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at the National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow

present

2013 St. Petersburg G20 Summit Interim Compliance Report

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13. Employment: Education

“[We commit to] invest in our people’s skills [to give them skill portability and better prospects, to facilitate mobility and enhance employability].”

St. Petersburg G20 Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
Korea		0	
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.80	

Background

The commitment to invest in education as a measure to stimulate employment was made at the second G20 summit in London. The leaders committed to “support employment by stimulating growth, investing in education and training, and through active labour market policies, focusing on the most vulnerable.”¹⁵⁴⁷ The leaders’ commitment to increasing employment through promoting education and training was subsequently reiterated at the Pittsburgh, Seoul, Cannes and Los Cabos summits.

On 18-19 July 2013, the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers affirmed the commitment to invest in human capital development and education, emphasizing its importance to stimulating employability: “Well-designed education and training measures can improve employability, and facilitate transition of job seekers into new jobs particularly youth. Lifelong learning for all would be a major step forward in helping people to adapt their skills to the labour market demand areas.”¹⁵⁴⁸

¹⁵⁴⁷ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, G20 Research Group 2 April 2009. Date of Access: 24 January 2014. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>.

¹⁵⁴⁸ G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Declaration, Russian G20 Presidency 19 July 2013. Access Date: 21 January 2014. <http://en.g20russia.ru/load/781649316>.

Commitment Features

The commitment requires the G20 members to invest in quality education as a means of enhancing employability and mobility within employment. As the commitment is part of a broader G20 effort to promote inclusive growth, it can be assessed on the basis of the members' steps to advance these goals, which is to provide quality education for the whole population with a focus on the vulnerable groups, such as youth, women, older workers, long-term unemployed and people with disabilities.

According to the World Bank a vulnerable group is “a population that has some specific characteristics that make it at higher risk of falling into poverty” and includes “the elderly, the mentally and physically disabled, at-risk children and youth, ex-combatants, internally displaced people and returning refugees, HIV/AIDS- affected individuals and households, religious and ethnic minorities and, in some societies, women.”¹⁵⁴⁹

Examples of measures to improve the quality of education include:

- increase the relevance of education by adjusting learning processes, curriculum content and school management to take account of the context of learning;
- stress democratic citizenship, respect and human rights as the over-arching values of education and take measures so that they are developed at the school level and in other learning environments;
- emphasize sustainable development as the over-arching social outcome of education, and link this to curriculum development and teacher training;
- take special measures to reach vulnerable and marginalized groups; this may include school feeding programmes, itinerant teachers, health support, materials and instruction in minority languages, measures for the disabled;
- improve the school environment with special attention to the needs of girls in respect of safety, sanitation and the attitudes of teachers;
- strengthen the training, status and remuneration of teachers in order to improve teacher performance and motivation;
- invest in books, materials and equipment to provide a stimulating learning environment — at the very least, every child in school should have access to a book which they can read for themselves;
- develop accountable management systems, particularly at school level, under a clear legal framework and with appropriate capacity-building so that local information can feed into decisions and planning;
- continue research into measuring quality, developing appropriate indicators and building local capacity to collect and interpret local data.¹⁵⁵⁰

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member does not take steps to invest in quality education.
0	Member takes steps to invest in quality education without targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education.
+1	Member takes steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education.

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment to invest in quality education.

¹⁵⁴⁹ Vulnerable Groups, World Bank. <http://go.worldbank.org/IHAHM1X3Q0>.

¹⁵⁵⁰ Goal 6: Improve the quality of education, UNESCO. <http://www.unesco.org/en/efa/efa-goals/quality-education/cHash/219782210e/>.

On 22 January 2014, Argentinian President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner announced the launch of PROG.R.ES.AR plan, which is a program to support students in Argentina. She said that this program will ensure enhanced social security policy for the youth focusing on improving the conditions to study. It is aimed at young people aged 18 to 24 who do not study, do not work or have an informal work and fail to perceive the vital and the minimum wage established by law. PROG.R.ES.AR provides a benefit of USD600 per month that would cover 1.5 million young people of a total of nearly 5 million, where the largest rate of unemployment is recorded. This program will involve the Ministry of Economy, which will coordinate the Social Development Performance Fieldwork and Health, because young people have to be tested annually to continue participating in the program.¹⁵⁵¹

Argentina has taken measures to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. However, these actions were limited to youth. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Yana Nursubina

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment on education.

The newly elected coalition government actively embarked on its proposed Students First Initiative to improve education outcomes with a particular focus in 2014 on four core areas: teacher quality, principal autonomy, engaging parents in education and strengthening the curriculum:

- On 10 January 2014, reviewers were appointed to evaluate the robustness, independence and balance of the Australian curriculum.¹⁵⁵²
- On 3 February 2014, new AUD70 million Independent Public Schools initiative was announced to encourage public schools to become more independent and involve parents and the community in decision-making processes with the aim to improve education outcomes.¹⁵⁵³
- On 19 February 2014, Ministerial Advisory Group on Teacher Education was established to research world's best practices in teacher education programs and advise the Australian government on improving teacher education.¹⁵⁵⁴

On 10 December 2013, the New Colombo Plan 2014 pilot program was launched by Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop with a funding of AUD100 million over five years. The plan will encourage a two-way flow of students in the Indo-Pacific region with the aim to lift knowledge of the region in Australia and strengthen people-to-people and institutional relationships.¹⁵⁵⁵

¹⁵⁵¹ La Presidenta lanzó el programa PROG.R.ES.AR 22 January 2014.

http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/ampliado.asp?id_nvd=1744.

¹⁵⁵² Review of national curriculum to put students first, Ministers' Media Centre Education portfolio 10 January 2014.

Access Date: 2 February 2014. <http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/review-national-curriculum-put-students-first>

¹⁵⁵³ More schools set to use their own decision making power, Australian Government, Department of Education 3 February 2014. Access Date: 22 February 2014. <http://education.gov.au/news/more-schools-set-use-their-own-decision-making-power>

¹⁵⁵⁴ Improved teacher education will put Students First, Ministers' Media Centre Education portfolio 19 February 2014.

