Annex 1 - Institutional Actors Involved in Investments in Education Infrastructure

1. The MNESR plays a central institutional role in making strategic investments in pre-university education infrastructure. In particular, the MNESR allocates funds from the State budget according to the Law of National Education 1/2011 to finance: (i) national programs approved through Government Decisions; (ii) national contribution to projects or programs co-financed by the GoR and other international financial institutions; and (iii) annual and multiannual programs for investments in modernization and development of public pre-university institutions’ facilities, including school consolidation, rehabilitation, and equipping. The Management Unit for Modernizing of School and University Network is the agency subordinated to the MNESR responsible for the implementation of these national programs, and is currently implementing two investment projects: (i) School Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project (PRIS) for rehabilitation, modernization, and equipping of 1,336 schools and 16 student dorms; and (ii) Early Childhood Education Reform Project (PRET) construction, rehabilitation and equipping of 750 kindergartens.

2. Other relevant functions for education infrastructure are carried out by the MNESR through the Patrimony and Procurement Directorate. These functions include: (i) preparation of specific norms for construction and equipping schools; (ii) endorsement of changes to the utilization of school buildings, at the proposal of local authorities; and (iii) annual approval of universities’ investments objectives and plans. Universities receive, under complementary financing, allocations from the MNESR to construct, rehabilitate, extend, and equip buildings.

3. Beyond the MNESR, several other central ministries play crucial roles, including the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, and Ministry of Public Finance. The flowchart presented in the end of this Annex illustrates the funding sources and financiers, and the way funds are transferred from central institutions to local authorities with the purpose of modernizing education infrastructure. The Ministry of Public Finance (MPF) allocates funds for investing in schools in three ways: (i) through the MNESR for national investment projects financed either entirely from State budget or co-financed by different international financial institutions and for universities through a complementary financing mechanism; (ii) through County General Directorates for Public Finance, for further transfers to local authorities for local school investments with the possibility for complementary financing; and (iii) through the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, for further transfers to local authorities for investments in education infrastructure within the framework of the National Program for Local Development.

4. Another key institutional actor in the provision of funds for investments in education infrastructure outside the Government of Romania is the European Union (EU). The EU allocates funds for education infrastructure in two ways: (i) to the MRDPA, which allocates European Regional Developments Funds to local authorities within the framework of the Regional Operational Programme; and (ii) to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Agency for Financing Rural Investments), which allocates European Agriculture Fund for Regional Developments Funds to local associations and NGOs within the framework of National Program for Rural Development.
5. In addition to financing, institutional actors have a stake in a broad array of functions pertaining to education infrastructure. Figure below identifies groups of actors based on their function and stake in decisions around education infrastructure. These groups include: (i) agencies responsible for policymaking and regulation, especially at the central and county government levels, (ii) agencies responsible for implementation of infrastructure investments, (iii) agencies responsible for monitoring and evaluation, and (iv) final beneficiaries of infrastructure investments, especially schools and universities.

Figure N. Map of Institutional Actors
Decision making process for investments in education infrastructure

- Law of National Education/
  National investment programs
- Annual Law of State Budget

MPF

MNESR
- Unit for the Management of Schools and Universities Network Modernization Projects
- Pre-university education units/ special education units

County General Directorates for Public Finance
- Local authorities/ County councils

MRDPA
- NPLD
- ERDF - ROP

MRDPA
- Local authorities
- Pre-university education units

MRDPA
- Local authorities
- Pre-university education units

MARD
- EARDF - NPRD
- Local associations & NGOs

MRDPA
- Universities

EU

Universities

EU - European Union
MARD - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MNESR - Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research
MPF - Ministry of Public Finance

EARDF - European Agricultural Rural Development Fund
ERDF - European Regional Development Fund
NPLD - National Program for Local Development
NPRD - National Program for Rural Development
ROP - Regional Operational Program