

The
G20 Research Group
at the Munk School of Global Affairs at Trinity College in the University of Toronto
with the
G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance

present

2013 St. Petersburg G20 Summit Compliance Report: Youth Entrepreneurship

7 September 2013 to 1 November 2014

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Prodrome



... they supposed that in your eagerness to be relieved of your actual hardships you would give no thought to those that were to follow.
(Lys. XII, 45)

We believe that this work, as well as any work on monitoring, aims to judge the object of study based on the analysis of a small amount of its characteristic features. Such analysis can be used to improve the decision-making process, public awareness, or just as a tool for feedbacks: program evaluation and policy-making.

The reader could not help but pay attention to the epigraph. These are the words from the speech of the famous Greek logographer Lysias; from the only speech which he personally delivered in court. The epigraph was not a random choice. We had absolutely no reason to flaunt erudition and to demonstrate the ability to use someone else's idea in a new way, the more so because it is not true (the meaning remains the same). The reason is different: the author of the words is a master of speechwriting; he made it so that it seems to be composed by a client. The ideal speech should not only contain a complete and accurate statement of the facts; the nature, form and choice of words should strictly conform to the mentality and social situation of a client.

In this report, the client of the prodrome is the Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance — the union of energetic, socially active and creative individuals. Members of the Alliance are real hoplites: they are arming with the plane tickets and hotel bookings at their own expense, to defend their interests at the highest levels.

This fact has led us to the use of comparisons and parallels that may seem daring and modernizing. However, this does not mean that we are not able to distinguish the leader of the parliamentary party like Gladstone and Disraeli from Pericles or the banker of the City of London from the Athenian trapezitov.

Thus, the object of the study, the judgment of which each reader will be invited to make by him/herself, is obvious. It is a work of a system called the "Group of Twenty" or the G20. The system has input and output: the list of the G20 entrepreneurship-related commitments and the monitoring of their implementation respectively.

All information about the input and output data the readers can find in the main part of the report; our attention will be concentrated on the description of the object of the study. The only thing that we allow ourselves are some comments on the lexicon, as the chosen word is quite neutral and inert: it is "commitments," but not "obligations." It seems important, because the first is some action assigned by the G20 to its members for the performance, and the second — the bonds issued by the "Group" which gives us — its owners — the right to receive the face value, or other proprietary rights.

The Object of the Study: The "Group of Twenty" — What Is It?

The G20 is a forum (i.e., an agora of the XXI century) for governments, top officials and central bank governors from 20 major economies. It is a meeting platform for people who have the power to influence and impact on the outer and the inner lives of nearly two-thirds of the world's population.

The worldview of the G20 leaders formed in the second half of XX century. Within the forum they demonstrate a zeal for improving living conditions, taking into account the views of the generations of the XXI century.

Let us remind the reader of a common cultural denominator of the second half of the XX century. It was postmodernism — a unique period, based on the installation of the perception of the world as a chaos. It was a period when a person lost its uniqueness, having become an object among objects.

What kind of features characterize the “Group of Twenty”?

Extraordinary nature of formation

The G20 was created as a response both to the financial crisis and to a growing recognition that key emerging countries were not adequately included in the core of global economic discussion and governance. The G20 leaders agreed to strengthen their cooperation, work together and be guided by a shared understanding that market principles, open trade and investment regimes, and effective regulation of financial markets contribute to the dynamism, innovation and entrepreneurship, which are essential for economic growth, employment and poverty reduction.

Sometime at the end of the May 411 BC, a crisis period in Athens, the People’s Assembly easily and almost without objection passed the decision to enlist 20 new members in the board of proboulos and to entrust this newly elected board within the task of “saving the state” [1].

Presence of experts

Collectively, the G20 economies account for approximately 90% of the gross world product (GWP) and 80% of world trade. The scope of foreign policy, variety of links and great complexity of the economic structure of the G20 countries — all these issues are considered to be impenetrable problems for ordinary people, and require professional knowledge.

The entrance to the agora of the XXI century is open only to ministers, bankers, economists, representatives of research agencies and consulting groups, political scientists, sociologists, and those whose opinion the world was accustomed to follow over the past few decades.

However, opinions are expressed only in the form of forecast, words are chosen carefully. Any decisions are advisory in nature. The G20 Leaders’ Declarations sonorously state that the leaders understand everything, pay attention, make efforts, continue to develop and do their best for enhancing the legitimacy and effectiveness of the forum. However, there remain disputes over the legitimacy of the G20, and criticisms of its organization and the efficacy of its declarations. Increasingly today, we hear about the “lost generation” and “loss of trust” on the part of young people in current institutions.

Many people believe that the split between the generations is a universal phenomenon; communication between parents and children dramatically ruptures, authorities are trampled in the mud. If we assume that this opinion is correct, then the first statement on this subject can be found in Plato. Arguing how democracy is transformed into anarchy, he wrote: “The teacher in such case fears and fawns upon the pupils, and the pupils pay no heed to the teacher or to their overseers either.” (Plat. Rep., VIII, 563a). Words of the great philosopher accurately convey the situation in the world today, and the novelty of it is no more frightening than any phenomenon first described in the IV century BC.

¹ Thanks to the newly elected board, two important types of public actions were canceled: *graphē paranómōn* (“suit against (bills) contrary to the laws.” The suit could be brought against laws or decrees that had already been passed, or earlier when they were merely proposals) and *eisangelia* (“impeachment”). Oligarchs could now safely make proposals for the most radical reorganization of the state.

We have already mentioned the Greek logographer Lysias, who lived a century later than Plato, at a time when the role of demagogues dramatically increased in Athens [2], and all proceeded in a kind of moral crisis, was asking citizens: "... the rest of the Athenians have a sufficient excuse, in my opinion, for attributing to the Thirty the responsibility for what has taken place; but if the Thirty actually attribute it to themselves, how can you reasonably accept that?" (Lys. XII, 28).

Confusion

As part of the "Group of Twenty" there are 5 target groups: Business20, Think20, Civil20, Youth20 and Labor20.

These groups were initially formed for mutual protection and lobbying for the interests of those whom they represent.³ There is work for hundreds of people, institutions, consulting agencies and analytical commissions, which in their totality could be an excellent material for the field studies performed by Cyril Northcote Parkinson. However, the result of their activities are futile experiments: zero interest rates, fiscal consolidation, etc. Even though they soften the crisis, but still do not lead to an increase of the recent economic locomotives.

Even so, we can-not but admit that the fact of the experiment's possibility by itself is considered to be the main difference that distinguishes a scientific theory from pseudo-scientific. This fact is important in the context of the five groups mentioned above. But if we remember that the hallmark of any experiment is an active interaction with OBJECT, we are to raise one reasonable question: "Why people — participants of social and economic relations — are considered to be objects?"

But let's not rush into accusations. We understand that the "Group of Twenty" is an amalgam of the national elements of many nations, which gives only temporary satisfaction to humanity in its search for sustainable and balanced growth of the world economy. Of course, the amalgam is a psychological one, but as shown in the mere expression, similar to the definition of the metallurgical processes, mechanical in its essence.

It is quite possible that such a mechanical, not natural, extraordinary character the G20 formation resulted in the confusion in terms. In 2008 the G20 countries united to overcome the crisis of chrematistics — a branch of human activity related exclusively to the benefits and money accumulation, which was opposed to economics by Aristotle. Otherwise, how can one explain that even Youth20 2013 recommendations under the Russian Sherpa Ksenia Yudaeva begin with finance? Can the young generation by itself promote the interests of the "trade aristocracy" which is imbued with the idea that "money makes the man"?

All the above is the evidence that the object of this study — the anti-crisis "Group of Twenty" — is in crisis. It is also clear that the G20 refutes the so-called "Law of the thousand,"⁴ which states: an institution, which employs more than thousand employees, becomes "administratively self-sufficient." This technical term means that it creates so much internal work that it no longer requires any contacts with the outside world.

We may say: "Yes, the "Group of Twenty" is not a self-sufficient organization." It needs contact with the outside world. The G20 turned to the Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance which was able to gather enough evidence to say that any serious political decisions concerning enhancing growth and

² As in all societies of "oro-acoustic" culture, in ancient Athens the art of the word was highly prized. But even there, the lack of interest on the part of experts was impugned, and probably not in vain.

³ In ancient Greece, there were similar groups: the oligarchic and democratic hetaireiai (clubs). Especially numerous were the first: under the rule of democracy, the oligarchs could not come out openly and were forced to act by means of closed groups.

⁴ Value of the law is that it is based on statistical data and on two almost axiomatic assumptions: 1. officials tend to multiply not rivals, but subordinates; 2. officials are working for each other.

job creation should take into account the entrepreneurship, especially among the youth. Members of the Alliance demonstrated that no short-term changes will succeed without structural approach and reform. This view was supported by Mr. Angel Gurría, the Secretary-General of the OECD, at the Business20 Summit in St. Petersburg in 2013.

It is dangerous to neglect the entrepreneurship since it is an indicator of the “boundaries of patience.” Promotion of youth entrepreneurship is a significant factor in the reduction of social risks and, therefore, the risks of the global economy.

Today we all have a unique chance to revive individuals — young entrepreneurs. Technological development allows individualization of production, targeting it to specific consumers, be it of goods or services. There is a global shift in relation to small and medium business, if not in reality, then in a public inquiry.

If we don't want the new world to repeat old mistakes and the new experience to give the old leads, it is necessary to insist on the development of the basic strategic directions of any country: education, infrastructure, and the conditions of the Business Law in which the legal content of business transactions should correspond to their economic content.

Any obligations, requirements and recommendations should involve investment activities and not be speculative, i.e. focused on long-term effort and quality, rather than formal quantity.

There is no doubt that in times of systemic crisis of the global economy there is a strong need for development of the global action plan, and a clear desire to implement it. Mainstream of the global economy does exist. What is important is that the greatness and scale of these objectives are not to crush average person, but to protect him/her. Mankind's future can't be only the result of the giant monopolistic games.

Mainstream economics, educational centers and scientists consider only positivist approach. This report is not an exception. The Alliance evaluates and monitors the commitments related to the development of entrepreneurship, which were elaborated by the “Group of Twenty” in 2013, and not its own recommendations. Normative approach — analysis of what ought to be — is excluded in the present work.

The problem of the independent assessment and feedback is still relevant, and, therefore, important and significant. This, in turn, gives the right to the Alliance on marginality and insisting on its own view and interests in the future.

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Preface

Center for Entrepreneurship LLC, as the G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance Summit's host in 2013, is pleased to present a joint G20 YEA / G20 Research Group Youth Entrepreneurship Compliance Report monitoring compliance with five entrepreneurship-related commitments made by the G20 Leaders at their St. Petersburg Summit in 2013. Commitments, as identified by the G20 Research Group, were selected and prioritized by members of the G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance (G20 YEA) through a survey of young entrepreneurs conducted in early 2014.

G20 YEA is a self-sufficient and independent organization, which is free from official control by the G20.⁵ With four years of experience beginning with the summit in Toronto, Canada, members of the G20 YEA have produced a set of recommendations that address the most acute challenges faced by the global economy. In 2013 the G20 Leaders included for the first time in their St. Petersburg Declaration the need for youth entrepreneurship in addressing the youth unemployment challenge. Hence G20 YEA accepted the interesting offer by Professor John Kirton to prepare a special report dedicated to the subject of entrepreneurship in G20 Leaders' work.

Victor Sedov, President, Center for Entrepreneurship LLC
Igor Egorov, Russian Sherpa, G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance

⁵ List of the G20 commitments 2013 only partly overlaps with what has been done and developed independently by the Alliance during the Moscow 2013 G20 YEA Summit.

Introduction

Since the G20 leaders met at the Washington Summit in 2008, the G20 Research Group at the University of Toronto and the International Organisations Research Institute of National Research University Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE) in Moscow have produced reports on their progress in implementing the priority commitments issued at each summit. These reports monitor each G20 member's efforts on a carefully chosen selection of the many commitments announced at each summit. The reports are offered to the general public and to policy makers, academics, civil society, the media and interested citizens around the world in an effort to make the work of the G20 more transparent, accessible and effective, and to provide scientific data to enable the meaningful analysis of the impact of this important informal international institution. Previous reports are available at the G20 Information Centre at <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis>.

To make its assessments, the G20 Research Group relies on publicly available information, documentation and media reports. To ensure accuracy, comprehensiveness and integrity, we encourage comments. Indeed, scores can be recalibrated if new material becomes available. All feedback remains anonymous. Responsibility for this report's contents lies exclusively with the authors and analysts of the G20 Research Group and its partners at IORI HSE and YEA.

This report assesses performance by G20 members with five commitments of priority to young entrepreneurs in G20 countries.

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G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance

The G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance (G20 YEA) is a global network of young entrepreneurs and the organizations that support them. It was established to convene each year in advance of the G-20 Summit, with the aim of championing the importance of young entrepreneurs to the G20 member nations and to share examples and practices. The Alliance was officially created at the G20 Young Entrepreneurs Summit, Toronto, Canada, 2010. Since that time the Alliance held young entrepreneurs' summits in Nice, France, in 2011, Mexico City, Mexico, in 2012, Moscow, Russia, in 2013 and Sydney, Australia in 2014.

G20 Research Group of the University of Toronto

Since the G20 leaders met at the Washington Summit in 2008, the G20 Research Group at the University of Toronto and the International Organisations Research Institute of National Research University Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE) in Moscow have produced reports on their progress in implementing the priority commitments issued at each summit. These reports monitor each G20 member's efforts on a carefully chosen selection of the many commitments announced at each summit. The reports are offered to the general public and to policy makers, academics, civil society, the media and interested citizens around the world in an effort to make the work of the G20 more transparent, accessible and effective, and to provide scientific data to enable the meaningful analysis of the impact of this important informal international institution.

To make its assessments, the G20 Research Group relies on publicly available information, documentation and media reports. G20 YEA members have contributed by their own in-country monitoring of relevant government initiatives. To ensure accuracy, comprehensiveness and integrity, we encourage comments. Indeed, scores can be recalibrated if new material becomes available. All feedback remains anonymous. Responsibility for this report's contents lies exclusively with the authors and analysts of the G20 Research Group and its partners at G20 YEA and IORI HSE.

Selection of Commitments to Monitor: Process and Criteria

The G20 made a total of 281 commitments at the St. Petersburg Summit.⁶ These commitments, as identified by the G20 Research Group and HSE, are drawn from the official G20 Leaders' Declaration, the St. Petersburg Action Plan and the St. Petersburg Development Outlook.

Commitments were selected for this monitoring report via an online survey. The survey, including sixteen questions was distributed on December 13, 2013, to the Young Entrepreneurs Alliance (YEA) members. The survey requested that members rank the entrepreneurship-related St. Petersburg commitments from the most to least important, keeping in mind that the highest priority commitments would be monitored for implementation. A total of 392 young entrepreneurs, members of G20 YEA, from all G20 countries responded.

The highest number of respondents came from Saudi Arabia (13.77%), followed by Mexico (9.35%), Brazil (8.31%) and Russia (8.05%). Of the 392 respondents 58.44% had never attended one of the five YEA summits, which have been held since 2010 in Toronto, Canada. Of the respondents who had attended a summit the most were from Russia (30.65%), Mexico (17.40%), France (12.99%) and Canada and Italy (3.12%).

The YEA survey respondents were then asked to rank 13 St. Petersburg issue-specific commitments according to relevance. Respondents did so and the a list of 5 commitments were selected for monitoring.

Table 1: 2013 G20 St. Petersburg Summit Commitments Selected for Compliance Monitoring

1	Skills Development [64]	“[We commit to] invest in our people’s skills [to give them skill portability and better prospects, to facilitate mobility and enhance employability].”
2	Life-long Learning Programs [66]	[We commit to invest in] life-long learning programs to give them skill portability and better prospects, to facilitate mobility and enhance employability.
3	Vocational Training Programs [74]	[We are committed to] vocational training programmes
4	Employment [75]	[We are committed to] finding innovative ways to encourage firms to hire youth for example by, where appropriate, reducing non-wage labour costs, moving towards early intervention measures and effective job-search assistance for different groups of youth, and motivating youth entrepreneurship and business start-ups.
5	Investment [90]	To lift growth and create jobs by boosting investment, we commit to identify and start to implement by the Brisbane Summit a set of collective and country-specific actions that tangibly improve our domestic investment environments such that they are more favorable to long-term investment financing and can lead to an effective increase of implemented projects, particularly in infrastructure and for SMEs

⁶ A commitment is defined as a discrete, specific, publicly expressed, collectively agreed statement of intent; a promise by summit members that they will undertake future action to move toward, meet or adjust to an identified target. More details are contained in the G8 Commitment/Compliance Coding and Reference Manual (available at <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/index.html#manual>).

Methodology and Summary of Key Findings

The G20 YEA / G20 Research Group Compliance Report — Youth Entrepreneurship prepared by the G20 Research Group at the University of Toronto, the International Organisations Research Institute of the National Research University Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE), and the Young Entrepreneurs Alliance analyzes compliance by G20 members with a selection of 5 priority commitments out of a total of 281 commitments made at the St. Petersburg Summit on 5-6 September 2013. The report covers relevant actions taken by the G20 members between 7 September 2013 to 1 November 2014.