Access Date: 22 February 2014. <http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/improved-teacher-education-will-put-students-first>

¹⁵⁵⁵ New Colombo Plan, Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 10 December 2013. Access Date: 2 February 2014. <http://www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/>

On 2 December 2013, the government announced an additional AUD1.2 billion for Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, bringing total additional school funding over the next four years to AUD2.8 billion and ensuring fairer funding for schools nationally.¹⁵⁵⁶

On 22 November 2013, Minister for Education Christopher Pyne announced an increase in postgraduate and sub-bachelor student places in Australian universities with over 4,500 new places made available over the next four years in nursing and allied health, language and tertiary preparation programs.¹⁵⁵⁷

On 11 December 2013, Minister for Education Christopher Pyne announced that 17 projects were selected to receive funding under the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program to prepare students from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly indigenous Australians, to attend university.¹⁵⁵⁸

On 23 November 2013, the government announced additional AUD35.2 million to support students with disabilities through extra resources and teacher training opportunities.¹⁵⁵⁹

On 8 October 2013, the government commissioned a review of indigenous training and employment programs to develop recommendations to ensure indigenous training and employment services are targeted and administered to connect unemployed indigenous people with real and sustainable jobs.¹⁵⁶⁰

Australia has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Ekaterina Maslovskaya

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment on education.

Since 2011 the Brazilian government has been carrying out the National Program of Access to Technical Education and Employment (Pronatec), which expands people's access to quality jobs through improving the quality of education and workers' professional capacities.¹⁵⁶¹ Pronatec includes several initiatives.¹⁵⁶² One of them is the "Brasil Profissionalizado" program, which is designed to

¹⁵⁵⁶ A fairer funding agreement for schools, Ministers' Media Centre Education portfolio 2 December 2013. Access Date: 23 February 2014. <http://ministers.education.gov.au/fairer-funding-agreement-schools>

¹⁵⁵⁷ Coalition announces additional university places, Ministers' Media Centre Education portfolio 22 November 2013. Access Date: 2 February 2014. <http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/coalition-announces-additional-university-places>

¹⁵⁵⁸ \$50 million for partnerships to boost participation at university, Australian Government, Department of Education 11 December 2013. Access Date: 2 February 2014. <http://education.gov.au/news/50-million-partnerships-boost-participation-university>

¹⁵⁵⁹ Government boosts support for students with disabilities, Ministers' Media Centre, Education portfolio 23 November 2013. Access Date: 2 February 2014. <http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/government-boosts-support-students-disabilities>

¹⁵⁶⁰ Review of Indigenous Training and Employment, Prime Minister of Australia 8 October 2013. Access Date: 23 February 2014. <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2013-10-08/review-indigenous-training-and-employment>

¹⁵⁶¹ O que é o Pronatec?, Pronatec. Access Date: 30 June 2014. <http://pronatec.mec.gov.br/institucional-90037/o-que-e-o-pronatec>.

¹⁵⁶² Objetivos e Iniciativas, Pronatec. Access Date: 30 June 2014. <http://pronatec.mec.gov.br/institucional-90037/objetivos-e-iniciativas>.

stimulate development of infrastructure, governance and quality education in the country. By 2014 Brazilian government spent approximately USD1.8 billion on this program.¹⁵⁶³

Pronatec will also improve job prospects for disadvantaged youth through quality education and professional training. About 10,000 young people who were rescued from child labour or other difficult circumstances are involved in the program.¹⁵⁶⁴

Brazil has taken steps to invest in quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on education.

Canada's Economic Action Plan 2014 provides CAD36 million for the Computers for Schools Program over four years to renew communications technology equipment.¹⁵⁶⁵

The plan confirmed funding of CA1.25 billion to the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act, created the Enhanced Education Fund and Education Infrastructure Fund to build and renovate schools for aboriginal peoples with CAD160 million and CAD500 million respectively.¹⁵⁶⁶

Canada has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment on education.

On 28 October 2013, the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China stated that it set up a plan that urges improvements to the country's education and training system for rural doctors to ensure that 60 per cent of such doctors hold degrees from secondary technical schools or above by 2015. All rural doctors are expected to be qualified as medical practitioners by 2020.¹⁵⁶⁷

On 20 November 2013, the People's Liberation Army of China said military schools will reform their curriculum and management of students to boost real combat abilities. The reform will also unify teaching materials, innovate in teaching methods for combat command and hone a performance-based reward and penalty mechanism for students.¹⁵⁶⁸

On 22 of November 2013, the Ministry of Finance said the central government has allocated CNY16.03 billion to boost preschool education. The fund will be used to support kindergartens to give

¹⁵⁶³ Brasil Profissionalizado – Apresentação, Ministerio da Educacao. Access Date: 30 June 2014.

http://portal.mec.gov.br/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12325&Itemid=663.

¹⁵⁶⁴ Quality Apprenticeships – OECD –Brazil, OECD. Access Date: 30 June 2014. http://www.oecd.org/els/emp/R_SZATMARTI-Quality%20Apprenticeships%20%E2%80%93%20OECD%20%E2%80%93%20Brazil.pdf.

¹⁵⁶⁵ Economic Action Plan 2014: Supporting Jobs and Growth. Access Date: 10 February 2014. <http://actionplan.gc.ca>

¹⁵⁶⁶ Economic Action Plan 2014: Supporting Jobs and Growth. Access Date: 10 February 2014. <http://actionplan.gc.ca>

¹⁵⁶⁷ China aims to nurture trained rural doctors, Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China 29 October 2013. Access Date: 13 February 2014. http://english.agri.gov.cn/news/dqnf/201310/t20131029_20528.htm

¹⁵⁶⁸ China orders combat-oriented reforms in military schools, Ministry of National Defense of the People's Republic of China 20 November 2013. Access Date: 12 February 2014. http://eng.mod.gov.cn/DefenseNews/2013-11/21/content_4475814.htm

disadvantaged families easier access to preschool education, especially those of migrant workers or with financial difficulties, or orphans and disabled children.¹⁵⁶⁹

On 11 December 2013, the central government of China allocated CNY20.7 billion to disadvantaged schools in the countryside. The money will be used for equipment, books and reconstruction.¹⁵⁷⁰

On 21 January 2014, seven Chinese departments, including the education, civil affairs and finance ministries, mapped out the plan, according to which on improving education for learners with special needs, there will be more investment, more infrastructure, more quality teachers and new special education curricula. China ensures that at least 90 per cent of children with visual, hearing and intellectual disabilities get free primary and middle school education by the end of 2016. According to the plan, the special education budget for each student will be increased to CNY6,000, or eight times the per capita budget in standard schools over the next three years. The figure currently stands at CNY2,100. The plan also advocates more financial support for disabled children from impoverished families. The three-year plan stipulates that children with special needs should attend the nearest possible standard school. Special education skills should be incorporated into standard teacher training and higher education institutes may not refuse admission on the basis of disability. According to the document, authorities at county level should have specific teaching plans for every individual disabled child of school age.¹⁵⁷¹

China has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Svetlana Nikitina

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment on education.

