

READ 2 Reimbursable Advisory Services (RAS) Program Update

The READ 2 RAS Program continues supporting Russia in building the capacity of its experts and researchers in measuring and improving the quality of education. Since its launch, the Program has supported the introduction of a Doctoral Degree Program in Educational Measurement and Evaluation, a Master of Arts Degree Program in Education Quality, training programs in education quality, and a Small Grants Program.

The **Russian Training Center (RTC)**, through the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences, continues offering online courses and face-to-face seminars. The courses offered by the RTC are designed for policymakers, educational quality specialists, and assessment professionals and focus on current methods, approaches, and best practices in carrying out student learning assessments as well as designing policies to foster learning. The RTC online courses are free of charge and available in Russian under the READ 2 RAS Program. The first webinar was delivered on May 23, 2018. At this webinar, Elena Lenskaya, director of the RTC, delivered a presentation about the Center and its future learning events; Igor Valdman, former director of the RTC that operated under the first stage of the READ Program, spoke about the experience gained in the Center and the benefits of participating in its learning activities; and Viktor Bolotov, president of the Eurasian Association for Educational Assessment (EAOKO), delivered a presentation on the current challenges faced by the education quality assurance systems in ECA countries. A video recording of the webinar is available at [the link](#) (in Russian).

The 7th Annual Conference of the EAOKO “Education Assessment at Various Levels of Education” will take place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on October 19-20, 2018. The conference, supported by the READ 2 RAS Program, welcomes the participation of policymakers, government officials, academics, and experts in the field of education quality assessment across Europe and Central Asia region and from READ Program countries. The conference provides an opportunity for participants to share their knowledge, discuss challenges faced by education quality assurance systems in their countries, as well as exchange ideas and best practices; it also offers them a chance for professional networking and growth. Registration for the conference is open now. Detailed information about the event, the terms of participation, and the registration form are available in Russian at this [link](#). Information in English will become available in advance of the event. In addition to conference sessions on educational assessments, participants will have an opportunity to learn about assessment in Tajikistan by visiting the National Testing Center and meeting with practitioners and education leaders working on various assessment topics in the country.

The READ 2 RAS team is open to collaboration with international colleagues with expertise in education quality and student assessment. To learn more about the READ 2 RAS Program, please contact Tigran Shmis, Program Manager (tshmis@worldbank.org), Denis Nikolaev, Education Specialist (dnikolaev@worldbank.org) and Dmitry Chugunov, Research Analyst (dchugunov@worldbank.org).