Methodology and Scoring System

This report draws on the methodology developed by the G8 Research Group, which has been monitoring G8 compliance since 1996 (IORI HSE joined this multiyear project in 2005). The use of this methodology builds cross-institutional and cross-member consistency and also allows compatibility with compliance assessments of other institutions. The methodology uses a scale from -1 to +1, where +1 indicates full compliance with the stated commitment, -1 indicates a failure to comply or action taken that is directly opposite to the stated goal of the commitment, and 0 indicates partial compliance or work in progress, such as initiatives that have been launched but are not yet near completion and whose results can therefore not be assessed. Each member assessed receives a score of -1, 0 or +1 for each commitment. For convenience, the scores in the tables have been converted to percentages, where -1 equals 0 per cent and +1 equals 100 per cent. A failing compliance score does not necessarily imply an unwillingness to comply on the part of G20 members. In some cases policy actions can take multiple compliance cycles to implement and measure. As the G20 Research Group and IORI HSE continue to monitor developments in this issue area, progress made by members will be recorded in future compliance reports.

Table 2: 2013 YEA/G20 St. Petersburg Compliance Scores

		Argentina	Australia	Brazil	Canada	China	France	Germany	India	Indonesia	Italy	Japan	Korea	Mexico	Russia	Saudi Arabia	South Africa	Turkey	United Kingdom	United States	European Union	Average
1	Quality Education	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.80
2	Life-Long Learning	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	-1	0	1	0	0.50
3	Vocational Training Programs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0.85
4	Employment	1	1	1	1	-1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0.55
5	Investment	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0.85
	Average	0.80	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.40	0.60	0.80	0.80	0.40	1.00	0.80	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.40	0.80	0.20	0.60	1.00	0.80	0.71

Table 3: 2013 YEA/G20 St. Petersburg Summit Compliance Rank by Country

Rank	Member	Average	
1	Australia	1.00	100%
	Brazil	1.00	100%
	Canada	1.00	100%
	Italy	1.00	100%
	United States	1.00	100%
2	Argentina	0.80	90%
	Germany	0.80	90%
	India	0.80	90%
	Japan	0.80	90%
	South Africa	0.80	90%
	European Union	0.80	90%
3	France	0.60	80%
	Korea	0.60	80%
	Mexico	0.60	80%
	Russia	0.60	80%
	United Kingdom	0.60	80%
4	China	0.40	70%
	Indonesia	0.40	70%
	Saudi Arabia	0.40	70%
5	Turkey	0.20	60%

Table 4: 2013 YEA/G20 St. Petersburg Summit Compliance Rank by Commitment

Rank	Commitment	Average	
1	Vocational Training Programs [74]	0.85	93%
	Investment [90]	0.85	93%
2	Quality Education [64]	0.80	90%
3	Employment [75]	0.55	78%
4	Life-Long Learning [66]	0.50	75%

1. 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.”⁷ 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.”⁸

⁷ 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>.

⁸ 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.”⁹

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.¹⁰

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.

⁹ Vulnerable Groups, World Bank. <http://go.worldbank.org/IHAHM1X3Q0>.

¹⁰ 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.¹¹

On 25 September 2014, the Minister of Labour Carlos Tomada met with principals and representatives of 24 national universities to work together in implementing the PROEMPLEAR (a program to support sustainable employment in companies with financial problems and provide training and employment of workers at low cost). Two actions were determined within this meeting. The first implies creating teams of students who will be trained and paid by the Ministry of Labour. The second action implies providing non-college youth with an opportunity to visit university courses under the PROGRESS program.¹²

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.¹³
- 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.¹⁴
- 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.¹⁵

¹¹ La Presidenta lanzó el programa PROG.R.ES.AR 22 January 2014.

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

¹² Se suman 24 universidades a la puesta en marcha del PROEMPLEAR. 19 September 2014

http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/ampliado.asp?id_nvd=2071

¹³ 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>

¹⁴ 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>

¹⁵ 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>

On 28 August 2014, Higher Education and Research Reform Amendment Bill 2014 was introduced into the House of Representatives, aiming to extending demand driven funding to higher education qualifications and improve access to higher education for all Australians.¹⁶

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.¹⁷

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.¹⁸

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.¹⁹

On 25 September 2014, legislation was introduced into the Australian Parliament to provide an extra AUD6.8 million to flow to non-government schools that have large numbers of Indigenous boarding students from remote areas and protect AUD2.4 million for students with disability.²⁰

On 30 June 2014, an additional AUD22 million grant was announced for Good to Great Schools Australia programme to improve the literacy results of children in remote primary schools.²¹

On 22 June 2014, Minister for Education Christopher Pyne announced an increase of AUD22 million in funding for the Teach for Australia programme, which aims to fast-track high-calibre non-teaching graduates into disadvantaged schools through an intensive training programme.²²

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.²³

¹⁶ Higher Education and Research Reform Amendment Bill 2014, Australian Government, Department of Education 29 August 2014. Access Date: 27 September 2014. <http://education.gov.au/news/higher-education-and-research-reform-amendment-bill-2014>

¹⁷ 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/>

¹⁸ 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>

¹⁹ 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>

²⁰ Legislation to ensure funding for Indigenous students and students with disability, Australian Government, Department of Education 25 September 2014. Access Date: 27 September 2014.

<http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/legislation-ensure-funding-indigenous-students-and-students-disability>

²¹ \$22 million Government grant to boost literacy, Australian Government, Department of Education 30 June 2014. Access Date: 27 September 2014. <http://education.gov.au/news/22-million-government-grant-boost-literacy>

²² \$22 million boost to Teach for Australia, Australian Government, Department of Education 22 June 2014. Access Date: 27 September 2014. <http://education.gov.au/news/22-million-boost-teach-australia>

²³ \$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>

On 23 November 2013, the government announced additional AUD35.2 million to support students with disabilities through extra resources and teacher training opportunities.²⁴

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.²⁵

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.²⁶ Pronatec includes several initiatives.²⁷ One of them is the "Brasil Profissionalizado" program, which is designed to stimulate development of infrastructure, governance and quality education in the country. By 2014 Brazilian government spent approximately USD1.8 billion on this program.²⁸

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.²⁹

On 3 April 2014, the meeting of the Management Committee of the National Restructuring Programme of the Federal University Hospitals (REHUF) took place. It was announced at the meeting that the investment in improving the federal university hospitals will amount to R\$970 million in 2014. The investment was planned to be used to purchase equipment, medicines, health products, as well as renovations and expansions of hospitals.³⁰

On 9 October 2014, the Department of Basic Education, Ministry of Education announced the transfer of additional financial resources from the National Fund for Education Development (ENDF) to the basic education establishments in 12 Brazilian states. The decision will allow nurseries

²⁴ 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>

²⁵ 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>

²⁶ O que é o Pronatec?, Pronatec. Access Date: 30 June 2014. <http://pronatec.mec.gov.br/institucional-90037/o-que-e-o-pronatec>.

²⁷ Objetivos e Iniciativas, Pronatec. Access Date: 30 June 2014. <http://pronatec.mec.gov.br/institucional-90037/objetivos-e-iniciativas>.

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ Investimentos previstos para 2014 serão de R\$ 970 milhões, Portal Brazil 3 April 2014. Date of Access: 15 October 2014. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/educacao/2014/04/investimentos-previstos-para-2014-serao-de-r-970-milhoes>.

and pre-schools hire additional part-time and full-time staff to take better care of and provide better education to children.³¹

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

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on education.

On 11 February 11 2014, the Government of Canada presented the Canada's Economic Action Plan 2014. Canada's Economic Action Plan 2014 provides USD 32.18 million for the Computers for Schools Program over four years to renew communications technology equipment.³²

The plan confirmed funding of USD 1.12 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 USD 143 million and USD 447 million respectively.³³

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 2020.³⁴

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.³⁵

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 disadvantaged families easier access to preschool education, especially those of migrant workers or with financial difficulties, or orphans and disabled children.³⁶

³¹ MEC autoriza novos recursos para educação infantil, Portal Brazil 9 October 2014. Date of Access: 15 October 2014. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/educacao/2014/10/mec-autoriza-novos-recursos-para-educacao-infantil>.

³² Economic Action Plan 2014: Supporting Jobs and Growth. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://actionplan.gc.ca>

³³ Economic Action Plan 2014: Supporting Jobs and Growth. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://actionplan.gc.ca>

³⁴ 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

³⁵ 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

³⁶ 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>

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.³⁷

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.³⁸

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.³⁹

On 5 March 2014, Law n° 2014-288 on vocational training, employment and social democracy was adopted. It emphasizes sustainable development as the over-arching social outcome of education. In terms of training, this law notably specified the conditions for the implementation of the individual training account and created the possibility of signing apprenticeship contracts on an openended basis. In terms of social democracy, the rules for the organisation of employee representative elections have been modified with immediate effect, employer representation rules have been reformed and financial transparency rules have been introduced for works councils and both union and employer organisations.⁴⁰

In 2014 the Ministry of Education continues its “Future Jobs Teaching” engagement that improves teacher performance and motivation.⁴¹

³⁷ 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

³⁸ 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/chinanews/201401/20140100469191.shtml>

³⁹ Refonder l'éducation prioritaire. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid76427/refonder-education-prioritaire.html>

⁴⁰ LOI n° 2014-288 du 5 mars 2014 relative à la formation professionnelle, à l'emploi et à la démocratie sociale. Access Date: 20 September 2014.

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000028683576&categorieLien=id>

⁴¹ Emplois d'avenir professeur. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid61330/les-emplois-d-avenir-professeur.html>

In 2014 France started a program to ensure the equal school teaching of girls and boys to respect human rights.⁴²

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.⁴³

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.⁴⁴

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.⁴⁵

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.⁴⁶ In 2014 about EUR50 million will be allocated to “Education Alliances,” that is approximately 67 per cent more than in 2013.⁴⁷

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 programs improve functional literacy, provide support in learning German and ensure access to educational materials and facilities for pupils.⁴⁸

⁴² L'enseignement de l'égalité filles-garçons à l'École. Access Date: 20 September 2014.

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

⁴³ Integration through Education, Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Access Date: 19 April 2014.

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

⁴⁴ 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>.

⁴⁵ 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>.

⁴⁶ 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>.

⁴⁷ 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>.

⁴⁸ 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.

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.⁴⁹

On 2 July 2014, the German government adopted the draft 2015 federal budget and the financial plan for 2014-2018. Additional expenditures of USD6 billion and USD3 billion are to be allocated in the areas of education and research respectively in 2015-2017, compared with the level of 2014.⁵⁰

On 18 July 2014, the German Federal Employment Agency announced its new program aimed at stimulating businesses to create more training places through organizational and administrative support. One of the elements of this program is the so-called assisted training, providing for individual assistance received throughout the entire training period by the trainees who have got learning difficulties or those who are socially disadvantaged.⁵¹

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.⁵²

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.⁵³

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 Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan. Shahi said every effort

⁴⁹ 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/h.s.xsl/search.htm?content-url=10728.htm.

⁵⁰ German cabinet adopts 2015 draft budget, Federal Ministry of Finance 2 July 2014. Access Date: 9 October 2014. <http://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2014/2014-07-02-cabinet-adopts-2015-draft-budget.html>.

⁵¹ The Board of Governors of the Federal Employment Agency Starts Initiative "Right of Way for In-Company Training", Federal Employment Agency 18 July 2014. Access Date: 9 October 2014. <http://www.arbeitsagentur.de/web/content/EN/Press/Detail/index.htm?dfContentId=L6019022DSTBAI674048>.

⁵² 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>

⁵³ 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>

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 proposed model act for the state universities. Menon chairs the committee constituted by the state government for drafting the proposed act.⁵⁴

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.⁵⁵

On 9 June 2014, President Pranab Mukherjee said, while addressing the joint sitting of Parliament, that for rapid creation of jobs in the manufacturing sector, the government would strategically promote labour-intensive manufacturing, employment opportunities will also be expanded by promoting tourism and agro-based industries. The government plans to transform the moribund Employment Exchanges into Career Centres that will not just help the youth scout for jobs but also offer counseling and training services and step up the skill development drive as it embarks on a massive job-generating journey. While creating jobs has emerged as the central focus of the government's growth drive, the Narendra Modi administration has also recognized the gaps in the current system that it is trying to fix in order to ensure that the 10 million youth joining the workforce do not get disillusioned in the absence of work. The government plans to bridge the gap between formal education and skill development, and put in place a mechanism to give academic equivalence to vocational qualifications. President Pranab Mukherjee said, that with the goal of Skilled India, the government will also launch a National Multi-skill Mission.⁵⁶

On 10 July 2014, the government announced the launch of a national multi-skill programme — 'Skill India', that will skill the youth with an emphasis on employability and entrepreneurship.⁵⁷

On 14 August 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech said India must focus on growing the manufacturing sector and on developing skills to provide meaningful employment to millions of young Indians. The cabinet has approved proposals to amend and reform archaic labour laws like Factories Act 1948, Apprentices Act 1961 and the Labour Laws (exemption from furnishing returns and maintaining registers by certain establishments) Act, 1988 to facilitate this. On Thursday, Lok Sabha approved changes to the Apprentices Amendment Bill 2014, that

⁵⁴ 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>

⁵⁵ 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>

⁵⁶ Govt starts mega job creation journey, Times of India. 10 June 2014. Date of Access: 26 September 20. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Govt-starts-mega-job-creation-journey/articleshow/36315669.cms>

⁵⁷ Budget 2014: Government emphasis on job creation to create 5-8 million jobs in 3-4 years, The Economic Times 10 July 2014. Date of Access: 26 September 2014. http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-07-10/news/51300658_1_job-creation-job-market-lakh-job

seeks to increase the availability of skilled manpower in the country, provide industries the flexibility to hire apprentices and improve their pay. Many experts have held that archaic labour laws restrict the growth of manufacturing and job creation in the country.⁵⁸

On 3 September 2014, Indian Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD) Smriti Irani said, he has picked up several aspects of the Gujarat schooling system and plans to implement them in more schools across the country. The ministry has decided to ask schools across India to celebrate Shala Utsav and implement Shala Darpan and Vanchche Bharat programs, which are already part of the schooling system in Gujarat. HRD ministry has already written to all states to celebrate Shala Utsav. As part of the plan, parents of students in government and aided schools will be able to get updates on their ward's progress in the class through a mobile application. The ministry's bid to bring in Internet connectivity to institutes is also picking up pace. The HRD ministry will launch UNITE (University Network Initiative to enhance education) program on Education Day — November 11.⁵⁹

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.⁶⁰

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.⁶¹

In 2013, the President of Indonesia signed a decree on Holistic Integrated ECD (early childhood development) that had been already endorsed by seven ministries. Governmental investments provided for by the decree will be aimed at establishing the integrated system of services, including early childhood education, throughout the country.⁶²

⁵⁸ Modi calls to focus on skill development, manufacturing for job creation, Live Mint&The Wall Street Journal. 15 August 2014. Date of Access: 26 September 2014.

http://www.livemint.com/Industry/53ATum6RaNZOw4UL00ZiNN/Modi-calls-to-focus-on-skill-development-manufacturing-for.html?utm_source=copy

⁵⁹ HRD Minister wants to bring Gujarat education model to schools across India, The Daily Mail India. 3 September 2014. Date of Access: 26 September 2014. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/indiahome/indianews/article-2742587/HRD-Minister-wants-bring-Gujarat-education-model-schools-India.html#ixzz3EEcwPWQI>

⁶⁰ 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>.

⁶¹ 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>.

⁶² Indonesia. Annual Report 2013, UNICEF. . Access Date: 28 September 2014. http://www.unicef.org/indonesia/Annualreport_v7_english_preview.pdf.

On 25 September 2014, Education and Cultural Attaché of the Indonesian Embassy in Egypt Dr. Fahmy Lukman attended the meeting of the Working Group for Higher Education in Cairo. The group consists of the rectors of major Indonesian and Egyptian universities, and its meetings are facilitated by the Indonesian Embassy in Egypt. The participants of the meeting announced their plans to cooperate in educational field in future, including on several joint projects to be held in 2015.⁶³

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 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.⁶⁴

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.⁶⁵

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.⁶⁶

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 Sakbarov

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with the commitment on education.

⁶³ Joint Working Group Pendidikan Tinggi di Kairo, Ministry of Religious Affairs of The Republic of Indonesia 25 September 2014. Access Date: 28 September 2014. <http://www.kemenag.go.id/index.php?a=berita&id=213859>.

⁶⁴ 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>.

⁶⁵ Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca 9 October 2013. Access Date: 5 May 2014. http://www.istruzione.it/allegati/dm804_13.pdf.

⁶⁶ 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>.

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 of Japan (MEXT) 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.⁶⁷

On 9 May 2014, MEXT and the International Baccalaureate (IB) announced an agreement to build a Dual Language IB Diploma for Japanese students in Math and Physics. This will extend the scope of access to an IB education in Japan.⁶⁸

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 Gushchin

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with the commitment on education.