On 16 January 2014, Vincent Peillon, Minister of Education, and George Pau-Langevin, Deputy Minister for Educational Success, presented the reform of priority education that defines three areas: student support in learning, stable educational teams, and conducive learning environment.¹⁵⁷²

On 7 February 2014, National Assembly adopted the bill concerning vocational training, employment and social democracy. It emphasizes sustainable development as the over-arching social outcome of education.¹⁵⁷³

In 2014 the Ministry of Education continues its “Future Jobs Teaching” engagement that improves teacher performance and motivation.¹⁵⁷⁴

¹⁵⁶⁹ China Grants 16.03 Bln Yuan to Preschool Education, National Working Committee for Children and Women under the State Council 25 November 2013. Access Date: 13 February 2014. <http://www.nwccw.gov.cn/html/44/n-168644.html>

¹⁵⁷⁰ China gives 20.7 bln yuan to rural schools, Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China 12 December 2013. Access Date: 12 February 2014. http://english.agri.gov.cn/news/dqnf/201312/t20131212_20842.htm

¹⁵⁷¹ China to boost education for disabled children, Economic and Commercial Counsellor's Office of the Mission of the People's Republic of China to the European Union 22 January 2014. Access Date: 12 February 2014. <http://eu2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/chinaneews/201401/20140100469191.shtml>

¹⁵⁷² Refonder l'éducation prioritaire. Access Date: 10 February 2014. <http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid76427/refonder-education-prioritaire.html>

¹⁵⁷³ Projet de loi relatif à la formation professionnelle, à l'emploi et à la démocratie sociale. Access Date: 10 February 2014. <http://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualite-presse,42/breves,2137/projet-de-loi-relatif-a-la,2453/>

¹⁵⁷⁴ Emplois d'avenir professeur. Access Date: 10 February 2014. <http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid61330/les-emplois-d-avenir-professeur.html>

In 2014 France will start a program to ensure the equal school teaching of girls and boys to respect human rights.¹⁵⁷⁵

France has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment on education.

From 2010 to 2013, the German government increased its budget for education and research by EUR13.3 billion.¹⁵⁷⁶

According to the 2014 federal budget, EUR1.8 billion will be spent “to create additional study places to accommodate the great increase in the number of first-year students.” Within the Quality Pact for Teaching EUR200 million will be invested in the improvement of studying conditions and the quality of teaching. The government also increased its spending on financial support programs for students such as the Federal Training Assistance Act, Germany Scholarship and special programs for the gifted and talented to EUR1.9 billion.¹⁵⁷⁷

In 2013, Germany continued to finance a number of nationwide projects in the area of quality education.

In particular, the “Workplace-oriented literacy and basic education of adults” funding program launched in 2012 was implemented in the framework of the National Strategy for Literacy and Basic Education of Adults. The total funding equals EUR50 million from 2012 to 2015. The program improves the functional literacy of adult population.¹⁵⁷⁸

In 2013, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research launched the support program for out-of-school “Education Alliances.” The “Education Alliances” bring together various social actors in a single location in order to support disadvantaged young people through out-of-schools program and reduce educational deprivation.¹⁵⁷⁹ In 2014 about EUR50 million will be allocated to “Education Alliances,” that is approximately 67 per cent more than in 2013.¹⁵⁸⁰

In 2013-14, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research co-sponsored a number of programs to improve education for both children and adults with a background that includes migration. The

¹⁵⁷⁵ L'enseignement de l'égalité filles-garçons à l'École. Access Date: 10 February 2014.

<http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid76775/l-enseignement-de-l-egalite-filles-garcons-a-l-ecole.html>

¹⁵⁷⁶ Integration through Education, Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Access Date: 19 April 2014.

<http://www.bmbf.de/en/15624.php>.

¹⁵⁷⁷ The Federal Government is investing in the future, Federal Ministry of Education and Research 7 August 2013. Access Date: 19 April 2014. <http://www.bmbf.de/en/96.php>.

¹⁵⁷⁸ National Strategy for Literacy and Basic Education of Adults, Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Access Date: 19 April 2014. <http://www.bmbf.de/en/426.php>.

¹⁵⁷⁹ Investing in the future: The Twelve Billion Euro Package of the Federal Government, Federal Ministry of Education and Research 7 August 2013. Access Date: 19 April 2014. <http://www.bmbf.de/en/6075.php>.

¹⁵⁸⁰ The Federal Government is investing in the future, Federal Ministry of Education and Research 7 August 2013. Access Date: 19 April 2014. <http://www.bmbf.de/en/96.php>.

programs improve functional literacy, provide support in learning German and ensure access to educational materials and facilities for pupils.¹⁵⁸¹

In 2014, the German government launched a three-year program of inclusion in vocational education and employment. The initiative provides for in-company vocational education of people with disabilities. The funding of the program exceeds EUR50 million.¹⁵⁸²

Germany has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment on education.

On 25 January 2014, Indian President Pranab Mukherjee said the country needs leadership to take India to the pinnacle of the education sector. He said the quality of education has to be the focus of attention now. Education is no longer just the privilege of the elite, but a universal right. He said people must be open to all knowledge.¹⁵⁸³

On 19 February 2014, BJP's prime ministerial nominee Narendra Modi said job creation remained a focal point of development even as he criticized Finance Minister P Chidambaram over fiscal management. He said for better job opportunities proper manpower is needed and for that government have focused upon human resource development and skill development. He also stressed the skill development measures undertaken by his state government. He added that the Prime Minister has given an award to government of Gujarat in the sector of skill development. Gujarat has taken the need of skill development as a mission.¹⁵⁸⁴

On 21 February 2014, Education Minister P.K. Shahi assured the vice-chancellors of all the universities in the state of full government support to their efforts to raise the standard of higher education. Addressing a two-day conference organized by the state education department, he emphasized the need for the accreditation of all colleges and universities in the state to be able to get the maximum financial grants under Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan. Shahi said every effort should be made to satisfy the educational needs of the youth, who constitute 58 per cent of the state's population. Issues of implementing a uniform act for better governance of the universities, quality assurance in the recruitment of teachers and non-teaching staff, filling up of vacant posts of technical staff and repair and renovation of buildings and modernization of infrastructural facilities and the necessity of having small and manageable universities were discussed at length at the meeting. Patna University's Ranjeet Kumar Verma pleaded for finalization of a master plan for his university. N.R. Madhava Menon, educationist and founder of the Bangalore-based National Law School University, suggested steps for improving the quality of higher education in the state and also highlighted the salient features of the

¹⁵⁸¹ Nationaler Aktionsplan Integration, Federal Ministry of Education and Research May 2013. Access Date: 19 April 2014. http://www.bmbf.de/pub/bilanz_nationaler_integrationsplan.pdf.

¹⁵⁸² Inclusion initiative for vocational education and employment, Federal Ministry of Education and Research 3 April 2014. Access Date: 19 April 2014. http://www.imove-germany.de/cps/rde/xchg/imove_projekt_international/hs.xsl/search.htm?content-url=10728.htm.

