### Project Summary

#### Project background
Nicaragua’s education sector policy is based on the National Education Plan, which aims to promote and develop education in the country in order to help overcome poverty and achieve sustainable and equitable growth. The PAPSE is the first budget support programme for the education sector in Nicaragua in which European Commission (EC) aid is provided directly to the general budget.

#### Mission objectives
The mission provided the Government of Nicaragua (GoN) and the EC with the necessary information, studies and recommendations to support both parties in taking decisions on future support to the education sector. The evaluation looked at whether the PAPSE (2004-2007), in terms of both its planning and execution, was successful in supporting the progressive development of the GoN’s capacity to design and manage education policy, specifically in terms of support for the National Education Plan and the process of decentralising activities to local government.

#### Evaluation activities
- Given the type of support chosen (budget support), the mission analysed the following factors:
  - macroeconomic stability
  - application of the Reinforced Strategy for Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction (RSEGPR) and education policy
  - design and establishment of a general and sectorial Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) to be used as a planning instrument for education policy
  - improvement of public finances management/ education sector cost analysis
  - improvement of information and monitoring systems, quality of available sectorial statistics, definition and use of indicators
  - institutional capacity
- Achievements within the sector since the start of the PAPSE were evaluated:
  - Support for decentralisation within the sector
  - Secondary education reform
  - Support for teaching personnel
- Analysis of financial aspects within the education sector
- Evaluation of institutional capacity and monitoring of the PAPSE

### Services Provided
- Evaluation of the project’s objectives and results achieved
- Production of the final report
- Preparation of a set of recommendations – agreed with the GoN and the EC Delegation before final delivery – for future support to the education sector

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**Nicaragua**

**Mid-Term Evaluation of the Sectorial Support Programme for Education (PAPSE)**

**Client**
European Commission

**Duration**
01.10.2006 - 30.11.2006

**Personnel**
- 2 education experts
- 1 economist with experience in sectorial policy support programmes and the budget support
- 1 training expert