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.⁶⁹

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.⁷⁰

⁶⁷ 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>.

⁶⁸ Math and Physics made available to Japanese Students Pursuing an IB Education, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan 9 May 2014. Access Date: 29 September 2014. http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/26/05/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2014/05/12/1347737_02.pdf.

⁶⁹ 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>.

⁷⁰ Simpler College Admissions System. <http://english.moe.go.kr/web/42208/en/board/enview.do?bbsId=265&boardSeq=50387&mode=view>

On 29 August 2014, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Korea announced plans to open up the market further to international providers by easing restrictions on foreign investors and creating an international education hub in Songdo International Business District. The ministry aims to provide an incentive to study in the country by allowing Korean students to study at top foreign institutions for a much lower cost than overseas. The initiative also includes measures to boost the number of incoming foreign students, including lowering the Korean language requirements, and allowing private schools and academies to issue visas.⁷¹

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 Zhuravleva

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.⁷²

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.⁷³ 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 program began early November to provide computers for students in the fifth and sixth grades in public schools.⁷⁴

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.⁷⁵

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

⁷¹ Korea opens up to foreign providers <http://thepienews.com/news/korea-opens-up-to-foreign-providers/>

⁷² 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.

⁷³ 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/>.

⁷⁴ 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/articles-press/estamos-decididos-a-transformar-a-mexico-y-colocarlo-en-la-frontera-de-la-tecnologia-y-el-conocimiento-enrique-pena-nieto/>.

⁷⁵ 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>.

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.⁷⁶

On 4 February 2014, Peña announced the Plan Michoacán.⁷⁷ 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.⁷⁸

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.⁷⁹ 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.⁸⁰

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.⁸¹

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

⁷⁶ 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>.

⁷⁷ 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>.

⁷⁸ 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/>.

⁷⁹ Lineamientos Generales para la operacion, aplicacion de recursos, rendicion de cuentas y transparencia del Programa Escuelas Dignas 2013. Access Date: 23 February 2014.

http://inifed.gob.mx/escuelas_dignas/pdf/LINEAMIENTOS_PUBLICADOS_DOE.pdf.

⁸⁰ 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>.

⁸¹ 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>.

multifunctional centres of applied qualifications and a basic centre of professional training will be created.⁸²

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 2020.⁸³

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 2020.⁸⁴

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."⁸⁵ 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.⁸⁶

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.⁸⁷

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.⁸⁸

⁸² 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>.

⁸³ 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>.

⁸⁴ 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>.

⁸⁵ Presidential National Council for Professional Qualifications created, President of Russia 16 April 2014. <http://eng.kremlin.ru/acts/7032>.

⁸⁶ Statute of the Presidential National Council for Professional Qualifications, President of Russia 16 April 2014. <http://state.kremlin.ru/council/39/statute>.

⁸⁷ On the training of women on leave for childcare purposes, Russian Government 11 May 2014. <http://government.ru/orders/12269>.

⁸⁸ 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>.

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.⁸⁹

In May 2014, King Abdullah approved a 5-year plan aimed at developing Saudi Arabia's education sector. To realise this initiative SAR80 billion (USD21.33 billion) were allocated in addition to annual allocations to the Ministry of Education. Under the plan, it is expected to build 1,500 nurseries, to train about 25,000 teachers and to establish new educational centres.⁹⁰

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.⁹¹

On 15 July 2014, the Ministry of Labor of Saudi Arabia and a massive open online course provider EdX launched an open-platform Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) to fill up the gap between the education and employment in the country. The courses are mainly aimed at women, young people, disabled and residents of rural communities.⁹²

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 child labour: "We have as a country in effect achieved the Millennium Development Goal of universal access to primary education before the year 2015."⁹³

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

⁸⁹ State to pay for kindergarten education, Arab News 21 January 2014. Access Date: 7 February 2014. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/512571>.

⁹⁰ Saudi Arabia approves \$21 bln five-year education plan -SPA, Reuters 19 May 2014. Access Date: 22 September 2014. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/19/saudi-education-idUSL6N0053HU20140519>.

⁹¹ 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>.

⁹² A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) portal created exclusively for Arab audiences will deliver vocational & employability skills to women, youth, persons with disabilities and citizens in rural communities, EdX 15 July 2014. Access Date: 22 September 2014. <https://www.edx.org/press/saudi-arabia-edx-join-forces-bridge-gap>.

⁹³ 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>.

with others.” It will also transform this service into a training resource for specific projects like the making of school furniture and other deliverables.⁹⁴

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.⁹⁵

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.⁹⁶

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.⁹⁷

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 initiative to distribute milk to 6,330,000 elementary school pupils three days a week. This initiative contributes to pupils’ mental and physical development.⁹⁸

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.⁹⁹

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

⁹⁴ 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>.

⁹⁵ 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>.

⁹⁶ Millî Eğitim Bakanlığı’ndan İl Müdürlüklerine 100 Minibüs Gönderiliyor, .

⁹⁷ Bakan Avci’ 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>.

⁹⁸ 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>.

⁹⁹ 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>

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 2014.¹⁰⁰ The project titled Promoting Gender Equality in Education is co-financed by Turkey.¹⁰¹

On 25 September 2014, the Minister of National Education attended the closing ceremony of the Special Education Strengthening Project (ÖZEGEP). He mentioned that one of the measures implemented within the project is tests harmonizing system (special education services), which makes access to computers easier for disabled people.¹⁰² The project had been conducted since the beginning of 2014. It is aimed at improving and enhancing the quality of vocational education of disabled people and bringing them back into society.¹⁰³

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.¹⁰⁴

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 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 2016.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁰ 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/IlerlemeRaporlari/2013_tr_progress_report.pdf.

¹⁰¹ 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.

¹⁰² Bakan Avcı ‘Özel Eğitimin Güçlendirilmesi Projesi’ Kapanış Konferansına Katıldı, Ministry of National Education of Turkey 25 September 2014. Access Date: 1 October 2014. <http://www.meb.gov.tr/bakan-avci-ozel-egitimin-guclendirilmesi-projesi-kapanis-konferansina-katildi/haber/7164>.

¹⁰³ ‘Özel Eğitimin Güçlendirilmesi Projesi’ Kapanış Toplantısı Milli Eğitim Bakanı Sayın Nabi Avcı’nın Katılımıyla Gerçekleştirildi, Ministry of National Education of Turkey 26 September 2014. Access Date: 1 October 2014. <http://orgm.meb.gov.tr/www/ozel-egitimin-guclendirilmesi-projesi-kapanis-toplantisi-milli-egitim-bakani-sayin-nabi-avcinin-katilimiyla-gerceklestirildi/icerik/423>.

¹⁰⁴ 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>

¹⁰⁵ 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>

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 2015.¹⁰⁶

On 8 July 2014, Science Minister David Willetts announced a GBP52 million investment into the science sector to create more than 7,800 education and skills opportunities over a 2 year period. The investments will cover the vocational training and skills programmes that the life sciences, chemicals and industrial science sectors need to thrive and compete in the global economy.¹⁰⁷

On 27 August 2014, the UK government launched a scheme to help raise maths standards of young people and adults by grants to support training of maths graduates employed to teach the subject.¹⁰⁸

On 23 September 2013, Business Secretary Vince Cable announced GBP8 million of funding to create hundreds of new apprenticeships and traineeships to train the next generation of nuclear technicians and engineers.¹⁰⁹

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.¹¹⁰

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.¹¹¹

¹⁰⁶ 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>

¹⁰⁷ £52 million boost for skills and training in UK science sectors, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills 8 July 2014. Access Date: 27 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/52-million-boost-for-skills-and-training-in-uk-science-sectors>

¹⁰⁸ Support for further education sector to develop maths teachers of the future, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills 27 August 2014. Access Date: 27 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/support-for-further-education-sector-to-develop-maths-teachers-of-the-future>

¹⁰⁹ £8 million to train the next generation of the nuclear workforce, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills 23 September 2014. Access Date: 27 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/8-million-to-train-the-next-generation-of-the-nuclear-workforce>

¹¹⁰ £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>

¹¹¹ 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>

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.¹¹²

On 12 June 2014, Skills and Enterprise Minister Matthew Hancock announced a GBP30 million fund to increase the supply of engineers, to encourage more women into the sector and to address engineering skills shortages in smaller companies. The fund will enable engineering companies to establish training programmes to develop future engineers and increase the number of women in the profession.¹¹³

On 14 July 2014, Skills and Enterprise Minister Matthew Hancock announced GBP4 million of funding to the creative industries to develop new pathways into these industries for hundreds of people from underrepresented groups. The project will see nearly 300 black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) young people recruited into living wage internships.¹¹⁴

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.

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.¹¹⁵⁻¹¹⁶⁻¹¹⁷⁻¹¹⁸⁻¹¹⁹

¹¹² 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>

¹¹³ £30 million fund to secure supply of engineers and boost number of women in sector, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills 12 June 2014. Access Date: 27 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-fund-to-secure-supply-of-engineers-and-boost-number-of-women-in-sector>

¹¹⁴ Skills Minister announces multi-million pound drive to boost diversity in creative industries, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills 14 July 2014. Access Date: 27 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/skills-minister-announces-multi-million-pound-drive-to-boost-diversity-in-creative-industries>

¹¹⁵ 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>.

¹¹⁶ 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>.

¹¹⁷ 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>.

¹¹⁸ 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>.

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.¹²⁰

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.¹²¹

On 23 September 2014, the Department of Education allocated more than USD70 million to improve school climate, prevent gun violence and improve mental health services.¹²²

On 25 September 2014, the Department of Education granted USD35 million to 24 new partnerships between universities and high-need school districts aimed at improving student achievements. In the next 5 years these awards will allow to recruit and train more than 11,000 teachers, mainly in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. This represents an advancement to the President Obama's goal to prepare 100,000 STEM teachers over the next decade set in President's 2011 State of the Union address.¹²³

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.¹²⁴

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.¹²⁵

¹¹⁹ U.S. Department of Education Announces Awards to 10 States to Continue Efforts to Turn Around Lowest-Performing Schools, U.S. Department of Education 13 March 2014. Access Date: 22 September 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-announces-awards-10-states-continue-efforts-turn-around->.

¹²⁰ 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->.

¹²¹ 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->.

¹²² U.S. Department of Education Invests More Than \$70 Million to Improve School Climate and Keep Students Safe, U.S. Department of Education 25 September 2014. Access Date: 29 September 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-invests-more-70-million-improve-school-climate-and-keep->.

¹²³ 24 New Teacher Quality Partnership Grants Totaling More Than \$35 Million Awarded to Recruit, Train and Support More Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Teachers, U.S. Department of Education 25 September 2014. Access Date: 29 September 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/24-new-teacher-quality-partnership-grants-totaling-more-35-million-awarded-recru->.

¹²⁴ 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->.

¹²⁵ 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.¹²⁶

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 of vulnerable people.¹²⁷

On 18 February 2014, the U.S. Department of Labour announced USD73 million in grants to organizations that oversee education and employment services for disadvantaged youths. The aim is to help disadvantaged young people complete high school or acquire critical occupational skills in high-demand fields.¹²⁸

On 12 August 2014, the U.S. Department of Education allocated USD28.4 million in grants to 40 states to help low-income students pay for advanced placement tests. This initiative is expected to increase the number of low-income students taking advanced placement tests to get a college credit for high school courses and decrease for these students costs and time required to complete a postsecondary degree.¹²⁹

On 13 August 2014, preschool development grants were made available by the U.S. Department of Education. The initiative is aimed at developing and expanding voluntary, high-quality preschool programs for children from low- and moderate-income families.¹³⁰

On 14 August 2014, the U.S. Department of Education awarded almost USD4 million to prepare graduate students for work with disabled children and youth, while many college professors and administrators in special education are facing retirement in the coming years.¹³¹

¹²⁶ 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-of-its-kind-resolution-virtual-charter-scho>.

¹²⁷ 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>.

¹²⁸ 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>.

¹²⁹ Education Department Awards 40 States, D.C., and the Virgin Islands \$28.4 Million in Grants to Help Low-Income Students Take Advanced Placement Tests, U.S. Department of Education 14 August 2014. Access Date: 22 September 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-department-awards-40-states-dc-and-virgin-islands-284-million-grants-h>.

¹³⁰ Education Secretary Duncan and Health and Human Services Secretary Burwell Announce New Grant Competition to Increase Access to High-Quality Preschool, U.S. Department of Education 13 August 2014. Date of Access: 22 September 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-secretary-duncan-and-health-and-human-services-secretary-burwell-annou>.

On 24 September 2014, the U.S. Department of Education granted USD3.9 million to partnerships between postsecondary institutions and school districts that focus on increasing the participation of minorities and other underrepresented students in gifted and talented programs, e.g. students from poor families, students with low English language skills or disabled students.¹³²

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 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.¹³³

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.¹³⁴

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 support young people in education or training.¹³⁵

On 25 April 2014, the European Parliament launched Erasmus+, a new program for education, training, youth and sport. 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 over the next 7 years. Its objective is to improve people's skills, especially those of young people, and give them a better chance of finding sustainable employment.¹³⁶

On 2 July 2014, the European Commission launched the new European Tertiary Education Register, that will provide a one-stop-shop for detailed and comparable data on 2 250 institutions hosting more than 16 million students. The data includes university size, number of students and staff, subjects and degree levels covered, as well as information about research and international activities.

¹³¹ U.S. Education Department Awards Almost \$4 Million in Grants to Help Prepare Graduate Students for Leadership in Special Education, U.S. Department of Education 14 August 2014. Access Date: 22 September 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-education-department-awards-almost-4-million-grants-help-prepare-graduate-stu>.

¹³² U.S. Department of Education Awards \$3.9 Million to Partnerships to Support Underrepresented Students in Gifted and Talented Programs, U.S. Department of Education 24 September 2014. Access Date: 29 September 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-awards-39-million-partnerships-support-underrepresented->

¹³³ 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

¹³⁴ 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

¹³⁵ 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

¹³⁶ London launch for Erasmus+, European Commission 25 April 2014. Access Date 20 September 2014. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-480_en.htm

It will help policy makers to better manage the European higher education system as a whole, allow universities to compare themselves with others, and to identify opportunities for research collaboration or specialisation.¹³⁷

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.

Analyst: Natalia Churkina

¹³⁷ Launch of European Tertiary Education Register - a new transparency approach in higher education, European Commission 2 July 2014. Access Date: 20 September 2014. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-747_en.htm

2. Life-Long Learning Programs

[We commit to invest in] life-long learning programs to give them skill portability and better prospects, to facilitate mobility and enhance employability]

Assessment

Country	Non-Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China		0	
France		0	
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States			+1
European Union		0	
Average		+0.50	

Background

While the first G20 leaders-level summit at Washington in 2008 focused primarily on financial regulation, the London Summit in 2009 expanded the G20's focus to the "human dimension" of the financial crisis, which was closely linked to sustainable employment and job creation. The G20 pledged to restart economic growth through supporting employment, investing in education and training, and ensuring fair labour market policies, asking the International Labour Organization (ILO) to help assess actions already taken and identify areas of action for the future.¹³⁸

Pittsburgh continued this momentum with various commitments and statements on employment and education, as part of the Framework for Strong, Sustainable, and Balanced Growth (FSSBG) launched at that summit. Under the Framework leaders included a statement on life-long learning and the necessity for employees to be able to adapt to changing market demands and the introduction of new technologies. "It is no longer sufficient to train workers to meet their specific current needs; we should ensure access to training programs that support lifelong skills development and focus on future market needs."¹³⁹ G20 countries also pledged to implement policies in line with ILO principles, which would protect the most vulnerable and prioritize sustainable, decent employment. The G20 committed to "adopt key elements" of the ILO's "Global Jobs Pact," and asked the ILO to develop a training strategy for consideration at the next summit. Leaders also

¹³⁸ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform Statement Issued by the G20 Leaders, London Communiqué, G20 Information Centre, (London), April 2, 2009 London, Date of Access: March 25, 2014

¹³⁹ The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre, (Pittsburg), 25 September 2009, Date of Access: March 25, 2014

committed their Employment Ministers to a meeting in 2010 to review the ILO's reports and recommendations.

Toronto carried forward the ideas agreed to at Pittsburgh, but with significantly less detail or force of action. Stressing that actions to ensure economic recovery and create jobs should be nationally differentiated, the summit included a list of actions that reforms "might include," of which job retraining was one option. G20 leaders welcomed the report from the Employment Ministers' meeting in April 2010, which elaborated on the principles of social protection, quality jobs, and growth through employment that the G20 had been promoting. Leaders welcomed the training strategy prepared by the International Labour Organization in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the term labour mobility was included in the communiqué for the first time.¹⁴⁰

At the Seoul Summit in November 2010, the employment-education discussion was developed further with a commitment to internationally comparable skills indicators and to G20 countries to enhance national strategies for skills development, building on the previously endorsed G20 Training Strategy. Seoul also focused considerably on employment, both in the domestic and international development context. The Seoul Development Consensus listed private investment and job creation as one of nine "pillars" of action to be addressed; elsewhere, the Seoul Summit Document noted the importance of SMEs and green growth as parts of a strategy for overall economic and social development.