¹⁵⁸³ President Calls for More Focus on Improving Quality of Education in India, Aninews, 25 January 2014. Access Date: 22 February 2014. <http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail2/story152087/president-calls-for-more-focus-on-improving-quality-of-education-in-india.html>

¹⁵⁸⁴ Job Creation is Focal Point of Development: Modi, Times of India, 19 February 2014. Access Date: 22 February 2014. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Job-creation-is-focal-point-of-development-Modi/articleshow/30685624.cms>

proposed model act for the state universities. Menon chairs the committee constituted by the state government for drafting the proposed act.¹⁵⁸⁵

On 7 February 2014, the government introduced the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill in Rajya Sabha, seeking to increase reservation for persons with disabilities in public sector jobs from existing 3 per cent to 5 per cent and reserve seat for them in higher educational institutions. The bill, introduced by Mallikarjun Kharge, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, also provides for setting up the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, which will have statutory powers in addition to establishing a dedicated National Fund for Persons with Disabilities.¹⁵⁸⁶

India has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Alisa Prokhorova

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment on education.

On 8 October 2013, Education and Culture Ministry secretary-general Ainun Naim took part in the Finnish-Indonesian Symposium on Education and The Role of Teachers to strengthen educational cooperation between the two countries. He said that Indonesia would consider Finnish experience to reform its education system. At the same symposium, Hamid Muhammad, Director General for Secondary Education in the Education and Culture Ministry, spoke on the government's efforts to improve the education system including the establishment of teacher competence tests as well as the adoption of a new curriculum as a response to country's low international results.¹⁵⁸⁷

On 12 December 2013, Erman Samsudin, Director of Early Childhood Education Development, announced that the government had included additional funds in the budget to establish early childhood education programs in every village across Indonesia in 2014. The cost of the program amounts to IDR600 billion.¹⁵⁸⁸

Indonesia has taken steps to invest in quality education but has failed to address the vulnerable groups' access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Nadezhda Sporysheva

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment on education.

On 12 September 2013, the Italian government issued decree n. 104 on Urgent Measures in Areas of Education, Universities and Research. With this document the government authorized the spending of

¹⁵⁸⁵ Govt Assures Support to VCs for Bettering Education, Times of India, 22 February 2014. Access Date: 22 February 2014. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/Govt-assures-support-to-VCs-for-bettering-education/articleshow/30808526.cms>

¹⁵⁸⁶ Government Introduces Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill in Rajya Sabha, Times of India, 7 February 2014. Access Date: 22 February 2014. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Government-introduces-Rights-of-Persons-with-Disabilities-Bill-in-Rajya-Sabha/articleshow/30007941.cms>

¹⁵⁸⁷ RI looks to Finland model to reform education, The Jakarta Post 10 October 2013. Access Date: 28 February 2014. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/10/10/ri-looks-finland-model-reform-education.html>

¹⁵⁸⁸ Early years education for all in 2014, The Jakarta Post 12 December 2013. Access Date: 28 February 2014. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/12/12/early-years-education-all-2014.html>

EUR15 million in 2014 on payments to the middle school students with high academic performance, in need of reimbursements of transportation costs, and those in difficult financial situation. These measures encourage young people, including vulnerable groups, to receive higher quality education.¹⁵⁸⁹

On 9 October 2013, the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research issued a ministerial decree, specifying the criteria for the schools to be eligible for government funded installation or enhancement of wireless networks infrastructure. According to the decree, the projects submitted by schools should aim to promote students' access to the wireless networks in classes and provide for transformation of study space to accommodate the changes.¹⁵⁹⁰

On 14 February 2014, the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research issued a ministerial decree n. 104 "Indicators and Parameters for monitoring and estimation of universities' programs 2013-2015." The decree improves the quality of university education through improvement of student services, promoting territorial integration and international capacity of education and research, providing incentives for improving the quality of academics recruitment process.¹⁵⁹¹

Italy has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with the commitment on education.

Japan has taken actions to increase the relevance of education by adjusting learning processes, curriculum content and school management to take account of the context of learning.

On 15 December 2013, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has announced that it is going to reform the English-language education at junior high schools. As the part of the reform the ministry plans to hire foreign teachers and introduce new test to certify Japanese teachers of English.¹⁵⁹²

Japan has taken steps to invest in quality education without targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Evgeny Guschchin

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with the commitment on education.

¹⁵⁸⁹ DECRETO-LEGGE 12 settembre 2013, n. 104. Misure urgenti in materia di istruzione, universita' e ricerca, Italian Government 12 September 2013. Access Date: 5 May 2014. <http://www.governo.it/backoffice/allegati/72817-8928.pdf>.

¹⁵⁹⁰ Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca 9 October 2013. Access Date: 5 May 2014. http://www.istruzione.it/allegati/dm804_13.pdf.

¹⁵⁹¹ Indicatori e Parametri per il monitoraggio e la valutazione dei programmi delle università 2013 – 2015, Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca 14 February 2014. Access Date: 5 May 2014. <http://attiministeriali.miur.it/anno-2014/febbraio/dm-14022014.aspx>.

¹⁵⁹² Education ministry proposes radical English education reform, Japan Today 15 December 2013. Access Date: 21 February 2014. <http://www.japantoday.com/category/national/view/education-ministry-proposes-radical-english-education-reform>.

On 9 December 2013, the Education Ministry reported that 4.37 million students benefited from government educational funding in 2013. KRW3.185 trillion, including for high school tuitions, school meals and so on, will be provided in 2013 to 4.37 million primary and secondary school students across the country. KRW428.4 billion will be provided to 386,000 students, or 20 per cent of the entire high school students for high school tuitions (admission fees, tuitions and school operating expenses). KRW1,251.8 billion to 790,000 students for after school classes, and KRW 67.1 billion for 240,000 students for information technology. KRW2.4374 trillion will be provided for school meals, including free meals, making 4.37 million students, or 67 per cent of the total will benefit. The number of educational funding recipients rose by 397,000, and the amount of the funding by KRW504.5 billion.¹⁵⁹³

On 9 December 2013, the Korean Ministry of Education and the Committee on College Admissions System Reform proposed the set of measures to streamline the college admissions system to reduce the burden on students and parents and improve school education. The objectives of the new measure are as follows:

- to reduce burden on parents and students by making college admissions system more predictable while laying a foundation for education that extends dreams and talents of students.
- respect autonomy of universities and minimize regulations to encourage universities to contribute to normalization of school education
- set up a cooperative system with the participation of parents, students, universities and the government to create a desirable system based on national consensus.¹⁵⁹⁴

There is no evidence of any actions taken by Korea to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups during the compliance period. Because Korea has taken steps to invest in quality education but failed to address the access to quality education for vulnerable groups, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasia Zburavleva

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment on education.

