**Minutes of the Decision Review Meeting**

**Skills and Returns to Education in the Russian Federation (P170978)**

**May 27, 2020**

1. A Decision Review for the proposed study on “Skills and Returns to Education in the Russian Federation” was held through WebEx on May 27, 2020. The meeting was chaired by Renaud Seligmann, Country Director for Russian Federation (ECCRU). Attending the meeting were: Dorota Agata Nowak (Country Program Coordinator, ECCRU), Harry Patrinos (Practice Manager, HECED), Cristian Aedo (Practice Manager, HSAED); Husein Abdul-Hamid (Senior Education Specialist, HECED); Tigran Shmis (Sr. Education Specialist, HECED), Suhas Parandekar (Sr. Economist, HECED), Denis Nikolaev (Education Specialist, HECED); Yanina Ermakova (Operations Officer, ECCRU); Marina Paradzinskaya (Senior Executive Assistant, ECCRU); Zhanna Terlyga (Team Assistant, ECCRU); Polina Zavalina (Consultant, HECED) and Artëm Volgin (Consultant, HECED).
2. Written comments were received prior to the meeting from the three peer reviewers: Cristian Aedo (Practice Manager, HSAED), Husein Abdul-Hamid (Senior Education Specialist, HECED) and Ruslan Yemtsov (Program Leader, HEADR). The team acknowledges with thanks the substantive and thoughtful comments received from the peer reviewers.
3. The chair opened the meeting and directed the team to follow the suggestions of the peer reviewers as noted in the meeting agenda, and focus the meeting on the main messages and policy engagement regarding these messages.
4. Decisions: Upon completion of a rich discussion, the Chair summarized the needed action by the team:

* The team will revise the working papers and the summary: motivation (add context regarding the Russian education system); methodology (add specifications to the Mincerian regressions); and findings (make explicit the caveats regarding the interpretations about regional returns and the quality of the educational system)
* The team will present the working papers at online seminars with the Higher School of Economics (HSE) and the working paper with regional focus at an online seminar to be organized with the Agency of Strategic Initiatives (ASI).
* The team will provide the data and code through GitHub or similar platform, taking help as needed from DECDG and ECR colleagues. For the data showing institutional level private returns and fiscal returns, the team will seek partnership with an institution such as the Higher School of Economics (HSE).
* The team will work proactively on dissemination of the working papers and the underlying data, using available avenues for media coverage, for example, by including a reference in the upcoming Russia Economic Report (RER).

1. Upon completion of the above steps (with exception regarding online seminars, some of which will take place in Fiscal Year 2021), the team may submit the Activity Completion Summary (ACS) for approval.