At both the Cannes and Los Cabos Summits the communiqués were coupled with Job Action Plans, however neither document specifically included references to life-long learning but were more focused on structural reforms for growth that would as a result create jobs.

The G20 Labour and Employment Ministers have met four times individually and once with G20 Finance Ministers since the first leaders summit in Washington in 2009. At the most recent meeting in Moscow on 18-19 July 2013 under the heading "Labour Activation, Equity and Inclusion" ministers discussed lifelong learning. They described it as "Providing second-chance learning opportunities, apprenticeships, on the job training programs, lifelong learning and other learning programs that enhance labour market opportunities and employability of vulnerable groups;" and as "Improving public employment services, measurement of skills needs, training methods, and access to life-long learning for the employed and unemployed to develop and improve their skills, to contribute to higher productivity and increased employability."¹⁴¹ Furthermore, the ministers recommended that the G20 leaders extend the mandate of the G20 Task Force on Employment for another year under the Australian presidency.

Commitment Features

This commitment focuses on government investment in lifelong learning programs with the goal to facilitate enhanced employability and mobility. In order to maintain and develop skills to ensure employability and mobility, appropriate training programs and programs responsive to labour market demands are required.

The 2010 G20 Training Strategy developed under the ILO and OECD, defined lifelong learning as "maintaining an individuals' skills and competencies as work, technology and skill requirements change." A number of specific actions G20 members can take to support lifelong learning programs are:

¹⁴⁰ The Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 27 June 2010, Date of Access: March 25, 2014

¹⁴¹ Labour and Employment Ministers Declaration, G20 Information Centre, (Moscow) 18-19 July 2013, Date of Access: March 25, 2014

- Establish, maintain and improve a coordinated national education and training system incorporating the concept of lifelong learning.
 - Invest and create the conditions to enhance education and training at all levels.
 - Provide training opportunities to young people, and develop youth employment programmes (including funded training).
 - provide adequate resources for training at all levels
2. Support Businesses:
- Encourage training at company level, e.g. through tax incentives.
 - Effective consultation and information exchange with key users of the system, particularly employers.
3. System Renewal
- Develop processes of evaluation, feedback and revision of policy and service delivery.
 - Develop simple, transparent user friendly education and training systems.
 - Facilitate and support a culture of life long learning.
 - Ensure coordination between different ministries and departments e.g. coordination between education, labour, research and innovation ministries and social security and those responsible for active labour market policy.

To receive a score of full compliance depending on national circumstances the member country must take actions and invest in all three areas of: education, support for business and system reform. A score of partial compliance will be awarded if the member country takes actions in 1 or 2 of the 3 areas and a score of negative compliance will be awarded if is member does not invest in any of the areas.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member country did not improve a coordinated national education and training system, did not support engagement with businesses OR reform the government education and training system.
0	The G20 member country improved a coordinated national education and training system OR supported businesses OR reformed the government education and training system. The member country supported 1 or 2 of the 3 areas.
+1	The G20 member country improve a coordinated national education and training system supported businesses AND reformed the government education and training system.

Argentina: +1

Argentina fully complied with its commitment on education and employment mainly through active provision of necessary resources to enhance education quality and through the implementation of a better system of managerial collaboration, evaluation processes, and service delivery.

On 19 September 2013, the Department of Scientific and Technological articulation (PRONEP) under the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Productive Innovation launched an initiative to strengthen the national science, technology and innovation programs by reforming the systematic

processes of review and evaluations. Under Resolution No. 813/2013,¹⁴² PRONEP is responsible for offering free technical assistance to organizational units that are designed to promote the development of science, technology, and innovation which request these reform programs. PRONEP, however, requires the institutions to provide sufficient resources for their own management and implementation.¹⁴³

In October 2013, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation in partnership with the Sadosky Foundation launched a user-friendly website “Estudiar Computación” as a hub to provide knowledge to the general public, especially the young population, on IT-related careers as well as universities and scholarships available in the field.¹⁴⁴

On 22 January 2014, Argentinian President Christina Fernandez de Kirchner officially launched the nation-wide education reform plan under PROG.R.E.S.AR. PROG.R.E.S.AR is a universal provision aimed to 18 to 24 year old unemployed Argentine youngsters who want to start or complete their studies at any level of education or be trained in technical occupations. By pledging a monthly benefit of ARS600, the government actively provides opportunities for its young population to learn and develop their skills, which will overall improve their employability. The program also provides assistance for job orientation, intermediation, and placement, to improve its young population’s employability.¹⁴⁵ Through the partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the program also provides support for vocational training, counseling and job placement. PROG.R.E.S.AR is expected to impact as many as 1.5 million youth.¹⁴⁶

PROG.R.E.S.AR also reflects an active effort from the Argentinian government to improve interministerial coordination to support its education and employment policy. The plan is initiated by the Presidency of the Nation and supported by an array of related ministries responsible for an active labor policy. This includes the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Social Development, among others.¹⁴⁷

On 29 April 2014, the Commission for Scientific Research (CIC) together with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation formally agreed to start the Institutional Assessment Programme of the agency to implement evaluation processes and organizational improvement for institutions in science and technology. The CIC is tasked with generating information on the “institutional performance, achievements, challenges and the formulation of proposals for

¹⁴² PRONEP—National Programme for Evaluation and Strengthening of Science, Technology and Innovation Programmes, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva, Programmes. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://en.mincyt.gob.ar/programa/pronep-national-programme-for-evaluation-and-strengthening-of-science-technology-and-innovation-programmes-9316>

¹⁴³ Evaluation and Strengthening of Science, Technology and Innovation Programmes, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva, Programmes. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://en.mincyt.gob.ar/accion/evaluation-and-strengthening-of-science-technology-and-innovation-programmes-9368>

¹⁴⁴ Promoting IT-vocations through web-based information, Era Watch. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://erawatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/erawatch/opencms/system/modules/com.everis.erawatch.template/pages/exportTypesToHtml.jsp?contentid=080947b4-44fc-11e3-9d68-3b1a37daf5b5&country=Argentina&option=PDF>

¹⁴⁵ PROG.R.E.S.AR – Programme to support Students from Argentine, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva, System Strengthening. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://en.mincyt.gob.ar/accion/progresar-programme-to-support-students-from-argentine-republic-9452>

¹⁴⁶ ANSES receives 106,000 applications to enter ‘Progresar’ program, Buenos Aires Herald (Buenos Aires) 30 January 2014. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/article/150972/anses-%C2%AD-receives-%C2%AD-106000-%C2%AD-applications-%C2%AD-to-%C2%AD-enter-%C2%AD-progresar-%C2%AD-program>

¹⁴⁷ PROG.R.E.S.AR – Programme to support Students from Argentine, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva, System Strengthening. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://en.mincyt.gob.ar/accion/progresar-programme-to-support-students-from-argentine-republic-9452>

continuous improvement” of the participating institutions through active participation of all stakeholders. This will allow for continuous and life-long program of development and evaluation.

Thus, Argentina was awarded a score of +1 for its commitment to education and employment by actively improving the education quality, providing necessary resources to develop infrastructure, supporting engagement with businesses and promoting coordination within its bureaucracy.

Australia: +1

Australia fully complied with its commitment on education and employment through the introduction of various government-led projects and reforms aimed at enhancing the quality of education and promoting an effective business engagement.

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.¹⁴⁸

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.¹⁴⁹

On 23 November 2013, the government announced additional AUD35.2 million to support students with disabilities through extra resources and teacher training opportunities.¹⁵⁰

On 10 December 2013, Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop officially launched the New Colombo Plan 2014 pilot program.¹⁵¹ The government pledges AUD100 million over the next five years to send undergraduate students to Australia’s neighbouring countries in Asia-Pacific. The project aims to equip the students with an international experience and networking opportunities that will give them “an edge in their future careers.”¹⁵²

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.¹⁵³

¹⁴⁸ Review of Indigenous Training and Employment, Prime Minister of Australia 8 October 2013. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/2013-10-08/review-indigenous-training-and-employment>

¹⁴⁹ Coalition announces additional university places, Ministers' Media Centre Education portfolio 22 November 2013. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/coalition-announces-additional-university-places>

¹⁵⁰ Government boosts support for students with disabilities, Ministers' Media Centre, Education portfolio 23 November 2013, Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/government-boosts-support-students-disabilities>

¹⁵¹ New Colombo Plan to transform relations with the region, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Media Releases. Access Date: 19 September 2014. http://foreignminister.gov.au/releases/Pages/2013/jb_mr_131210.aspx?ministerid=4

¹⁵² \$16.5 million to help 5000 Australians study overseas, Minister's Media Centre, Education portfolio 10 December 2014. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/165-million-help-5000-australians-study-overseas>

¹⁵³ \$50 million for partnerships to boost participation at university, Australian Government, Department of Education 11 December 2013. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://education.gov.au/news/50-million-partnerships-boost-participation-university>

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.¹⁵⁴

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.¹⁵⁵

On 19 February 2014, Ministerial Advisory Group on Teacher Education was established to research on the world's best practices in teacher education programs and advise the Australian government on improving teacher education.¹⁵⁶

On 11 July 2014, Assistant Minister for Education Susan Ley announced an independent review into the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program in order to improve the quality of the education as well as promote more effective engagement with the business world. The review seeks to inform the Government on ways to improve the delivery and quality of Vocational Education and Training in Schools. It also explores the effectiveness of links between Trade Training Centres and local business, industry and communities.¹⁵⁷

On 10 September 2014, the Minister for Education Christopher Pyne announced an increase in the annual budget for the Colombo Plan, raising the number by AUD16.5 million in addition to the AUD100 million already invested in 2014.¹⁵⁸

The Australian government has committed to continue to fund research development in its universities and higher education systems by committing to donate \$11 billion over 4 years of funding, beginning in 2014.¹⁵⁹ In addition to continued support for education systems and marginalized groups, the Australian government has committed to beginning to offer Commonwealth supported places in Universities for students enrolling in undergraduate qualifications in January of 2016.¹⁶⁰ This will be the first time that tuition subsidies for undergraduate

¹⁵⁴ Review of national curriculum to put students first, Ministers' Media Centre Education portfolio 10 January 2014. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/review-national-curriculum-put-students-first>

¹⁵⁵ Education 3 February 2014. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <https://www.education.gov.au/news/more-schools-set-use-their-own-decision-making-power>

¹⁵⁶ Improved teacher education will put Students First, Ministers' Media Centre Education portfolio 19 February 2014. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/improved-teacher-education-will-put-students-first>

¹⁵⁷ Trade Training Centres in Schools Program, Department of Education. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <https://education.gov.au/trade-training-centres-schools-program>

¹⁵⁸ Australian Department of Education, \$16.5 million to help 5000 Australians study overseas, 10 Sept 2014, <http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/165-million-help-5000-australians-study-overseas>

¹⁵⁹ Securing the Funding and Future of Australian Research, 13 May 2014. Access date: September 12, 2014. <http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/securing-funding-and-future-australian-research>

¹⁶⁰ Outcomes and Performance Information – Outcome 3 – Higher Education, Research, and Internation. 13 May 2013. Access date: September 12, 2014. <https://education.gov.au/portfolio-budget-statements-2014-15>

students will be awarded.¹⁶¹ By 2018, Australia has set a goal of 80,000 additional students being accepted into an undergraduate program.¹⁶²

Australia committed to provide over \$14 billion dollars to higher education funding in 2014, much of which is directed to teaching and learning in higher education through “initiatives which include infrastructure, student support, increasing equity, and improving quality of higher education.”¹⁶³

The Australian government offered support to students who want to reach their full potential and transition from school to further education, training, or work by supporting the Youth 20 summit in July 2014 which will bring together G20 delegates forming the youth engagement group for Australia’s hosting of the G20.¹⁶⁴

The Australian government does not provide training incentives to its employers federally, as they are instead specified by State and Territory training authorities (STA’s) which vary in funding by state. They are offered for both new and existing employees who have not completed Australian and New Zealand Institute of Insurance and Finance qualification.¹⁶⁵

The Australian government produces a clear budget statement for the Department of Education which is revised annually to better suit the needs of students in the educational system. Consultation will occur during 2014 to amend the 2013 Australian Education Act to continue to reduce burden and remain responsible for schools and non-government schools.¹⁶⁶

Australia has taken continuous steps to invest in quality education through its projects and reforms. Thus, it was awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Emma Compeau

Brazil: +1

Brazil fully complied with the commitment on education and employment.

On 26 September 2013, Brazilian Labour and Employment Minister Manouel Dias attended the seminar on Strengthening the Brazilian Industry and Employment organized by the National Confederation of Industry and the General Workers’ Central of Brazil. The seminar brought together government officials, trade unionists, and representatives of Brazilian private sector to discuss the economic challenges facing the industry as well as professional training and education.¹⁶⁷

On 27 September 2013, the Subcommittee on Decent Work and Youth under the Ministry of Labour organized a meeting to discuss the National Plan for Decent Work for Youth. The plan is

¹⁶¹ Outcomes and Performance Information – Outcome 3 – Higher Education, Research, and Internation. 13 May 2013. Access date: September 12, 2014. <https://education.gov.au/portfolio-budget-statements-2014-15>

¹⁶² Outcomes and Performance Information – Outcome 3 – Higher Education, Research, and Internation. 13 May 2013. Access date: September 12, 2014. <https://education.gov.au/portfolio-budget-statements-2014-15>

¹⁶³ Funding, 26 May 2014. Access date: September 12, 2014. <http://education.gov.au/funding>

¹⁶⁴ Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-2015 Section 2 Outcome 2, 13 May 2014. Access date: September 12, 2014. <https://education.gov.au/portfolio-budget-statements-2014-15>

¹⁶⁵ Australian Apprenticeships, 2013. Access date: September 12, 2014. <http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/state-training-authorities>

¹⁶⁶ Department of Education Budget Statements 2014-2015 Section 2 Outcome 2, 13 May 2014. Access date: September 12, 2014. <https://education.gov.au/portfolio-budget-statements-2014-15>

¹⁶⁷ Manoel Dias participa de Seminário na CNI, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego 26 September 2013. Access Date: 22 September 2014. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/manoel-dias-participa-de-seminario-na-cni.htm>

designed to improve education and training for youth, assist them in balancing studies with work, as well as integrate them into the labour sector.¹⁶⁸

On 22 October 2013, the Minister of Labour Manoel Dias participated in the second Brazilian seminar on “Transition from School to Work: Brazilian Experience in Other Emerging OECD Economies”¹⁶⁹ during which he declared that the policy of the ministry was to promote decent jobs and fully integrate youth into the labour market. To do so, the Ministry of Labour and Education would collaborate with the Ministry of Education to create vacancies in the National Technical Training Program which would allow workers to be vocationally qualified, certified, and directed to the specific need in the labour market.¹⁷⁰

On 6 November 2013, the Minister of Labour and Unemployment Manoel Dias presided at the opening of the 19th National Congress of Young Entrepreneurs. The Minister took this opportunity to promote the engagement of youth in the labour market. He also promoted the National Program of Oriented Productive Microcredit, which is an existing program (pre-2011) that provides low interest loans to young entrepreneurs opening their first business.¹⁷¹

On 21 February 2014, the Minister of Labour and Employment Manoel Dias participated in the “State Forum for Professional Learning and Youth Inclusion and Teens in Labour Market Maranhao” that aims to promote youth inclusion in the labour market and assist companies in complying with the Federal Law of Learning. The Law of Learning is a youth apprenticeship program which requires youth between 14 and 24 years old to receive a formal contract of employment for up to two years with a private company in conjunction with technical and professional training.¹⁷²

Since 2011, the Brazilian government has carried 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.¹⁷³ By 2014, Brazilian government has spent approximately EUR14 billion on this program. The government promises to invest additional EUR14 billion in 2015 to create 8 million professional jobs. Pronatec includes several initiatives. First, it oversees the provision of technical education for high school students. Second, it provides the resources and management for professional training for youth and adults. This program is available to both employed and unemployed individual, hence emphasizing a lifetime learning culture. Finally, Pronatec also offers training for the public of Brazil Without Poverty program.¹⁷⁴ The second program, also known as the “Brasil Profissionalizado” program, is

¹⁶⁸ Subcomitê discute trabalho decente aos jovens, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego 27 September 2013. Access Date: 22 September 2014. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/subcomite-discute-trabalho-decente-aos-jovens.htm>

¹⁶⁹ Launch of Investing in Youth: Brazil, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 22 October 2013. Access Date: 22 September 2014. <http://www.oecd.org/employment/launch-investing-in-youth-brazil.htm>

¹⁷⁰ Manoel Dias Enfatiza Políticas para Jovens, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego 22 October 2013. Access Date: 22 September 2014. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/ii-seminario-ocde-manoel-dias-enfatiza-o-papel-das-politicas-para-jovens-e-trabalho-decente/palavrachave/ocde-pronatec-jovens.htm>

¹⁷¹ Empreendedorismo é tema de debate em Goiânia, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego 6 November 2013. Access Date: 22 September 2014. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/empreendedorismo-e-tema-de-debate-em-goiania.htm>

¹⁷² Ministro instala Fórum de Aprendizagem no Maranhão, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego 21 February 2014. Access Date: 22 September 2014. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/delegacias/ma/ministro-instala-forum-da-aprendizagem-no-maranhao.htm>

¹⁷³ PRONATEC - O que é o Pronatec?, Pronatec. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://pronatec.mec.gov.br/institucional-90037/o-que-e-o-pronatec>

¹⁷⁴ Pronatec 2014: inscrições- cadastro. Expectativas para o Pronatec 2015. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.pronatec2014.com.br>

specifically designed to stimulate development of infrastructure, governance and quality education with an emphasis on vocational element of education.¹⁷⁵

Brazil has been awarded a score of +1 for its full compliance with its commitment on education and employment. The government has undertaken major initiatives to improve the quality youth education and support their transition into the labor market, such as through the provision of training schemes and its enforcement of the Law of Learning. In many cases, these projects have been involved various ministries as well as the Brazilian private sector.