On 10 September 2013, three laws were published in the Official Journal of the Federation. The first one amends the education law, the second establishes the National Institute for the Evaluation of Education and the third creates the Professional Teaching Service.¹⁵⁹⁵

On 25 November 2013, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto presented the National Digital Strategy based on five pillars: e-government, digital economy, digital education, health care and public security.¹⁵⁹⁶ The Mexican government intends to integrate information technology and communication into the education of our children and youth. As one of the first step the pilot phase of MiCompu.mx

¹⁵⁹³ 4.37 million Students benefit from educational funding in 2013

<http://english.moe.go.kr/web/42208/en/board/enview.do?bbsId=265&boardSeq=50388&mode=view>.

¹⁵⁹⁴ Simpler College Admissions System.

<http://english.moe.go.kr/web/42208/en/board/enview.do?bbsId=265&boardSeq=50387&mode=view>

¹⁵⁹⁵ Decreto por el que se reforman, adicionan y derogan diversas disposiciones de la Ley General de Educación 11 September 2013. Access Date: 15 February 2014.

http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5313841&fecha=11/09/2013.

¹⁵⁹⁶ National Digital Strategy to transform Mexico 25 November 2013. Access Date: 16 February 2014.

<http://en.presidencia.gob.mx/national-digital-strategy-to-transform-mexico/>.

program began early November to provide computers for students in the fifth and sixth grades in public schools.¹⁵⁹⁷

On 23 December 2013, the Mexican Ministry of Public Education (SEP) announced 802,050 grants for the bachelor students studying social and economic sciences. A total cost of the grants is more than USD300,000. More than 82 per cent of beneficiaries come from low-income families. Each grant covers almost 44 per cent of monthly student costs including transportation, materials for education and food in university.¹⁵⁹⁸

On 1 February 2014, SEP launched programs to improve higher education in Mexico. The Fund to Improve Higher Education Quality ensures the educational programs are relevant, and help students to develop their professional skills. The Program of Higher Education Support boosts strategic projects to consolidate higher education quality in various institutes, to promote their internationalisation, etc. The Program for Encouraging Teachers Performance is aimed to improve teaching in classrooms, to encourage full-time professors, etc. The Fund for Financial Restructuring and Addressing the Structural Problems of State Public Universities supports such universities in addressing their financial difficulties and in realization their programs of institutional development. The programs would be released in state public universities, technology and classical universities, technology institutes, etc.¹⁵⁹⁹

On 4 February 2014, Peña announced the Plan Michoacán.¹⁶⁰⁰ One of its pillars is “Education and Culture for Prosperity.” According to the plan the number of full-time schools will be increased to 240, number of decent schools to 236. A total sum of more than USD75 million will be allocated for 350,000 scholarships at all educational levels.¹⁶⁰¹

On July 2013, the Escuela Digna Program was launched to guarantee basic education infrastructure in marginalized and indigenous areas by providing sanitary services, necessary education equipment including special equipment for people with disabilities, access to the internet, etc.¹⁶⁰² A total sum of more than USD7 million was allocated to the Escuela Digna in 2013. Within the program 320 schools would be constructed in 2014 with total investment of more than USD15 million.¹⁶⁰³

¹⁵⁹⁷ We are determined to transform Mexico and place it at the cutting-edge of technology and knowledge: Enrique Peña Nieto 25 November 2013. Access Date: 23 February 2014. <http://en.presidencia.gob.mx/articulos-press/estamos-decididos-a-transformar-a-mexico-y-colocar-lo-en-la-frontera-de-la-tecnologia-y-el-conocimiento-enrique-pena-nieto/>.

¹⁵⁹⁸ Comunicado 204.- SEP entregó más de 802 mil becas a estudiantes de Educación Media Superior de todo el país 23 December. Access Date: 23 February 2014. <http://www.comunicacion.sep.gob.mx/index.php/comunicados/diciembre/359-comunicado-204-sep-entrego-mas-de-802-mil-becas-a-estudiantes-de-educacion-media-superior-de-todo-el-pais>.

¹⁵⁹⁹ Comunicado 017.- La SEP da a conocer programas de apoyo para fortalecer la calidad de las instituciones de educación superior 1 February 2014. Access Date: 23 February 2014. <http://www.comunicacion.sep.gob.mx/index.php/comunicados/enero-2014/385-comunicado-017-la-sep-da-a-conocer-programas-de-apoyo-para-fortalecer-la-calidad-de-las-instituciones-de-educacion-superior>.

¹⁶⁰⁰ El plan de rescate para Michoacán, hecho de proyectos que ya existían 4 February 2014. Access Date: 17 February 2014. <http://www.animalpolitico.com/2014/02/el-plan-de-rescate-para-michoacan-hecho-de-proyectos-que-ya-existian/#axzz2tOHGR8vQ>.

¹⁶⁰¹ Five Lines of Action for Michoacán 4 February 2014. Access Date: 17 February 2014. <http://en.presidencia.gob.mx/five-lines-of-action-for-michoacan/>.

¹⁶⁰² Lineamientos Generales para la operación, aplicación de recursos, rendición de cuentas y transparencia del Programa Escuelas Dignas 2013. Access Date: 23 February 2014. http://inifed.gob.mx/escuelas_dignas/pdf/LINEAMIENTOS_PUBLICADOS_DOF.pdf.

¹⁶⁰³ El Secretario de Educación Pública, Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor, entregó 254 Escuelas Dignas en Michoacán y confirmó 320 más para 2014 13 February 2014. Access Date: 23 February 2014. <http://inifed.gob.mx/index.php/1ra-sesion-gneaea/entrega-de-254-escuelas-en-michoacan>.

On 13 December 2013, the Mexican Minister of Public Education reiterated the government commitment to promote quality and equal education at the ceremony of inauguration of 54 centres for bachelor students with disabilities across the country. The SEP intends to establish more than 400 such centers by 2018. The centres provide special information and technical equipment including software for the students with eye disabilities, Braille printers, etc.¹⁶⁰⁴

Mexico has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Elizaveta Safonkina

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to invest in quality education.

