protection of Children Rights and Adoption

**Project objectives:** To: (a) develop a complex diagnostic of the centers for children deprived of parental care (residential institutions) and of the needs of their beneficiaries, to prioritize the closure of these centers; (b) carry out an inventory of the available alternative care modalities (e.g. foster parents, extended family) and preventive services, as well as the resources available at local, district and national level that could be mobilized to finance the deinstitutionalization process (including here the improvement of services aimed at preventing the separation of the child from his/her family); (c) develop a methodology for the closure of residential institutions for children deprived of parental care; and (d) develop a unitary system to identify and enroll the children and families at risk of separation, to diminish the inflows into the specialized child protection system.

The project has four broad components: a) Prioritization of the process of closing down institutions for child protection, including classic residential units as well as modulated residential units; b) Routes of alternative care for children from classic residential units; c) Methodology for closing down institutions for child protection; and d) Monitoring and evaluation plan of the deinstitutionalization process together with a procedure of identification, registration, referral and support of children at risk of being separated from their family.

---

ROMANIA: ASSISTANCE ON STRENGTHENING PLANNING AND BUDGETING CAPACITY AND SUPPORTING THE INTRODUCTION OF PERFORMANCE BUDGETING

Signed: June 8, 2016  
Duration: 35 months  
Value: RON 14.2 million (US$ 3.59 million)  
Key Partners: General Secretariat of the Government

**Project objectives:** To strengthen the strategic and monitoring processes in the Center of Government (CoG), Ministry of Public Finance (MoPF) and line ministries with the purpose of enhancing the efficiency of public spending. Specifically, the assistance will focus on a) further strengthening the existing Institutional Strategic Plan (ISP) development processes of the MoPF and line ministries under the guidance of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister (CPM); b) monitoring ISP updates and implementation with a common IT tool, developed with support from the Bank; and c) developing a central dashboard in the CPM for high level ISP priorities of the selected ministries.
ROMANIA: ASSISTANCE TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR M&E IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATION STRATEGIES

Signed: June 29, 2016  
Duration: 36 months  
Value: RON 6.46 million (US$1.58 million)  

Key Partners: Ministry of National Education

**Project objectives:** To build the capacity of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research to (i) monitor and evaluate the implementation of strategies for reducing early school leaving, and improving tertiary education, life-long learning and vocational education and training, and (ii) apply an evidence-based tool—the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER)—to key policy areas with the purpose of fostering a structured policy dialogue with decision makers and stakeholders. The MESR will undertake a M&E process of the implementation of four complex education strategies—three of them (ESL, TE, and LLL) developed with Bank assistance under previous RASs and formally approved by the Government in June/July 2015, and one (VET) prepared by the MESR separately and currently processed for final approval. While all these strategies represent ex-ante conditionalities for Romania’s access to European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), resources for their implementation will also incur national budgets as well as other sources of funds. The M&E is expected to be a process of monitoring, learning and adjusting, as necessary, while leading to the achievement of the objectives of the strategies and EU2020 targets. At the same time, the MESR will seek to evaluate and improve key policies against evidence based global standards. This RAS will assist the MESR in the above mentioned process through capacity building activities. The capacity building process is expected to foster a broader policy dialogue with decision makers and stakeholders on how to strengthen the effectiveness of the education system.

---

ROMANIA: SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

Signed: September 1, 2016  
Duration: 35 months  
Value: EUR2.38 million (US$ 2.65 million)  

Key Partners: National Agency for Public Procurement

**Project objectives:** To support the Romanian Ministry of Public Finance and its subordinated National Public Procurement Agency to reform the public procurement system in line with the PP strategy by transforming the procurement policy and practice into a strategic management function with focus on value for money and integrity in the whole project cycle.

---

ROMANIA: ASSISTANCE ON INFORMING PROJECT EVALUATION

Signed: September 9, 2016  
Duration: 8 months  
Value: US$0.05 million  

Key Partners: Ministry of European Funds in Romania

**Project objectives:** To provide: (a) support to evaluators of marginalized community analyses under the Operational Program Human Capital by developing a good practices guide in carrying out needs’ assessment in marginalized communities (Roma and non-Roma communities); (b) training to evaluators to increase technical capacity; and (c) support to evaluators on technical aspects of methodologies and analyses, as well as input to requests for clarifications.

---

ROMANIA: ESTABLISHMENT OF A FRAMEWORK FOR THE USE OF DERIVATIVES AND THE EXECUTION OF SWAP TRANSACTIONS

Signed: September 30, 2016  
Duration: 18 months  
Value: RON 2.6 million (US$0.66 million)  

Key Partners: Ministry of Public Finance

**Project objectives:** Help the Ministry of Public Finance (MoPF) develop legal and operational framework (policies, procedures, norms) and provide the necessary training for MoPF staff to use interest rate and cross currency swaps as part of the funding program.
### ROMANIA: SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ROMANIA’S HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME (POCU) 2014-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signed:</th>
<th>to be signed on April 19, 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration:</td>
<td>36 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value:</td>
<td>EUR10 million (US$10.6 million)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Partners:** Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds

**Project objectives:** To contribute to the Government of Romania’s capacity to deliver improved outcomes on employment, education and skills, social inclusion, health and poverty reduction in Romania. This will be achieved by supporting (i) streamlining the implementation process of the Human Development Operational Programme (POCU) within the managing authority and intermediary bodies, (ii) improvement of the design of POCU calls and (iii) improvements in the appraisal and evaluation of calls through clarifying roles and responsibilities, and introducing.

### ROMANIA: TA TO ENHANCE QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signed:</th>
<th>to be signed shortly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration:</td>
<td>36 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value:</td>
<td>RON6.50 million (US$1.55 million)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Partners:** Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS)

**Project objectives:** Improve the capacity of the Ministry of National Education (MNE) and the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) to govern the quality assurance system of higher education in Romania with the purpose of supporting increased attainment to and quality and efficiency of Romania’s higher education system. The new adopted National Strategy for Tertiary Education in Romania 2015-2020, developed in close collaboration with the World Bank through an earlier RAS, includes a number of activities for "Promoting the Establishment of High Quality, Adaptive Academic Programs", in order to implement a more transparent assessment and quality assurance system. The proposed Advisory Services is designed to support the improvement of the administrative capacity of the MNE and the ARACIS by developing procedures for the organization of its internal and external activities, by training its own staff, and also by developing and implementing consultation mechanisms to ensure that all stakeholders are participating in the decision-making process and continuing to develop efficient, citizen-oriented public policies.