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on education and employment mainly through its comprehensive Action Plan 2014, which involves the coordination and collaboration across various federal offices and departments.

On the education and employment front, the Action Plan is equipped with a budget of CAD1.95 billion per year of federal contributions to ensure that federal spending and programs are meeting labour market needs. It provides CAD36 million for the Computers for Schools Program over four years to renew communications technology equipment, CAD1.25 billion to the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act, and CAD160 million and CAD500 million for the Enhanced Education Fund and Education Infrastructure Fund to build and renovate schools for aboriginal peoples respectively. It also allocates CAD11.8 million over two years to enhance the Job Matching Service.¹⁷⁶ And the Economic Action Plan proposed to renew the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers for a three-year period, with a federal investment of \$75 million to assist unemployed older workers.¹⁷⁷

Over the next four years the Government will provide \$222 million annually through the Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities. The Agreements will engage employers and disability community organizations to establish program priorities so the needs of persons with disabilities are better served. Some of the programs may include job coaching and employment counselling, workplace accommodations and work experiences such as youth internships.¹⁷⁸

Economic Action Plan 2014 proposes to invest \$15 million over three years to expand the Ready, Willing & Able initiative, to hire and support youth and working-age adults with developmental disabilities. The financing will allow the existing program to expand so more vocational training centres for persons with disabilities can be created.¹⁷⁹

The 2014 Action Plan proposes to create the Canada Apprentice Loan by expanding the Canada Student Loans Program to provide apprentices registered in Red Seal trades with access to over \$100 million in interest-free loans each year. The funding will help apprentices with the costs of training and introduces the Flexibility and Innovation in Apprenticeship Technical Training pilot project to expand the use of innovative approaches for apprentice technical training. The Government will also take steps to ensure that apprentices are aware of the existing financial supports available to them while they are on technical training through the Employment Insurance (EI) program. The

¹⁷⁵ Pronatec 2014: inscrições- cadastro. Expectativas para o Pronatec 2015. Access Date: 20 September 2014.

<http://www.pronatec2014.com.br>

¹⁷⁶ The Road to Balance: Creating Jobs and Opportunities, Action Plan Canada 2014. Access Date: 20 September 2014.

<http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/budget2014-eng.pdf>

¹⁷⁷ Canadian Government, 2014 Economic Action Plan, The Road to Balance: Creating Jobs and Opportunity, 11 February 2014 < <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/pdf/budget2014-eng.pdf>>

¹⁷⁸ Canadian Government, 2014 Economic Action Plan, The Road to Balance: Creating Jobs and Opportunity, 11 February 2014 < <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/pdf/budget2014-eng.pdf>>

¹⁷⁹ Canadian Government, 2014 Economic Action Plan, The Road to Balance: Creating Jobs and Opportunity, 11 February 2014 < <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/pdf/budget2014-eng.pdf>>

Government also allows employers to invest more in apprenticeship training by supplementing an employee's EI benefits during periods of training. Currently, the basic EI benefit rate is set at 55 per cent of the employee's weekly insurable earnings up to a maximum payment of \$485 per week. Employers can choose to top up an apprentice's EI benefits up to 95 per cent of their normal wage through the use of a Supplemental Unemployment Benefit plan that is approved and registered through Service Canada.¹⁸⁰

Through consultations with employer associations, educational institutions, and labour organizations the Government developed the Canada Job Grant to better align training with the needs in the labour market. The grant will encourage employer participation in skills training decisions and more Government support for skills training in a way that is simple for businesses to access and is diverse so it responds to business needs. The Federal Government will provide up to \$10,000 per person for training and requires that in addition the employer contribute one third of the cost. There will be flexible arrangements for small businesses.¹⁸¹

Through the release of the 2014 Economic Action Plan Canada fully complied with the commitment and received a score of +1.

Analyst: Caroline Bracht

China: 0

China partially complied with the commitment by supporting education and training, and reforming and enhancing cooperation in education and training, however it did not support business to facilitate lifelong learning and therefore was awarded a score of 0.

On 24 September 2013, Korea and China launched a forum titled "Public Diplomacy Cooperation: A Meeting for a Journey to Build Trust" in which government officials, scholars, and experts participated building a foundation for a bilateral strategic cooperative partnership. A nine-point resolution was adopted, which included the expansion of youth exchanges, the strengthening of educational cooperation, and improving opportunities for research and language learning.¹⁸²

On 9 May 2014, the General office of State Council of the PRC launched a Graduates Employment Entrepreneurship, which enacted the promotion of employment and entrepreneurship for College Graduates. The SMES signed a one-year contract with the contract graduates for a one-year social insurance allowance, which would provide up to 2 million RMB as loans to scientific and technologic SMES which in thereafter employ graduates. This project has been budgeted for 2012-2014.¹⁸³

On 22 May 2014, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of PRC implemented the College Students Entrepreneurship Programme, the purpose of which was to encourage students to start businesses without tax, simplify the registration procedure, and ultimately allow 800,000 students to start businesses. This initiative has been budgeted for 2014-2017.¹⁸⁴

¹⁸⁰ Canadian Government, 2014 Economic Action Plan, The Road to Balance: Creating Jobs and Opportunity, 11 February 2014 < <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/pdf/budget2014-eng.pdf>>

¹⁸¹ Canadian Government, 2014 Economic Action Plan, The Road to Balance: Creating Jobs and Opportunity, 11 February 2014 < <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/pdf/budget2014-eng.pdf>>

¹⁸² China, Korea launch diplomacy forum, Korea Jungang Daily, 25 September 2013. Date of Access: 26 August 2014. <http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=2977945>

¹⁸³ State Council Circular on 2014 National College graduates start work, The State Council (PRC) 13 August 2014. Date of Access: 21 September 2014. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2014-05/13/content_8802.htm

¹⁸⁴ Human Resources and Social Security and other nine departments notify students start to lead on the implementation plan, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China (PRC) 22 May 2014. Date of Access: 21 September 2014. http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/gkml/xxgk/201405/t20140530_131188.htm

On 8 August 2014, China launched a six-year Modern Vocational Education Development Strategy, which aims to promote vocational education and fill skills gaps in the job market. The increased emphasis on vocational education gives way for collaborative opportunities with foreign educators and industry through teacher training, frequent student exchange, and cooperative education. The quality of VET will be enhanced through the improvement of TVET (Teacher Vocational and Education Training) mobility, which would allow countries to share best practices and learn from each other, thus significantly improving the education level. The Chinese TVET System is a massive reform initiated by the Chinese government, which would allow bringing about change in the role of the educators, strengthening their leadership, and enhancing the education level in general.¹⁸⁵

The State Council of PRC enacted a National Medium-Long Term Plan for Human Resource Development, which served to promote further growth of SMEs by providing training for an innovative group of professional and technical personnel. This long-term development was budgeted for 2010-2020.¹⁸⁶

The General Office of State Council of PRC enacted a tax reduction for college student entrepreneurs which would reduce corporate income tax by 50% and provide a monthly income of less than 20000 RMB with free VAT & Business tax. This initiative was budgeted for 2012-2015.¹⁸⁷

The Chinese government issued a national plan early in 2014, which outlined the plan of conducting vocational training of 10 million migrant workers annually, during the period of 2014-2020. The goal of this initiative is to assist the nation in developing specific skills, which are required for China's new job market.¹⁸⁸

Within the next five years from July 2014, the Guangdong Federation of Trade Unions will center its efforts on the Yue Yuen Shoe Factory in order to establish a system of democratic trade union elections across the province to bring stability to the labour relations.¹⁸⁹

On 8 August 2014, China has launched a six-year Modern Vocational Education Development Strategy, which aims to promote vocational education and fill skills gaps in the job market. The increased emphasis on vocational education gives way for collaborative opportunities with foreign educators and industry through teacher training, frequent student exchange, and cooperative education. The quality of VET will be enhanced through the improvement of TVET (Teacher Vocational and Education Training) mobility, which would allow countries to share best practices and learn from each other, thus significantly improving the education level.¹⁹⁰ The Chinese TVET System is a massive reform initiated by the Chinese government, which would allow bringing about

¹⁸⁵ The Pie News, Sea change in Chinese Education System to Focus on VET, 8 August 2014, <http://thepienews.com/news/sea-change-chinese-education-system-focus-vet/>

¹⁸⁶ State Council Circular on 2014 National College graduates start work, The State Council (PRC) 13 August 2014. Date of Access: 21 September 2014. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2014-05/13/content_8802.htm

¹⁸⁷ State Council Circular on 2014 National College graduates start work, The State Council (PRC) 13 August 2014. Date of Access: 21 September 2014. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2014-05/13/content_8802.htm

¹⁸⁸ China enhances vocational training of migrant workers, Daily Times. 20 August 2014. Date of Access: 27 August 2014. <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/region/20-Aug-2014/china-enhances-vocational-training-of-migrant-workers>

¹⁸⁹ Yue Yuen shoe factory to be focus of Guangdong's trade union building., China Labour Bulletin. 21 July 2014. Date of Access: 25 August 2014. <http://www.clb.org.hk/en/content/yue-yuen-shoe-factory-be-focus-guangdong-s-trade-union-building>

¹⁹⁰ Initiatives to Foster Chinese TVET and TVET Teacher Training System. UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (Magdeburg) Date of Access: 30 August 2014. PP. 13. http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/docs/1Web-Version_Initiative_to_foster_Chinese_TVET_and_TVET_Teacher_Training.pdf.

change in the role of the educators, strengthening their leadership, and enhancing the education level in general.¹⁹¹

On 28 October 2013, the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China pledged to improve education and training system for rural doctors. It aims to ensure that 60 per cent of doctors hold degrees from secondary technical schools or above by 2015. All rural doctors are expected to be qualified as medical practitioners by 2020.¹⁹²

On 22 of November 2013, the Ministry of Finance announced that the central government had invested CNY16.03 billion to boost preschool education. The fund specifically targets financially disadvantaged children and disabled children to provide them with easier access to preschool education.¹⁹³

On 11 December 2013, Chinese central government pledged to allocate CNY20.7 billion to disadvantaged schools in the countryside. The money will be used for equipment, books and reconstruction to improve learning experience in the area.¹⁹⁴

On 21 January 2014, China introduced an interministerial plan involving seven departments in a move to increase the quality of education for students with special needs. Each student will have a special budget of CNY6000. As part of the plan, the central government will also focus on increasing investment in education, building infrastructure, and training quality teachers for these students. China aims to ensure that at least 90 per cent of children with visual, hearing and intellectual disabilities will obtain free primary and middle school education by the end of 2016.

On 20 September 2014, China announced that Zhejiang province and Shanghai would be the first to enact the educational reform on the country's national college entrance exam, known as "gaokao." Under the new curriculum, the tests will require students to develop a wider breadth of knowledge. The government hopes that such move will increase the quality of national high school education in the long run and boost vocational education talent.¹⁹⁵

While China improved its education quality, and reformed its education and training systems. While it supported entrepreneurial efforts, it did not support businesses to promote lifelong learning and therefore was awarded a score of partial compliance.

Analysts: Elizaveta Klimenko and Maria Monica Layarda

¹⁹¹ Initiatives to Foster Chinese TVET and TVET Teacher Training System. UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (Magdeburg) Date of Access: 30 August 2014. PP. 5.

http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/docs/1Web-Version_Initiative_to_foster_Chinese_TVET_and_TVET_Teacher_Training.pdf. See also: Sea change in Chinese education system to focus on VET, The Pie News, 8 August 2014. Date of Access: 30 August 2014 <http://thepienews.com/news/sea-change-chinese-education-system-focus-vet/>

¹⁹² China aims to nurture trained rural doctors, Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China 29 October 2013. Access Date: 19 September 2014. http://english.agri.gov.cn/news/dqnf/201310/t20131029_20528.htm

¹⁹³ China Grants 16.03 Bln Yuan to Preschool Education, Women of China 25 November 2013. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/china/16/7483-1.htm>

¹⁹⁴ China gives 20.7 bln yuan to rural schools, Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China 12 December 2013. Access Date: 19 September 2014. http://english.agri.gov.cn/news/dqnf/201312/t20131212_20842.htm

¹⁹⁵ Shanghai, Zhejiang to pilot *gaokao* reforms, China Daily 20 September 2014. Date access: 20 September 2014.

http://www.china.org.cn/china/2014-09/20/content_33564785.htm

Gaokao reform to boost vocational education talent, China Daily 24 March 2014. Date access: 20 September 2014. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2014-03/24/content_17371908.htm

France: 0

France support education and lifelong learning, however it did not engage in overall reform of the system and did not support businesses to be able to provide access to lifelong learning programs and therefore was awarded a score of 0.

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.¹⁹⁶

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.¹⁹⁷

In 2014 the Ministry of Education introduced its program “emplois d’avenir professeur” (EAP) to promote teaching as a professional career. This program forms an integral part of the teaching training reform undertaken in the country. EAP offers scholarships and financial support to students who plan to pursue career in teaching in order to attract bright minded individuals to become future teachers.¹⁹⁸

On 5 March 2014, Legifrance the French Government entity responsible for publishing legal text online released a document outlining changes to ION 2014-288, an Act on Vocational Training, Employment and Social Democracy. The Act introduced the creation of an individual training account. From 1 January 2015, all employees will have an individual training account valid from when they first join the labour market until they retire. It follows the person in unemployment. To be eligible to be financed by the individual training account, courses must always be qualifying training programmes which meet the anticipated needs of the economy and which benefit the employee by safeguarding his or her career path. These training programmes will allow participants to obtain a nationally recognised qualification. The account will make changing jobs easier and improve the labour force’s employability.¹⁹⁹ The same Act introduced further vocational training reform through a new financing system. In order to reduce the cost of labour and simplify the system, the employers’ contributions, which added up to 1.6% of payroll costs, have been replaced by a single, compulsory contribution of 1% of payroll costs.²⁰⁰

The Act further introduced a program of career development consultations. As of March 2014,

all employees will be able to benefit, free of charge, from a career development consultation’, from the date they first join the labour market until retirement, regardless of their status. This provision is underpinned by a belief that employees need support to choose training activities that match their profile and the needs of the economy.²⁰¹

¹⁹⁶ Refonder l’éducation prioritaire. Access Date: 20 September 2014.

<http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid76427/refonder-education-prioritaire.html>

¹⁹⁷ Projet de loi relatif à la formation professionnelle, à l’emploi et à la démocratie sociale. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/projet-de-loi-relatif-a-la,2453/>

¹⁹⁸ Emplois d’avenir professeur. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid61330/les-%C2%AD-emplois-%C2%AD-d-%C2%AD-avenir-%C2%AD-professeur.html>

¹⁹⁹ Legifrance, ION 2014-288 of 5 March 2014 on vocational training, employment and social democracy (1), March 2014. <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do;jsessionid=?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000028683576>

²⁰⁰ Legifrance, ION 2014-288 of 5 March 2014 on vocational training, employment and social democracy (1), March 2014. <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do;jsessionid=?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000028683576>

²⁰¹ Legifrance, ION 2014-288 of 5 March 2014 on vocational training, employment and social democracy (1), March 2014. <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do;jsessionid=?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000028683576>

On 11 March 2014, President Hollande of France stressed the importance of lifelong learning and training programs for adults by stating that “training, [it] is essential” as no one’s job is secure, especially now days.²⁰²

As a member of the European Union, France participated in the creation of the four streams of the Lifelong Learning Program within the EU. France also took part in all four streams: Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig.²⁰³ Furthermore, France held nine Grundtvig workshops to give instructors better tools for teaching adults with literacy problems, and to gain knowledge of how other EU countries’ education systems work. These workshops spanned from September 2013 until August 2014, and were held throughout the country.²⁰⁴

On 20 June 2014, France released an official statement declaring its intention to promote greater gender equality in school. This plan will also include training for the national teachers.²⁰⁵

While France has provided the necessary resources and training to improve the quality of its education, it has neither taken any measure to promote business engagement nor introduced a reform in the government system. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analysts: Mercedes Fogarassy and Maria Monica Layarda

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment.