On 13 November 2013, the Russian government adopted the Action Plan to increase the number of high-skilled workers by 2020. The plan provides for measures to assist students and workers achieve the skills to ensure a high professional level. It will modernize the education program to ensure flexibility and individual approach in education with use of modern technologies. By 2018 250 multifunctional centres of applied qualifications and a basic centre of professional training will be created.¹⁶⁰⁵

On 15 April 2014, the Russian government updated the State Program on the Promotion of Employment. Its subprogram Development of the Labour Market Institutions to create conditions for increasing the quality of the labour force and professional mobility development and improving labour conditions. It provides for developing vocational training and professional mobility through training and skills improvement and improving the national system of professional qualifications. RUB18.9 billion will be allocated to this subprogram in from 2013 to 2020.¹⁶⁰⁶

The State Program's subprogram Development of Vocational Education and Training increases the contribution of education to social, economic and cultural modernization and increases its global competitiveness, as well as ensuring demand from the economy and society for each person. RUB3.8 trillion will be allocated to this subprogram from 2013 to 2020.¹⁶⁰⁷

On 16 April 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed an executive order creating the Presidential National Council for Professional Qualifications. It will work on the "issues pertaining to creating and developing in Russia a system of professional qualifications."¹⁶⁰⁸ The council will coordinate the work of state authorities, organizations of employers, trade unions, civil society organizations, educational and scientific organizations in the sphere of professional education and training.¹⁶⁰⁹

¹⁶⁰⁴ Comunicado 197.- La educación debe ser de calidad y con igualdad 13 December 2013. Access Date: 23 February 2014. <http://www.comunicacion.sep.gob.mx/index.php/comunicados/diciembre/344-comunicado-197-la-educacion-debe-ser-de-calidad-y-con-igualdad>.

¹⁶⁰⁵ On the adoption of the Action Plan to increase the number of high-skilled workers by 2020, Russian Government 16 November 2013. <http://government.ru/docs/8204>.

¹⁶⁰⁶ Government Resolution No. 298 of 15 April 2014, Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection 29 April 2014. <http://www.rosmintrud.ru/docs/government/134>.

¹⁶⁰⁷ Government Resolution No. 298 of 15 April 2014, Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection 29 April 2014. <http://www.rosmintrud.ru/docs/government/134>.

¹⁶⁰⁸ Presidential National Council for Professional Qualifications created, President of Russia 16 April 2014. <http://eng.kremlin.ru/acts/7032>.

¹⁶⁰⁹ Statute of the Presidential National Council for Professional Qualifications, President of Russia 16 April 2014. <http://state.kremlin.ru/council/39/statute>.

To increase employment among women on leave for child care, Russia has introduced additional vocational training measures. RUB153.1 million and RUB161.2 million are allocated for training of 12,700 and 13,100 women in 2014 and 2015 respectively.¹⁶¹⁰

Russia has taken measures to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Mark Rakhmangulov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment on education.

In 2014 Saudi Arabia will spend 13.5 per cent of its education budget on administrative, cleaning and maintenance projects. Schools will be provided with upgraded facilities for information technology and computer labs. The King Abdullah project for the development of school curricula, teacher training, improvement of the educational environment and non-class activities will be continued.¹⁶¹¹

The Ministry of Education is considering covering the expenses of Saudis who cannot find places for their children in public kindergartens and have to send them to private kindergartens. This will also promote early education. The ministry has already adopted three curricula for kindergartens.¹⁶¹²

Saudi Arabia has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education.

On 7 January 2014, the Saudi Arabian Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) and the Rehab Group of Ireland signed an agreement to develop pre-employment and employment programs for persons with disabilities in Saudi Arabia. To make employment programs at HRDF accessible for persons with disabilities, the Rehab Group will develop educational and training support for them.¹⁶¹³

Saudi Arabia has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Tatiana Lanshina

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to invest in quality education.

In October 2013, in her speech at the Global Conference on Child Labour, South African Labour Minister of Labour Mildred Oliphant said that education was identified as a critical issue to fighting the

¹⁶¹⁰ On the training of women on leave for childcare purposes, Russian Government 11 May 2014. <http://government.ru/orders/12269>.

¹⁶¹¹ 86.5% of education budget spent on paying salaries, Arab News 15 January 2014. Access Date: 7 February 2014. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/509331>.

¹⁶¹² State to pay for kindergarten education, Arab News 21 January 2014. Access Date: 7 February 2014. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/512571>.

¹⁶¹³ HRDF, Rehab Group sign partnership accord, Saudi Gazette 7 January. Access Date: 7 February 2014. <http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/index.cfm?method=home.regcon&contentid=20140108191867>.

child labour: “We have as a country in effect achieved the Millennium Development Goal of universal access to primary education before the year 2015.”¹⁶¹⁴

On 12 November 2013, the South African National Assembly adopted the Employment Services Bill. The bill provides for a legal basis for the reestablishment of Supported Employment Enterprises “to provide employment for people with disabilities who have long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.” It will also transform this service into a training resource for specific projects like the making of school furniture and other deliverables.¹⁶¹⁵

On 3 December 2013, Labour Minister Mildred Oliphant announced the launch of a ZAR300 million training program, which will benefit 8,000 youth and the unemployed. The program will be funded on a 50/50 basis by the Department of Labour’s Unemployment Insurance Fund and the Skills Education Training Authorities in South Africa. The Department of Public Works and the Department of Higher Education and the Department of Human Settlements will also participate.¹⁶¹⁶

South Africa has taken measures to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Lyudmila Tarasenko

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment on education.

On 28 October 2013, the Turkish Ministry of National Education delivered 100 minibuses to different schools and universities in the country.¹⁶¹⁷

On 30 January 2014, at a meeting with the private schools association Minister of National Education Nabi Avci unveiled the government plans to provide all pupils studying at private schools with textbooks for free.¹⁶¹⁸

On 10 February 2014, Minister of National Education and Food, Agriculture and Livestock Minister Mehdi Eker participated at the School Milk Distribution Ceremony. The ministers announced the state

¹⁶¹⁴ South Africa has made significant progress in fighting child labour, Labour Minister tells global conference, South African Department of Labour 9 October 2013. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2013/south-africa-has-made-significant-progress-in-fighting-child-labour-labour-minister-tells-global-conference>.

¹⁶¹⁵ National assembly passes Employment Services Bill bringing to four bills passed this year alone, South African Department of Labour 12 November 2013. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2013/national-assembly-passes-employment-services-bill-bringing-to-four-bills-passed-this-year-alone>.

¹⁶¹⁶ Department of Labour’s UIF to fund a R300-million training programme with Seta’s to empower youth and unemployed, South African Department of Labour 3 December 2013. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2013/department-of-labour2019s-uif-to-fund-a-r300-million-training-programme-with-seta2019s-to-empower-youth-and-unemployed>.

¹⁶¹⁷ Millî Eğitim Bakanlığı’ndan İl Müdürlüklerine 100 Minibüs Gönderiliyor, .

