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Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.8.2025)

Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RFF) Regulation¹, it is for Romania to decide which reforms and investments will be financed through this instrument, subject to the eligibility conditions established by the RRF Regulation. The Romanian plan includes investments related to reducing early school leaving, such as Investment 4 in the education component ‘Supporting educational establishments with medium and high risk of drop-outs’. According to Article 5(1) of the RRF Regulation, the RRF finances costs that are non-recurrent in nature and fall within the time horizon of the plan. Financing scholarships for students and schoolchildren is therefore outside the scope of the Facility.

The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) in Romania supports equal access to quality education and reducing child poverty through the ‘Education and Employment’² and ‘Social Inclusion and Dignity’ programmes³. It co-finance initiatives like ‘School supplies’⁴ and ‘Healthy Meal’⁵, and funds scholarships through projects such as ‘An extra chance through vocational and technical education’⁶ and ‘First Student in the Family’⁷. Increasing funding for these actions is possible under ESF+ rules but would require a formal programme amendment by the Managing Authority (Ministry of Investments and European Projects) and reallocating resources from other priorities, such as support for the most deprived, skills development or labour market measures.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R0241>.

² <https://oportunitati-ue.gov.ro/program/programul-educatie-si-ocupare/>.

³ <https://oportunitati-ue.gov.ro/program/programul-incluziune-si-demnitate-sociala/>.

⁴ <https://edu.ro/rechizite-scolare#:~:text=%C3%8En%20vederea%20stimul%C4%83rii%20prezen%C8%9Bei%20la%20%C8%99coal%C4%83%2C%20%C3%AEEn%20anul,distribuire%20pachete%20cu%20rechizite%20%C8%99colare%20specifice%20fiecare%20clase>.

⁵ https://www.edu.ro/masa_sanatoasa.

⁶ <https://oportunitati-ue.gov.ro/apel/o-sansa-in-plus-prin-invatamantul-profesional-si-tehnic/>.

⁷ <https://mfe.gov.ro/proiecte-in-valoare-de-pest-104-mil-euro-aprobate-prin-programul-primul-student-din-familie/>.