From 2010 to 2013, the German government increased its budget for education and research by

EUR13.3 billion.²⁰⁶ 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.²⁰⁷

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.²⁰⁸

²⁰² Discours lors de la rencontre avec 100 jeunes en emplois d’avenir. Elysee (Paris). 11 March 2014. Date accessed: July 5 2014. <http://www.elysee.fr/declarations/article/discours-lors-de-la-rencontre-avec-100-jeunes-en-emplois-d-avenir/>

²⁰³ About lifelong learning program. EACEA (Geneva). 12 December 2013. Date accessed: July 5 2014. http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/about_llp/about_llp_en.php

²⁰⁴ Grundtvig Workshops Catalogue 2013-2014. European Commission (Geneva). 12 December 2013. Date Accessed: July 2 2014.

²⁰⁵ Plan d’action pour l’égalité entre les filles et les garçons à l’école. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid80888/plan-d-action-pour-l-egalite-entre-les-filles-et-les-garcons-a-l-ecole.html>

²⁰⁶ Integration through Education, Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.bmbf.de/en/15624.php>

²⁰⁷ The Federal Government is investing in the future, Federal Ministry of Education and Research 8 July 2013. Date Access: 20 September 2014. <http://www.bmbf.de/en/96.php>

²⁰⁸ Investing in the future: The Twelve Billion Euro Package of the Federal Government, Federal Ministry of Education and Research 7 August 2013, Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.bmbf.de/en/6075.php>

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.²⁰⁹

In 2014 about EUR50 million will be allocated to “Education Alliances,” that is approximately 67 per cent more than in 2013.²¹⁰

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 programs improve functional literacy, provide support in learning German and ensure access to educational materials and facilities for pupils.²¹¹

On 4 March 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. Although the initiative is taken by the German government through the German Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs, the joint project is undertaken in partnerships with various federal agencies and businesses, including the leading industry associations, the Confederation of German Trade Unions (DGB), the German Federal Employment Agency, the Association of German Counties (DLT).²¹²

German Qualification Framework, May 2014, Following the initiative of the European Union on creating qualification frameworks, Germany has implemented its own National Qualification Framework by May 2014. Consequently, all formal qualifications are placed on a range of 8 levels, which are hierarchically ranked. The GQF is a unique and comprehensive transparency tool.

On 16 July 2014, Germany also undertook another joint initiative to promote occupational training and employment with young people with handicaps, vocational education and training for youth and employment for older people with severe disabilities. The private sector plays a significant part in this initiative. The country’s leading industry associations BDA, DIHK and ZDH will also launch their own joint nationwide campaign “INKLUSION GELINGT!” (Inclusion is successful) to raise an awareness of the disabled people’s potential and encourage private companies and firms to offer more training and employment for people with disabilities. The federal agencies will gradually expand existing networks and align these even more towards co-operation.²¹³

Germany has introduced reforms and established government-private sector networks to promote quality education and employment for youth and vulnerable groups. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

²⁰⁹ The Federal Government is investing in the future, Federal Ministry of Education and Research 7 August 2013. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.bmbf.de/en/96.php>

²¹⁰ Nationaler Aktionsplan Integration, Federal Ministry of Education and Research May 2013. Access Date: 20 September 2014. http://www.bmbf.de/pub/bilanz_nationaler_integrationsplan.pdf

²¹¹ Nationaler Aktionsplan Integration, Federal Ministry of Education and Research May 2013. Access Date: 20 September 2014. http://www.bmbf.de/pub/bilanz_nationaler_integrationsplan.pdf

²¹² Inclusion initiative for vocational education and employment, Federal Ministry of Education and Research 3 April 2014. Access Date: 20 September 2014. http://www.imove-germany.de/cps/rde/xchg/imove_projekt_international/hs.xsl/news.htm?rdeLocaleAttr=en&content-url=/cps/rde/xchg/imove_projekt_international/hs.xsl/10728.htm

²¹³ Germany - Improved chances on the labour market for people with disabilities, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training 16 July 2014. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/articles/24247.aspx>

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment on education.

Since 2010, the Indian Parliament has put into force a legislation making free and compulsory education a Right of every child in the age group 6-14 years. Along with this act, the government also introduced Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan program to universalize secondary education and create a robust higher education system. Additionally, this program aims to remove gender, socio-economic and disability barriers in order to provide universal access to secondary level education by 2017, achieving universal retention by 2020. The scheme also provides key physical facilities, such as class rooms, laboratories, libraries, as well as intervention in the appointment and training of teaching staff. The scheme is currently underway.²¹⁴

In the 2014-2015 annual budget plan, the government allocates money to achieve various advancements in education including the establishment of new sports academies, research centres, agricultural centres, biotechnology clusters, and other education facilities. The government also proposes to launch a national multi-skill programme called Skill India to equip the youth with entrepreneur skills to boost their employability. It will also provide training and support for traditional professions. Apprenticeship Act will be suitably amended to make it more responsive to industry and youth. MSMEs will also be encouraged to avail the benefits of this scheme.²¹⁵

On 21 February 2014, Education Minister P.K. Shahi assured the vice-chancellors of all national universities 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 Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan. Issues of implementation and governance, quality assurance in teacher recruitment and modernization of infrastructural facilities were discussed at length at the meeting.

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

While India has taken some steps toward increasing its education quality, such as through Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan, a lot of the government's project proposals have yet to be materialized. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment on education.

In July 2013, Indonesian government introduced a major overhaul of the country's national curriculum for all levels of education from year 1 to 12. This new curriculum came into fore in July

²¹⁴ Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Department of School Education and Literacy. Access Date: 20 September 2014. http://mhrd.gov.in/rashtriya_madhyamik_shiksha_abhiyan

²¹⁵ Union Budget 2014-15: Developments in the Education Sector, India Today (New Delhi) 10 July 2014. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/union-budget-2014-15-developments-in-the-education-sector/1/370623.html>

Union Budget, National Portal of India. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://india.gov.in/spotlight/union-budget-2014-2015#budget2>

2014 as the country began its new academic year. The government has played a major role in pushing for this reform by providing financial, physical, and technical support. The Indonesian Ministry of National Education and Culture spokesperson Ibnu Hamad stated that the curriculum reform is a crucial part of the government's effort to increase the education quality in the country. It puts a greater emphasis on active learning and character building in order to develop the students' creativity and independent thinking.²¹⁶

On 12 December 2013, Erman Samsudin, the Director of Early Childhood Education Development, announced that the government would allocate IDR600 billion in the budget to establish early childhood education programs in every village across Indonesia by 2014.²¹⁷

In 2014, the state budget for education has also substantially increased from IDR 345.3 trillion in 2013 to IDR371.2 trillion in 2014. It has also been estimated that the budget will further increase under the new cabinet to IDR404 trillion in 2015.²¹⁸ As a result of this increase, the government's social assistance to provide free basic education to the poor population managed under Bantuan Operasional Sekolah has also increased. Each elementary school student is now entitled to IDR800,000, an increase from IDR580,000 previously. Similarly, high school student now receives IDR1 million every year.²¹⁹ The country is also undertaking the 15-year Master Plan for the Acceleration and Expansion of Indonesian Economic Growth (MP3EI) that was introduced in 2011. This joint project gathers various federal departments and businesses and serves as a platform for exchanges and discussions to develop the country.²²⁰ On 15 September 2014, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono officially launched 10 new MP3EI projects in East Kalimantan.²²¹

On 2 May 2014, the Ministry of National Education and Culture launched an online data collection system "Dapodikmen" to create a comprehensive database of the country's national schools and streamline the managerial procedures, such as the allocation of funding and textbook subsidies. This is in part developed to support the enactment of the new school curriculum introduced in 2013.²²²

On 6 August 2014, the Indonesian Minister of Education Mohammad Nuh announced that as many as 1.2 million local teachers had taken part in the retraining program designed by the Ministry of Education in preparation for the launching of the new 2013 curriculum. He also stated that the Ministry aims to train 1.3 million more in the upcoming year.²²³ In conjunction with the teachers training program, the Ministry of Education has also introduced support system to help teachers adjust to a new approach to teaching and learning. The "Klinik Konsultasi Pembelajaran" or

²¹⁶ Penerapan Kurikulum 2013 pada Awal Tahun Pelajaran 2014/2015, Kementerian Pendidikan dan kebudayaan Indonesia 13 August 2014. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://kemdikbud.go.id/kemdikbud/node/2971>

²¹⁷ Early years education for all in 2014, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 12 December 2013. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/12/12/early-years-education-all-2014.html>

²¹⁸ Infografis APBN2014, Kementerian Keuangan Republik Indonesia. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.kemenkeu.go.id/Page/infografis-apbn-2014>

²¹⁹ Anggaran Pendidikan Naik, BOS 2015 Meningkatkan, Jawa Pos 18 August 2014. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.jawapos.com/baca/artikel/5947/Anggaran-Pendidikan-Naik-BOS-2015-Meningkat>

²²⁰ Masterplan Percepatan dan Perluasan Pembangunan Indonesia, Peraturan Presiden Republik Indonesia 2011 No. 32/2011, 20 May 2011. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://kontras.org/data/BAB%201%20-%202012.pdf>

²²¹ SBY Resmikan 10 Proyek MP3EI di Kaltim Hari Ini, Bisnis Indonesia (Makassar) 15 September 2014. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://makassar.bisnis.com/read/20140915/19/180584/sby-resmikan-10-proyek-mp3ei-di-kaltim-hari-ini>

²²² Kemdikbud Luncurkan Aplikasi Data Pokok Pendidikan Menengah (Dapodikmen), Kementerian Pendidikan dan kebudayaan Indonesia 13 August 2014. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://kemdikbud.go.id/kemdikbud/berita/2498>

²²³ 1,2 Juta Guru Dapat Pelatihan Penerapan Kurikulum 2013, Berita Satu (Jakarta) 6 August 2014. Access Date 20 September 2014. <http://www.beritasatu.com/kesra/200923-12-juta-guru-dapat-pelatihan-penerapan-kurikulum-2013.html>

Learning Consultation Clinic will provide resources for teachers who encounter difficulties in applying the new curriculum.²²⁴

The Directorate of Learning and Student Affairs under the Ministry of Education and Culture also continue to take active steps to support university entrepreneurship through various programs, such as Program Mahasiswa Wirausaha and Program Kreativitas Mahasiswa.²²⁵

On 13-14 November 2013, the Indonesian Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, the the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration and the International Labour Organization (ILO), The National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), Indonesian Economy Council (Komite Ekonomi Nasional -KEN), and The Indonesian Employers Association (APINDO) jointly organized the Indonesia Employment Forum. The forum facilitated communication exchange and coordination among Indonesian stakeholders on current policy strategies for achieving inclusive economic growth.²²⁶

Indonesia has taken comprehensive steps to improve the quality of national education and employment through the introduction of a new curriculum and various reforms while engaging the private sector in the process. Thus, Indonesia has been awarded a score of +1.

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment on education and employment.

On 12 September 2013, the Italian government issued decree no.104 on Urgent Measures in Areas of Education, Universities and Research. The law authorized the government spending of EUR15 million in 2014 on payments to the middle school students in difficult financial situation. These measures will allow Italy's youth population, regardless of their socioeconomic conditions, to obtain higher quality education.²²⁷

On 18 September 2013, the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy announced the allocation of EUR794 million to increase youth employment, as part of the implementation of Decree Law no. 76 of 28 June 2013, converted into Law 99 of 9 August 2013. Enrico Giovannini, the Minister of Labor and Social Policies, predicted that this legislation could potentially provide 100,000 new job opportunities.²²⁸

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

²²⁴ 1,2 Juta Guru Dapat Pelatihan Penerapan Kurikulum 2013, Berita Satu (Jakarta) 6 August 2014. Access Date 20 September 2014. <http://www.beritasatu.com/kesra/200923-12-juta-guru-dapat-pelatihan-penerapan-kurikulum-2013.html>

²²⁵ Program Mahasiswa Wirausaha, Direktorat Jendral Pendidikan Tinggi, Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://dikti.go.id/id/mahasiswa/bidang-minat-bakat-danatau-keorganisasian/program-mahasiswa-wirausaha-pmw/>

²²⁶ Indonesia Employment Forum, International Labour Organization, 13 – 14 November 2013. Access Date: 20 September 2014. http://www.oit.org/jakarta/whatwedo/eventsandmeetings/WCMS_229967/lang--en/index.htm

²²⁷ DECRETO-LEGGE 12 settembre 2013, n. 104, Misure urgenti in materia di istruzione, universita' e ricerca, Della Repubblica Italiana. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2013/09/12/13G00147/sg>

²²⁸ Con la Circolare applicativa dell'INPS partono gli incentivi per le nuove assunzioni di giovani lavorator. Press release, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome). Access Date: 21 September 2014. http://www.lavoro.gov.it/Notizie/Pages/20130918_Incentivi-assunzioni-giovani.aspx

schools should aim to promote students' access to the wireless networks in classes and provide for transformation of study space to accommodate the changes.²²⁹

On 15 January 2014, the European Union announced Italy's participation in EU-led initiative "Youth Guarantee" plan.²³⁰ The plan called for EU members to enact reforms and measures to increase youth employability by providing job-search support and training, and modernizing the apprenticeship system. Italy agreed to follow through with this plan. This step is taken to ensure young people have access to a job, an apprenticeship, or a higher education institution.²³¹

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.²³²

On 20 February 2014, the Regions and the Italian state approved the guidelines for the implementation of the Youth Guarantee program, as well as the creation of a unified online platform, connecting regional employment databases to facilitate job search and job matching. This was an effort to create a more "homogenous labour market" by increasing information exchange among stakeholders in the market.²³³

On 13 May 2014, the Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policy announced its intention to conduct an overhaul of the country's legislation concerning the "Third Sector," that is Italy's volunteer-based social businesses and non-profit associations. Between 13 May and 13 June 2014, the government facilitated an open public consultation and discussion to allow concerned actors to voice their views. This is part of the country's effort to "converge" all the different components of Italian society, profit and non-profit organizations and individuals alike.²³⁴

On 16 September 2014, the Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policy published the final results of the public consultation concerning the "Third Sector" conducted on 13 May-13 June 2014, which drew over a thousand public individuals. The government launched the draft law in conjunction to the publication of this report.

During the compliance period, the Italian government has fully complied with its commitments to improve the quality of and access to education and employment mainly through the implementation of the "Youth Guarantee" plan. In order to support Italian businesses, the government has taken

²²⁹ Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Universit. e della Ricerca 9 October 2013. Access Date: 20 September 2014.
http://www.istruzione.it/allegati/dm804_13.pdf

²³⁰ Press Release, European Commission (Brussels) 15 January 2014. Access Date: 7 March 2014.
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-13_en.htm

²³¹ Employment: Commission urges Member States to urgently implement Youth Guarantee to help young jobless, Memo, European Commission (Brussels) 12 November 2013. Access Date: 21 September 2014.
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-984_en.htm

²³² Indicatori e Parametri per il monitoraggio e la valutazione dei programmi delle universit. 2013 – 2015, Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Universit. e della Ricerca 14 February 2014. Access Date: 20 September 2014.
<http://attiministeriali.miur.it/anno-2014/febbraio/dm-14022014.aspx>

²³³ Garanzia Giovani. La Conferenza Stato-. -Regioni approva la piattaforma informatica unitaria Press release: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 20 February 2014. Access Date: 21 September 2014.
http://www.lavoro.gov.it/Notizie/Pages/20140220_Conf_Stato_Regioni.aspx

²³⁴ Terzo Settore: le linee guida in vista della riforma, Incentivi per l'occupazione, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali 13 May 2014. Access Date: 20 September 2014.
<http://www.lavoro.gov.it/ProgettiAzioni/TerzoSettore/Pages/default.aspx>

significant steps to encourage communication and information exchange across different sectors in the economy and departments in the government. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment on education and employment.

During human resources development month in November 2013, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Vice Minister Shigeki Sato made requests to major business organizations such as the Japan Economic Federation (Keidanren) to distribute literature on human resources development measures by the MHLW, which was also made available through Prefectural Labour Bureau and Hello Work employment centres.²³⁵ At the regional level, the MHLW coordinated human resource development training courses under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). The collaboration training course of the ASEAN, entitled “Management of Vocational Training Institutions for Realizing Decent Work,” took place in October 2013 and focused on career guidance and training support service, including human resources development administration, career advice, career consulting and employment support for youth.²³⁶ The APEC forum on Human Resource Development took place in November 2013.