¹⁶¹⁸ Bakan Avcı’ dan Özel Okullarda Okuyan Öğrencilere ve Velilerine Müjde, Ministry of National Education of Turkey 30 January 2014. Access Date: 24 February 2014. <http://www.meb.gov.tr/bakan-avcidan-ozel-okullarda-okuyan-ogrencilere-ve-velilerine-mujde/haber/6650>.

initiative to distribute milk to 6,330,000 elementary school pupils three days a week. This initiative contributes to pupils' mental and physical development.¹⁶¹⁹

On 17 February 2014, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan attended the Tablet Distribution Ceremony and announced that 675,000 tablet computers will be delivered to students in 81 Turkish provinces until the end of March. In his speech during the ceremony Recep Tayyip Erdogan pointed out that children should encourage scientific and technological changes in Turkish educational system.¹⁶²⁰

Turkey has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education.

In 2013, the Turkish Ministry of National Education continued to supply school books free of charge and provide transported education and conditional educational assistance “within the framework of improving access to education and providing equal opportunities.” In order to provide gender equality in education the Ministry of Education agreed on the joint Turkey-European Union project to be launched in 2014.¹⁶²¹ The project titled Promoting Gender Equality in Education will be co-financed by Turkey.¹⁶²²

Turkey has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Nadezhda Sporysheva

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment on education.

On 4 December 2013, Education Minister Elizabeth Truss announced GBP11 million for around 30 new “mathematics education strategic hubs” to drive up the quality of maths teachers. Each hub will provide support to all schools in the area, across all areas of maths education, including recruitment of maths specialists into teaching, initial training of maths teachers and converting existing teachers into maths, co-ordinating and delivering a wide range of maths continuing professional development and school-to-school support.¹⁶²³

On 30 January 2014, a new nationwide competition that gives primary school children a loan of GBP5 and encourages them to do something enterprising to grow their money was launched. The initiative is supported by GBP330,000 from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of the UK and has help to boost enterprise and entrepreneurial spirit in education, right through from nursery to further

¹⁶¹⁹ Okullarda Süt Dağıtımına Törenle Başlandı, Ministry of National Education of Turkey 10 February 2013. Access Date: 24 February 2014. <http://www.meb.gov.tr/okullarda-sut-dagitimina-torenl-baslandi/haber/6665>.

¹⁶²⁰ Başbakan Erdoğan: “Okulunda İyi Eğitim Varsa O Ülkenin Geleceği Parlaktır”, Ministry of National Education of Turkey 17 February 2013. Access Date: 24 February 2014. <http://www.meb.gov.tr/basbakan-erdogan-8220okulunda-iyi-egitim-varsa-o-ulkenin-gelecegi-parlaktir8221/haber/6687>

¹⁶²¹ 2013 Progress Report prepared by Turkey, Turkish Ministry for EU Affairs December 2013. Access Date: 24 February 2014. http://www.abgs.gov.tr/files/AB_Iliskileri/AdaylikSureci/llerlemeRaporlari/2013_tr_progress_report.pdf.

¹⁶²² Standard Summary Project Fiche – IPA Decentralized National Programmes, European Commission. Access Date: 24 February 2014. http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/turkey/ipa/2010/125_tr2010013604_gender_equality_in_education.pdf.

¹⁶²³ New maths hubs to raise standards, Department for Education 4 December 2013. Access Date: 20 February 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-maths-hubs-to-raise-standards>

and higher education. The first year plan is to engage 20,000 children in up to 500 primary schools across the UK, increasing to 30,000 young people in 2015 and 40,000 in 2016.¹⁶²⁴

On 5 February 2014, Skills and Enterprise Minister Matthew Hancock announced that up to GBP20 million will be made available to incentivise talented graduates to consider teaching maths in further education as the government has made maths an essential part of traineeships, apprenticeships and vocational education. It is expected that these measures will result in the recruitment of over 500 specialist maths teachers by September 2015.¹⁶²⁵

On 30 September 2013, Universities and Science Minister David Willetts announced that science and engineering teaching at English universities will receive a GBP400 million boost. And as only 6 per cent of the engineering workforce in the UK is female, this package of support will also have a particular focus on encouraging women into these subjects.¹⁶²⁶

Tomorrow's Engineers Week was 4 to 8 November 2013, when government, employers and educators came together to enthuse young people, particularly girls, about the rewarding careers on offer in engineering. On 15 February 2013, Vince Cable announced that the survey found that after this event the number of 11 to 14 year olds thinking about working in engineering has jumped by 6 per cent. Significantly, the survey showed a 6 per cent rise in the number of girls saying they would consider an engineering career, an industry that acknowledges the need to recruit more women.¹⁶²⁷

On 10 February 2014, the Department for Education and Russell Group launched a joint program for disadvantaged pupils to visit top universities for a day of lectures and workshops.¹⁶²⁸

The United Kingdom has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Natalia Churkina

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment on education.

¹⁶²⁴ Young Enterprise partners with Virgin Money and Department for Business to launch new enterprise challenge for primary school children, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills 30 January 2014. Access Date: 30 January 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/young-enterprise-partners-with-virgin-money-and-department-for-business-to-launch-new-enterprise-challenge-for-primary-school-children>

¹⁶²⁵ Millions unlocked to encourage the best to teach maths in further education, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills 5 February 2014. Access Date: 20 February 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-unlocked-to-encourage-the-best-to-teach-maths-in-further-education>

¹⁶²⁶ £400 million will help science and engineering students get ahead in the global race and encourage more women to study these subjects, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills 30 September 2013. Access Date: 20 February 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/400-million-will-help-science-and-engineering-students-get-ahead-in-the-global-race-and-encourage-more-women-to-study-these-subjects>

¹⁶²⁷ More young people want to be engineers after government and industry efforts to showcase exciting careers, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills 15 February 2014. Access Date: 20 February 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-young-people-want-to-be-engineers-after-government-and-industry-efforts-to-showcase-exciting-careers>

¹⁶²⁸ Scheme encouraging disadvantaged pupils to apply for leading universities opens, Department for Education 10 February 2014. Access Date: 20 February 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scheme-encouraging-disadvantaged-pupils-to-apply-for-leading-universities-opens>

In 2013-2014 U.S. states received awards to continue improving performance of their lowest-performing schools through new awards from the School Improvement Grants program of the Department of Education.^{1629,1630,1631,1632}

On 26 September 2013, the Department of Education awarded more than USD20.1 million to 39 colleges and universities under the Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP), which helps postsecondary schools expand their opportunities to serve low-income students. SIP may finance planning, faculty development and the improvement of academic programs.¹⁶³³

On 8 January 2014, the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice released a discipline guidance to assist states, districts and schools in improving school climate and ensuring compliance of those policies with federal law.¹⁶³⁴

The United States has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education.

