

**ROMANIA: ASSISTANCE TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR M&E IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATION
STRATEGIES**

Key Dates: Signed: June 29, 2016 End Date: June 28, 2019 Duration: 36 months Value: RON 6.46 million (US\$1.58 million)	Key Partner: Ministry of National Education (MESR)
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Objectives: To build the capacity of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research to (i) monitor and evaluate (M&E) the implementation of strategies for reducing early school leaving (ESL), and improving tertiary education (TE), life-long learning (LL) and vocational education and training (VET), 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 Reimbursable Advisory Services (RAS) 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.