On 5 December 2013, the Government of Japan announced JPY300 billion in funding to support job creation for young people and women, as part of a JPY5.5 trillion stimulus package to offset the sales tax increase planned for April 2014. The stimulus package also includes JPY600 billion for subsidies to low-wage earners. In addition, the government has asked large companies to increase salaries following the tax increase in exchange for a decrease in the corporate tax rate from 38.01 per cent to 35.64 per cent.²³⁷

On the education front, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology announced its intent to reform the country’s education system to enhance the students’ learning experience on 15 December 2013. Amongst its plans are the introduction of English-language teaching to grade three students, the expansion of International Baccalaureate (IB) schools, and the introduction of a new university entrance system. The Ministry plans on hiring more foreign teachers and train local teachers. This move is a crucial initiative of the Ministry of Education to prepare the students for future competition in the globalized world.²³⁸

On 24 January 2014, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivered a policy speech to the 186th Session of the Diet that outlined a number of measures related to labour and employment. These measure include: the expansion of subsidies for career development and advancement of non-permanent employees to permanent positions; the development of a customized support system, including vocational training, for people with disabilities; improved childcare availability and promotion of men’s participation in childcare in order to encourage labour force participation by women with

²³⁵ Japanese Government Programs in the HRD Promotion Month, Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (Tokyo) November 2013. Access Date: 21 September 2014. http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/policy/employ-labour/human-resources/dl/news_letter_2013_11.pdf

²³⁶ 24th MHLW HRD Information, Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (Tokyo) October 2013. Access Date: 21 September 2014. http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/policy/employ-%C2%AD-labour/human-%C2%AD-resources/dl/news_letter_2013_09.pdf

²³⁷ Japan Lays Out ¥5.5 Trillion Stimulus Package, Wall Street Journal (New York) 5 December 2013. Access Date: 21 September 2014. <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303997604579239740505369468>

²³⁸ Japanese education reforms to further prepare students in the globalised world, ICEF Monitor 4 February 2014. Access Date: 21 September 2014. <http://monitor.icef.com/2014/02/japanese-education-reforms-to-further-prepare-students-for-globalised-world/>

children; career development and training opportunities during parental leave; and support for internships and entrepreneurship.²³⁹

In his address at the World Economic Forum in Davos on 22 January 2014, Prime Minister Abe announced his intention to reform the labour market and enhance occupational mobility, including by re-directing subsidies to enable workers to move from old industries to new industries that require quality human resources. Also important is his announcement of the tax reform that would be undertaken by the government in the following April. This would entail reduction in the corporate tax rate by 2.4% to encourage companies to use the extra funding they have towards capital investment, R&D, and raises in workers' salaries.²⁴⁰

To address employment issue, enhance occupational mobility and instill a lifelong learning culture, the Japanese government has taken a comprehensive step that entails reforming the national education system, introducing a corporate tax reduction, and providing professional services and support system targeting specific segments of society. Thus, Japan has been awarded a score of +1.

Korea: +1

Korea fully complied with the commitment by improving the national education and training programs, supporting businesses to facilitate lifelong learning and reforming the system.

On 5-6 September 2013, at the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg, President Park Geun-hye announced the importance of a “disciplined market economy,” which would help create quality jobs in 2014 by allowing fair competition and returns for labour. The Republic of Korea (ROK) government is planning to use Creative Economy Strategy, which would “strengthen training and education to foster youth employment, providing technical and financial support for start-ups and strengthening the social safety net for the most vulnerable.” The sharing of best practices would also be vital. As President Park said, “The creative economy is based on human ideas. The idea is to vitalize the broader economy and create new jobs by preserving existing industries and combining them with science and technology, IT and culture.” She noted, “To this aim, the Korean government will extend its investment in research & development, support venture start-ups and those who establish new businesses and ease regulations that could hamper the creation of such synergies.”

The National Institute for Lifelong Education (NILE) is dedicated to lifelong learning and implements various projects such as the research on lifelong education policy, support for lifelong education program development, training and cultivation of lifelong education staffs, establishment of connected relations with other lifelong education institutions, and construction and operation of integrated information system for lifelong education.²⁴¹

On 12 June 2014, the Ministry of Education (MOE) and NILE designated 11 more cities to be Lifelong Learning Cities bringing the total to 129. The project aims to establish a system at the local level that offers quality lifelong learning opportunities for all through developing a system to

²³⁹ Policy Speech by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the 186th Session of the Diet, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet 24 January 2014. Access Date: 21 September 2014.

http://japan.kantei.go.jp/96_abe/statement/201401/24siseihousin_e.html

²⁴⁰ A New Vision from a New Japan, World Economic Forum 2014 Annual Meeting, Speech by Prime Minister Abe, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet 24 January 2014. Access Date: 21 September 2014.

http://japan.kantei.go.jp/96_abe/statement/201401/22speech_e.html

²⁴¹ National Institute for Lifelong Education, <http://www.nile.or.kr/>

exchange best practices and on how to successfully mobilize local authorities, universities and companies to work together.²⁴²

On 22 April 2014, a report, Lifelong Learning in Korea was published²⁴³

On 7 May 2014, the ROK Government published the Third National Lifelong Learning Plan.²⁴⁴

The government on 23 September 2013, through the Ministry of Health and Welfare announced an individual initiative the “Medical System Twinning Project,” in which Korea and Saudi Arabia will conduct exchanges in medical technology expertise as well as specialists, facilitate joint education and training programs, cooperate in R&D, share medical information technology, and build new hospitals.

On 24 September 2013, Korea and China launched a forum titled “Public Diplomacy Cooperation: A Meeting for a Journey to Build Trust” in which government officials, scholars, and experts participated building a foundation for a bilateral strategic cooperative partnership. A nine-point resolution was adopted, which included the expansion of youth exchanges, the strengthening of educational cooperation, and improving opportunities for research and language learning.

On 30 September 2013, the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), and the Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information (KISTI), launched a new website called the Creative Economy Town. The online community has been going strong since, which provides a platform for exchange and cooperation and whose purpose is to develop creative industries. It provides rising entrepreneurs and companies with a venue for proposing their ideas and seeking advice from established specialists. Future entrepreneurs could therefore acquire vital knowledge in the commercialization process and learn how to seek investment. According to the MSIP, “by October 20 a total of 1,792 potential ideas or patents had been proposed, after being open for only 20 days.”

On 1 October 2013, Korea’s National Institute of Food and Drug Safety Evaluation (NIFDS) and Germany’s Paul-Ehrlich-Institut (PEI) signed an agreement on the strengthening of mutual medical cooperation and the increasing of human resource exchanges and technical cooperation. This includes collaboration on the evaluation of data, research exchange on medicinal projects, and the conduction of joint research and joint training programs.

On 28 November 2013, President Park Geun-hye emphasized the need to develop the service industry next to the manufacturing industry at the National Economic Advisory Council meeting in order to achieve greater economic growth. The president also encouraged the government to lift the limits on hiring non-Korean staff and patients and support training programs for expat doctors. During the meeting, the Korea Development Institute (KDI) also proposed policy suggestions for a “Northeast Asia Hub Strategy,” which “calls for the improvement of the service industry and the deregulation of the medical and education service sectors.” KDI additionally proposed that policymakers allow the creation of joint corporations between Korean and foreign universities in the Free Economic Zone. This would attract foreign universities and students.

²⁴² United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation “11 Cities Designated as lifelong learning cities in the Republic of Korea” June 12, 2014. <http://learningcities.uil.unesco.org/news-and-events/news/2014-07-21-11-cities-designated-as-lifelong-learning-cities-in-the-republic-of-korea/7d0a9dfc42eeecffe38816621fe02b4>

²⁴³ National Institute for Lifelong Education, Lifelong Learning In Korea, 22 April 2014, <http://www.nile.or.kr/eng/contents/contents.jsp?bkind=basic&bcode=BCDJFHFFEHICI&bmode=view&idx=BCJDFCECEBDCF>

²⁴⁴ National Institute for Lifelong Education, 3rd National Lifelong Learning Plan, 7 May 2014, <http://www.nile.or.kr/eng/contents/contents.jsp?bkind=basic&bcode=BCDJFHFFEHICI&bmode=view&idx=BCJDFCECEBDBDB&pageNo=1>

On 16 April 2014, the ROK government announced measures to boost youth employment by taking on a different approach from its established form of vocational training and adopting a European-style apprenticeship program, where students can learn and train at the same time as they work. It is expected that this program can allow students to train directly from the companies. The government is also planning to focus more on small and medium-sized businesses, which are in need of labour force. After such changes will be implemented, the government expects to create 500,000 jobs by 2017.

On 24 April 2014, the Seoul National University (SNU) and the World Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which would increase cooperation between the institution and the SNU, and significantly increase exchanges in expertise, initiating collaborative businesses, introducing seminars and workshops on common issues, as well as holding conferences. Most importantly, pilot projects would be discussed in order to contribute the participation of various department, such as those of Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Public Health.

From 1 September 2014 to 31 October 2014, the government of the Republic of Korea will offer a programme of twenty-five different fellowships, partnered by UNESCO and the Korea International Cooperative Agency (KOICA). The purpose of the programme is to enhance human resources and capacity building in LDCs in Africa and Asia-Pacific by providing the opportunity to participate in training courses and carry out research in the ROK.

Korea fully complied with the commitment by supporting the education and training system, supporting business to facilitate lifelong learning and by enhancing the education system.

Mexico: 0

Mexico partially complied with the commitment by taking actions to increase the coordination of the education system and to enhance evaluation of the education system, however there was no evidence to suggest support for businesses.

On 5 September 2013, Mexican legislators approved a major education reform, which includes measures to create an independent government agency that oversees a teacher evaluation system. Additionally, the reform aims to raise the portion of students who complete middle school to 80 percent and those who complete high school to 40 percent. The reform will also allow for the government to conduct a census to gain an accurate count of students and teachers.²⁴⁵

To clarify available resources and facilitate better planning and improvement, a National Registry of Students, Teachers and Schools (Registro Nacional de Alumnos, Maestros y Escuelas, RNAME) was set up in 2011. In 2013, the Government announced that the National Registry of Students, Teachers and Schools would be complemented and transformed into the National System for Education Information and Administration (Sistema Nacional de Información y Gestión Educativa).²⁴⁶

New legislation in 2013, promotes the creation of a clear Professional Teacher Service (Servicio Profesional Docente), establishing the basis for professionalising teachers, school leaders and supervisors along the continuum of their careers in terms of selection, recruitment, evaluation, training, career progression and incentives (See Spotlight 1). This exemplifies the fact that Mexico has

²⁴⁵ Associate Press, Mexican Senate Passes Major Education Reform, 5 September 2013, <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/mexican-senate-passes-major-education-143102636.html>

²⁴⁶ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Education Policy Outlook, Mexico, November 2013, http://www.oecd.org/edu/EDUCATION%20POLICY%20OUTLOOK%20MEXICO_EN.pdf

been active in teacher policy in recent years, with many reforms in teacher training, teacher career progression and evaluation.²⁴⁷

There are a number of ongoing programs to support increased educational achievement including, Opportunities (Oportunidades) a cash transfer programme targeted at families living in poverty. And specific programs to support indigenous populations, including Programa de Educación Inicial y Básica para la Población Rural e Indígena and Programas Albergues Escolares Indígenas. However, no new actions were reported during the compliance period.²⁴⁸

To promote completion of studies, two cash transfer programmes for upper secondary and tertiary education are available (Programa de Becas de Media Superior, PROBEMS, 2012 and Programa Nacional de Becas y Financiamiento, PRONABES), aiming to support and retain low socio-economic background students in public education and to encourage students with excellent performance.²⁴⁹

Russia: +1

Russia complied with its commitment by increasing the coordination and support for higher education and evaluation of primary education, however it did not support businesses to promote education within the workplace.

In October 2013, the Russian Government announced the 5/100 initiative. The initiative is aimed to enable five Russian universities to enter the top-100 in the world university rankings by 2020. Each university is working on its roadmap for development.²⁵⁰ In December 2013, the roadmap for implementation began at the request of the Council on Global Competitiveness Enhancement of Russian Universities. Performance evaluation are to be completed annually and meant to track progress and evaluate the performance of institutions in reaching key benchmarks.²⁵¹

Since the beginning of 2014, the Federal Service for Supervision of Education and Science has been conducting an extensive quality campaign and revoking the licenses of various Russian schools for a range of violations. Since the outset, more than 130 institutions have been prohibited from enrolling new students, as part of an attempt to increase the standards of education institutions.²⁵²

On 4 February 2014, an announcement was made noting that Russia intended to launch a national scholarship programme an initiative from the Russian President and the Ministry of Education and Science. The scholarship program will enable 3,000 Russian students to study at world leading universities between 2014 and 2017.²⁵³

On 15 April 2014, Russia announced that it would be introducing policies that require foreign students to spend at least a year studying and passing exams for government mandated subjects, for

²⁴⁷ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Education Policy Outlook, Mexico, November 2013, http://www.oecd.org/edu/EDUCATION%20POLICY%20OUTLOOK%20MEXICO_EN.pdf

²⁴⁸ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Education Policy Outlook, Mexico, November 2013, http://www.oecd.org/edu/EDUCATION%20POLICY%20OUTLOOK%20MEXICO_EN.pdf

²⁴⁹ Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Education Policy Outlook, Mexico, November 2013, http://www.oecd.org/edu/EDUCATION%20POLICY%20OUTLOOK%20MEXICO_EN.pdf

²⁵⁰ Russia announces new investments in higher education and study abroad, ICEF Monitor, Access date: 14th October 2014. <http://monitor.icef.com/2014/07/russia-announces-new-investments-in-higher-education-and-study-abroad/>

²⁵¹ State Gives \$295 Million to 14 Russian Universities to Boost Standards Amid Cull, The Moscow Times. Access date: 12th October 2014. <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/state-gives-295-million-to-14-russian-universities-to-boost-standards-amid-cull/502393.html>

²⁵² <http://www.obrnadzor.gov.ru/>

²⁵³ Russians will be able to study abroad for free, Russia Beyond the Headlines. Access date: 14th October 2014. http://rbth.com/news/2014/06/24/russians_will_be_able_to_study_abroad_for_free_37681.html.

instance Russian language and literature.²⁵⁴ Simultaneously, the Russian Ministry of Education and Science stated that it aims to raise the percentage of international students from 2.5% of higher education enrolments to 6% in 2015; and to 10% in 2018.

On 27 May 2014, the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia announced a plan to produce an official ranking of higher education institutions by June 2015. Results will be reported to the government by May 2015. This announcement was made as Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev noted the importance of ensuring the international competitiveness of Russian educational institutions.²⁵⁵

On 23 June 2014, the Russian Government announced a significant funding boost for 14 universities, demonstrating a continued commitment to boost the global competitiveness of its higher education institutions. The states agreed to give \$295 million to 14 universities; this funding commitment was accompanied by additional support for student mobility and by research findings noting students are continuing to exhibit a strong interest to studying abroad.²⁵⁶ The funding is part of the “Development of Education” programme.

On 24 June 2014, in order to encourage Russian students to study abroad, Prime Minister Medvedev announced that Russian students, who are accepted for graduate study at specific foreign universities, could study for free, if they agree to work for a Russian company for at least three years.²⁵⁷ The program was developed by Russia’s Agency for Strategic Initiatives (ASI).

Each of these developments are part of various education reforms, including the creation of new federal universities, a greater focus on deeper internationalisation and research and development, along with the awarding of academic mobility grants.²⁵⁸

In July 2013 the Ministry of Education and Science presented a new initiative, Funding New Education Programs in Regions. Curricula will be aimed at teaching qualifications necessary in the sectors developed in particular regions.²⁵⁹

In July 2013, The Agency for Strategic Initiatives presented the Dual Education project. The project involves vocational education for high-tech industries personnel. There are two aspects to the training, the practical part takes place in the workplace, and the theoretical part is based in an educational organization. The system of dual education involves co-financing of training programs for companies interested in qualified personnel, and regional authorities interested in developing the economy and improving living standards in the region.²⁶⁰

²⁵⁴ Russia announces new investments in higher education and study abroad, ICEF Monitor, Access date: 14th October 2014. <http://monitor.icef.com/2014/07/russia-announces-new-investments-in-higher-education-and-study-abroad/>

²⁵⁵ Russia to Prepare International Higher Education Rankings by 2015, Rianovosti. Access date: 13th October 2014. <http://en.ria.ru/russia/20140527/190164061/Russia-to-Prepare-International-Higher-Education-Rankings-by.html>

²⁵⁶ Russia announces new investments in higher education and study abroad, ICEF Monitor, Access date: 14th October 2014. <http://monitor.icef.com/2014/07/russia-announces-new-investments-in-higher-education-and-study-abroad/>

²⁵⁷ Russians will be able to study abroad for free, Russia Beyond the Headlines. Access date: 14th October 2014. http://rbth.com/news/2014/06/24/russians_will_be_able_to_study_abroad_for_free_37681.html

²⁵⁸ Russia announces new investments in higher education and study abroad, ICEF Monitor, Access date: 14th October 2014. <http://monitor.icef.com/2014/07/russia-announces-new-investments-in-higher-education-and-study-abroad/>

²⁵⁹ Educational Programs in Regions, July 2013, the Ministry of Education and Science, http://минобрнауки.рф/документы/2974/файл/1543/12.12.29-ФЗ_Об_образовании_в_Российской_Федерации.pdf

²⁶⁰ Dual Education (2 years project), July 2013, <http://www.asi.ru/molprof/dualeducation/>

In September 2013 the new Law on Education came into force. It foresees inclusiveness of vulnerable populations; distant education; greater role of apprenticeships; cooperation between educational institutions and real sector of economy.²⁶¹

In November 2013, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed Government Resolution approving the rules for granting state support of educational loans. The educational loans can be issued for the purpose of education itself and for co-purpose costs including the rental of an apartment near to the educational institution.²⁶²

In December 2013, Andrey Nikitin, the General Director of Agency for Strategic Initiatives, presented the Presidential program, Global Education. The program provides an opportunity for the citizens of Russia to receive an education from leading international universities.²⁶³

Russia fully complied with the commitment by increasing coordination, evaluation and support for the business sector to supply education.