On 21 October 2013, the Department of Education announced a USD10.5 million five-year grant to the National Center on Deaf-Blindness to improve educational opportunities for deaf-blind students by implementing systems change efforts that have proven successful and by supporting improved systems integration between the national center and the state and multi-state projects.¹⁶³⁵

On 31 October 2013, the Department of State announced the Veterans Innovation Partnership fellowship program, to promote foreign affairs career opportunities for U.S. veterans, including their opportunities to study international relations.¹⁶³⁶

¹⁶²⁹ U.S. Department of Education Announces Awards to Seven States to Continue Efforts to Turn Around Their Lowest-Performing Schools, U.S. Department of Education 23 December 2013. Access Date: 23 February 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-announces-awards-seven-states-continue-efforts-turn-arou>.

¹⁶³⁰ U.S. Department of Education Announces Awards to 7 States to Continue Efforts to Turn Around Lowest-Performing Schools, U.S. Department of Education 27 January 2014. Access Date: 23 February 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-announces-awards-7-states-continue-efforts-turn-around-l>.

¹⁶³¹ U.S. Department of Education Announces Awards to 6 States and District of Columbia to Continue Efforts to Turn Around Lowest-Performing Schools, U.S. Department of Education 7 February 2014. Access Date: 23 February 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-announces-awards-6-states-and-district-columbia-continue>.

¹⁶³² U.S. Department of Education Announces Awards to Nine States to Continue Efforts to Turn Around Lowest-Performing Schools, U.S. Department of Education 20 February 2014. Access Date: 23 February 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-announces-awards-nine-states-continue-efforts-turn-aroun>.

¹⁶³³ Education Department Awards \$20.1 Million in Grants to Strengthen 39 Higher Education Institutions, U.S. Department of Education 26 September 2013. Access Date: 23 February 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-department-awards-201-million-grants-strengthen-39-higher-education-in>.

¹⁶³⁴ U.S. Departments of Education and Justice Release School Discipline Guidance Package to Enhance School Climate and Improve School Discipline Policies/Practices, U.S. Department of State 8 January 2014. Access Date: 17 February 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-departments-education-and-justice-release-school-discipline-guidance-package->

¹⁶³⁵ National Center on Deaf-Blindness Awarded \$10.5 Million Grant to Help Improve Services for Children who are Deaf-Blind, U.S. Department of Education 21 October 2013. Access Date: 17 February 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/national-center-deaf-blindness-awarded-105-million-grant-help-improve-services-c>.

¹⁶³⁶ The Veterans Innovation Partnership Fellowship Program, U.S. Department of State 31 October 2013. Access Date: 17 February 2014. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2013/10/216132.htm>.

On 6 November 2013, the U.S. Department of Education and the Virtual Community School of Ohio agreed that the school would provide equal access to education for students with disabilities. This first-of-its-kind resolution is in line with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Earlier it was found that the school had problems with identifying disabled students, their individual educational needs and utilized a website that was not available for individuals with disabilities, especially those who are blind.¹⁶³⁷

On 13 December 2013, the U.S. Department of Education announced that it will recognize the legal marriage of a student or a parent if the legal marriage is recognized in the jurisdiction where it was contracted, regardless of whether the marriage is between a couple of the same sex or opposite sex, where the student or couple lives or the student is attending school. This guidance influences all questions on marriage on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, thus improving educational opportunities for some groups vulnerable people.¹⁶³⁸

On 18 February 2014, the U.S. Department of Labor announced USD73 million in grants to organizations that oversee education and employment services for disadvantaged youths in their communities. The aim is to help disadvantaged young people complete high school or acquire critical occupational skills in high-demand fields.¹⁶³⁹

The United States has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Tatiana Lanshina

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on education.

On 19 November 2013, the European Parliament approved Erasmus+, a program for education, training, youth and sport.¹⁶⁴⁰ It was launched on 13 January 2013, by Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth in Athens. More than 4 million people will receive an EU grant to study, train, gain work experience or volunteer abroad over the next seven years. The program's budget will be EUR14.7 billion.¹⁶⁴¹ Its objective is to improve people's skills, especially those of young people, and give them a better chance of finding sustainable employment.¹⁶⁴²

¹⁶³⁷ U.S. Education Department Announces First-of-Its Kind Resolution of Virtual Charter School Civil Rights Investigation, U.S. Department of Education 6 November 2013. Access Date: 22 February 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-education-department-announces-first-its-kind-resolution-virtual-charter-scho>.

¹⁶³⁸ Education Department Announces that All Legal Same-Sex Marriages Will Be Recognized for Federal Financial Aid Purposes, U.S. Department of Education 13 December 2013. Access Date: 22 February 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-department-announces-all-legal-same-sex-marriages-will-be-recognized-f>.

¹⁶³⁹ Approximately \$73M in YouthBuild grants to help disadvantaged youth develop job and leadership skills made available by US Labor Department, United States Department of Labor 18 February 2014. Access Date: 18 February 2014. <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ETA20140257.htm>.

¹⁶⁴⁰ Green light for Erasmus+: More than 4 million to get EU grants for skills and employability, European Commission 19 November 2013. Access Date 21 February 2014. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1110_en.htm

¹⁶⁴¹ Commissioner Vassiliou launches Erasmus+ in Greece, European Commission 16 January 2014. Access Date 21 February 2014. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-23_en.htm

¹⁶⁴² Launch of McKinsey Report on 'Education to Employment: Getting Europe's Youth into Work', European Commission 13 January 2014. Access Date 21 February 2014. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-14-10_en.htm

On 24 February 2014, improving the skills needed to enhance employability and increase levels of literacy and numeracy in the EU were at the top of the agenda of Education Ministers meeting.¹⁶⁴³

On 25 September 2013, the European Commission unveiled Opening Up Education, a plan to tackle digital equipment problems preventing schools and universities from delivering high-quality education and the digital skills that 90 per cent of jobs will require by 2020. The commission launched a new website, Open Education Europa, that will allow students, practitioners and educational institutions to share free-to-use open educational resources.¹⁶⁴⁴

On 5 February 2013, the European Commission announced that member that suffer from high youth unemployment will benefit from support drawn from a EUR3 billion special allocation under the Youth Employment Initiative, to be support young people also in education or training.¹⁶⁴⁵

The European Union has taken steps to invest in quality education targeting the vulnerable groups to ensure their access to quality education. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

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¹⁶⁴³ EU Education Council (24 February), European Commission 21 February 2014. Access Date 21 February 2014. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-125_en.htm

¹⁶⁴⁴ Commission launches 'Opening up Education' to boost innovation and digital skills in schools and universities, European Commission 25 September 2013. Access Date 21 February 2014. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-859_en.htm

¹⁶⁴⁵ European Social Fund and the Youth Employment Initiative: vital instruments for a job rich recovery, European Commission 5 February 2014. Access Date: 20 February 2014. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-84_en.htm