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia partially complied with the commitment by developing a 5-year plan for education reform, however details of the plan were not accessible and therefore all aspects of the commitment were not complied with.

On 19 May 2014, King Abdullah approved a 5-year plan, which is worth more than 80 billion riyals (\$21.33 billion) to enhance the Saudi Arabian education sector. This plan includes building 1,500 nurseries, providing training for approximately 25,000 teachers and establishing educational centres and other related projects.²⁶⁴ This funding is in addition to the annual funding already allocated through the education ministry.

The 2014 budget shows heavy spending on welfare projects, thus suggesting the government is aiming to diversify the economy away from oil, in order to create more jobs.²⁶⁵ In the budget, Saudi Arabia allocated \$56 billion (SR210 billion) to education and training. This amount is 3 percent higher than the 2013 allocation, and the highest increase since 2007.

South Africa: 0

The government of South Africa invested in education and vocational, training, but did not take actions to support reform within the government systems or support businesses to facilitate lifelong learning.

In 2010 the Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga, announced a four-year action plan for schooling, which would be a part of a larger project called *Schooling 2025*.²⁶⁶ The Action plan has 27

²⁶¹ Law on Education, September 2013, Government

http://минобрнауки.рф/документы/2974/файл/1543/12.12.29ФЗ_Об_образовании_в_Российской_Федерации.pdf

²⁶² Access to Educational Loans, November 2013, Government <http://government.ru/news/8222>

²⁶³ Global Education, December 2013, Presidential program <http://www.asi.ru/molprof/globaleduintegration/>

²⁶⁴ Saudi Arabia approves \$21 bln five-year education plan –SPA. Date of access: 16th October 2014.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/19/saudi-education-idUSL6N0053HU20140519>

²⁶⁵ Saudi Arabia's 2014 Budget Emphasizes Long-Term Development, US Saudi Arabian Business Council. Date of

access: 17th October 2014. <http://www.us-sabc.org/custom/news/details.cfm?id=1541#.VED29159lmw>

²⁶⁶ Action Plan to 2014: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2025, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 2010.

Date of Access: 14 September 2014.

<http://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/ActionPlanto2014/tabid/418/Default.aspx>.

national goals that result in better enrolment and quality of education.²⁶⁷ In 2013, South Africa's Department of Higher Education and Training published their "White paper for Post-School Education and Training."²⁶⁸ Its objectives were to increase technical and vocational education enrolment, create diversity in university education, expand 'distance higher-education' through online and blended learning, and create a more connected education landscape with a wider range of learning opportunities.²⁶⁹

On 17 June 2014, President Jacob Zuma pressed the government's Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative by proceeding to eliminate 496 "mud schools," and investing R8.2 billion to "provide water and sanitation to 1 257 schools and electricity to 878 schools, by March 2016."²⁷⁰ He also announced the construction of two new universities.²⁷¹ On the 25 July 2014, Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande reveal that community colleges would be expanded to "cater to unskilled people and those who did not finish their schooling."²⁷² R20.7 billion was also invested in TVET colleges to continue the growth in enrolments, refurbish and build campuses, as well as create greater training programs.²⁷³

The South African government has engaged in numerous projects to enhance the quality and availability of education, as well as skills training for its citizens. However, they have fell short of producing systemic reform within the respectable areas of government, or work with local enterprise to create jobs; so for those reasons, they receive a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrew DeFor

Turkey: -1

Turkey failed to comply with the commitment. It supported financial education but did not improve the education and training system, reform the system or provide support to businesses to provide lifelong learning training.

A report published by the Turkish Ministry of Labour included an announcement on projects to be held from July-December 2014. The announcement explains that the Ministry will hold information sessions to raise awareness on the "employment issues of women" in four different provinces.²⁷⁴ A 2014 report by the Sustainable Governance Indicators shows that in 2010 women were involved in the workforce at a rate was at 27.6 per cent in 2010, 28.8 per cent in 2011 and 29.5 per cent in

²⁶⁷ Action Plan to 2014: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2025, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 2010. Date of Access: 14 September 2014.

<http://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/ActionPlanto2014/tabid/418/Default.aspx>.

²⁶⁸ New Policies for Online Learning and Distance Education in South Africa, Tony Bates (Vancouver) 16 March 2014.

Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.tonybates.ca/2014/03/16/new-policies-for-online-learning-and-distance-education-in-south-africa/>.

²⁶⁹ New Policies for Online Learning and Distance Education in South Africa, Tony Bates (Vancouver) 16 March 2014.

Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.tonybates.ca/2014/03/16/new-policies-for-online-learning-and-distance-education-in-south-africa/>.

²⁷⁰ South Africa to Continue Investing in Education, South Africa (South Africa) 17 June 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.southafrica.info/about/government/sona-170614g.htm#.VBYPF1ZNulw>.

²⁷¹ South Africa to Continue Investing in Education, South Africa (South Africa) 17 June 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.southafrica.info/about/government/sona-170614g.htm#.VBYPF1ZNulw>.

²⁷² South Africa to Expand, Improve Technical Colleges, South Africa (South Africa) 25 July 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.southafrica.info/about/education/education-250714.htm#.VBXTJVZNulw>.

²⁷³ July 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.southafrica.info/about/education/education-250714.htm#.VBXTJVZNulw>.

²⁷⁴ 2014 Yili Kurumsal Mali Durum ve Beklentiler Raporu (Report for Cooperate Financial Situation and Projections, 2014), Strateji Gelistirme Baskanligi (Presidency of Strategy Development) (Ankara) July 2014. Date of Access: 18 September 2014. http://www.csgeb.gov.tr/csgebPortal/ShowProperty/WLP%20Repository/sgb/dosyalar/2014_mali

2012.²⁷⁵ In a speech the Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Babacan said that the rate reached 30.8 per cent in 2014.²⁷⁶ Turkey's 2023 target remains to be to have 35 per cent of women participating in workforce.²⁷⁷

Financial education was an essential theme for conferences and meetings in Turkey throughout the year of 2014. In May 2014, the Turkish Undersecretariat of Treasury and the Central Bank of Turkey held "High Level International Conference on Global and European Trends in Financial Education: New Challenges, Innovation and Measures of Success."²⁷⁸ On 19 June 2014, The Marmara Hotel in Istanbul hosted a conference named Developing Infrastructure Products for Investors. The conference looked at what is needed for attracting more long-term investors, and government's roles in pursuing this goal. The conference also sought to encourage domestic investors into infrastructure projects.

A report titled "Financial Accessibility, Financial Literacy, Strategies for the Protection of Financial Consumers, and Action Plans" published in June 2014, by the Association for Financial Literacy and Accessibility in Turkey, specifically studies the strategies and plans relevant to this G20 commitment.²⁷⁹ This report underlines some principles such as comprehensiveness, objectivity, awareness, sustainability, measuring and revision, need-based availability, simplicity and clarity in language, and adequate instructors as essentials to improving financial education.²⁸⁰ This report's structure consists of charts that explain the objective of the action plan (which is mainly to improve financial literacy; through actions such as preparing surveys, researching, establishing committees, building centres, etc...), the board or organization that is responsible for implementing the action plan (which is mostly the Capital Markets Board of Turkey and the Central Bank), and the anticipated end date (which is not before September 2014).

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom partially complied with the commitment.

A more recent initiative by the UK government has been a £2.5 billion 'pupil premium' that is attempting to raise the achievement level of disadvantaged students through the 2014-2015 fiscal year.²⁸¹

On 2 July 2014, £16 million was invested in the UK creative industries.²⁸² In an effort by the UK government to increase skills training programs in collaboration with the Creative Industries Council

²⁷⁵ 2014 Turkey Report, Sustainable Growth Indicators, p. 8. 2014.

²⁷⁶ Turkish Deputy PM Calls for More Women to Work, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 13 May 2014. Date of Access: 18 September 2014. <http://www.dailysabah.com/economy/2014/05/13/turkish-deputy-pm-calls-for-more-women-to-work>

²⁷⁷ Women's Representation in Senior Management: Developments in the European Union and Turkey, Turkish Industry and Business Association (Istanbul) 13 April 2012. Date of Access: 18 September 2014. <http://www.tusiad.org/information-center/from-the-factory-of-ideas/womens-representation-in-senior-management--developments-in-the-european-union-and-turkey/>

²⁷⁸ "High Level International Conference on Global and European Trends in Financial Education: New Challenges, Innovation and Measure of Success", Capital Markets Board of Turkey <http://www.cmb.gov.tr/duyurugoster.aspx?aid=2014416&subid=0&ct=c&yanmenuid=1>

²⁷⁹ Finansal Erisim, Finansal Tuketicinin Korunmasi Stratejisi ve Eylem Planı, Undersecretariat of Turkey, the Central Bank of Turkey, Capital Markets Board of Turkey, BDDK, TMSF (Ankara) June 2014.

²⁸⁰ Finansal Erisim, Finansal Tuketicinin Korunmasi Stratejisi ve Eylem Planı, Undersecretariat of Turkey, the Central Bank of Turkey, Capital Markets Board of Turkey, BDDK, TMSF, p. 8 (Ankara) June 2014.

²⁸¹ Raising the Achievement of Disadvantaged Children, Government of UK (England) 16 July 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/raising-the-achievement-of-disadvantaged-children#actions>.

(CIC).²⁸³ The UK government contributed another £32.6 million to improve skills and vocational training in the UK science sector, announced by Science Minister David Willets on 8 July 2014.²⁸⁴ The investment hopes to create “1,300 apprenticeships, 240 traineeships, 150 industry degrees, 230 master degree modules and 5,900 ‘workforce development’ opportunities.”²⁸⁵

The United Kingdom was awarded a score of partial compliance for supporting vocational and technical training, but failed to take action in the other areas.

Analyst: Andrew DeFor

United States: +1

The United States has complied with their promise to invest in lifelong learning programs, increase employability with skills training, and reform systematic issues.

The United States spent upwards of US \$141 billion on education during their 2013 and 2014 fiscal years, some of which went to reform projects and grants.²⁸⁶ For instance, in 2013 President Obama announced the ConnectED initiative designed to upgrade K-12 education.²⁸⁷ The three-year, US \$4 billion project included public and private investment, and aimed to “connect 99 percent of America’s students to next-generation broadband...in their schools and libraries,” while supporting the use of technology to improve education.²⁸⁸

On 7 July 2014 the U.S. Department of Education launched the ‘Excellent Educators for All Initiative’, a three-part plan to help “ensure that all students have equal access” to education.²⁸⁹ It included “comprehensive educator equity plans” that analyzes state data and consults schools, a US \$4.2 million “educator equity support network,” as well as “educator equity profiles” of successful and high-need schools.²⁹⁰ On 12 August 2014 the U.S. Department of Education allocated US \$28.4

²⁸² Government Will Match-Fund Industry Commitments to the Tune of £16m (\$27.5m), Screen Daily (London) 2 July 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.screendaily.com/news/uk-creative-industries-get-skills-investment/5073755.article>.

²⁸³ Government Will Match-Fund Industry Commitments to the Tune of £16m (\$27.5m), Screen Daily (London) 2 July 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.screendaily.com/news/uk-creative-industries-get-skills-investment/5073755.article>.

²⁸⁴ £52 Million Cash Boost to Improve UK Science Skills, PharmaTimes Digital (US) 8 July 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. http://www.pharmatimes.com/article/14-07-08/£52_million_cash_boost_to_improve_UK_science_skills.aspx.

²⁸⁵ £52 Million Cash Boost to Improve UK Science Skills, PharmaTimes Digital (US) 8 July 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. http://www.pharmatimes.com/article/14-07-08/£52_million_cash_boost_to_improve_UK_science_skills.aspx.

²⁸⁶ Fiscal Year 2014 Budget of The U.S. Government, The White House (Washington D.C.) 10 April 2013. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2014/assets/budget.pdf>.

²⁸⁷ ConnectED Initiative, The White House (Washington D.C.) June 2013. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/k-12/connected>.

²⁸⁸ ConnectED Initiative, The White House (Washington D.C.) June 2013. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/k-12/connected>.

²⁸⁹ New Initiative to Provide All Students Access to Great Educators, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 7 July 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/new-initiative-provide-all-students-access-great-educators>.

²⁹⁰ New Initiative to Provide All Students Access to Great Educators, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 7 July 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/new-initiative-provide-all-students-access-great-educators>.

million in grants to help low-income students taking Advanced Placement Tests.²⁹¹ Finally on, 14 August 2014 the department awarded US \$4 million in grants to support students in special education training and related services.²⁹²

On April 16, 2014 the U.S. Department of Labour launched a US \$500 million 'Job Training Competition' for the public workforce that partners with local industry, employers, and community colleges.²⁹³ Grants are awarded for advanced education and job training for skills, particularly for professions that are on the rise and in-demand.²⁹⁴ July 9, 2014 the U.S. Congress approved the 'Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act', which focuses on developing "accessible industry-specific training centers" and local adult education programs to boost middle-class job opportunities.²⁹⁵

On 2 February 2014, the Department of Labor released the details of the Long-term Unemployed H-1B Ready To Work Partnerships grant program (Ready to Work) that will utilize approximately \$150 million in revenues from the H-1B visa program to support high performing partnerships between employers, non-profit organizations and America's public workforce system that will help provide long-term unemployed individuals with the range of services, training, and access they need to fill middle and high-skill jobs. The Department expects that a solicitation for applications for these grants will be available in February and awards will be made in mid-2014. The partnerships will focus on reemploying long-term unemployed workers, work-based training that enables earning while learning through models such as on-the-job training (OJT), employer engagement and support in program design.²⁹⁶

The U.S. government has exhibited its commitment to skills training; furthering access and quality of education, as well as attempting to reform modernize their education system. So for those reasons, the U.S. receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrew DeFor

European Union: 0

The European Union partially complied with its commitment to support lifelong learning programs.

²⁹¹ Education Department Awards 40 States, D.C., and the Virgin Islands \$28.4 Million in Grants to Help Low-Income Students Take Advanced Placement Tests, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 12 August 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-department-awards-40-states-dc-and-virgin-islands-284-million-grants-h>.

²⁹² U.S. Education Department Awards Almost \$4 Million in Grants to Help Prepare Graduate Students for Leadership in Special Education, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 14 August 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-education-department-awards-almost-4-million-grants-help-prepare-graduate-stu>.

²⁹³ Fact Sheet – American Job Training Investment: Skills and Jobs to Build a Stronger Middle Class, The White House (Washington D.C.) 16 April 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/04/16/fact-sheet-american-job-training-investments-skills-and-jobs-build-strong>.

²⁹⁴ Fact Sheet – American Job Training Investment: Skills and Jobs to Build a Stronger Middle Class, The White House (Washington D.C.) 16 April 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/04/16/fact-sheet-american-job-training-investments-skills-and-jobs-build-strong>.

²⁹⁵ Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act: Can it help Americans get jobs?, Al Jazeera America (U.S.) 30 July 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://america.aljazeera.com/watch/shows/inside-story/articles/2014/7/30/-workforce-innovationopportunityactcanithelpclosetheskillsgap.html>.

²⁹⁶ United States Department of Labor, Ready to Work, 2 February 2014, <http://www.doleta.gov/ReadyToWork/>

On May 12, 2009 the EU announced its strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training up until 2020.²⁹⁷ Their pursuit of social inclusion and equity in education has led to numerous policies by EU member states targeting the disabled, Roma peoples and immigrant children.²⁹⁸ In 2012, the “Rethinking Education Initiative” was launched under the strategic framework to amend European education systems.²⁹⁹ It focused on reducing unemployment, increasing basic skills, promoting apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and foreign language skills.³⁰⁰ The Europe 2020 Strategy also supports EU member states with improving and modernizing their education system through progress monitoring and evidence-based policy making.³⁰¹ Within the Europe 2020 Strategy, the EU supports various programs that develop IT skills and connect businesses to skilled employees.³⁰² For instance, the ‘Grand Coalition for Digital Jobs’ is a public and private partnership, launched in March 2013 that focused on training young people in ICT and matching them to jobs in the technology market.³⁰³

The EU ran a €7 billion Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) from 2007-2013.³⁰⁴ It provided a learning experience for people at any stage of their life with four sub-programmes that included higher education, vocational training, and adult education.³⁰⁵ This initiative was before the compliance period and therefore does not count towards compliance.

The EU partially complied with the commitment. It supported education and training, but did not support businesses to facilitate lifelong learning. Furthermore, it did not take actions to reform the system.

Analyst: Andrew Defor

²⁹⁷ Education and Training 2020, Europa Summaries of EU Legislation (EU) 23 October 2009. Date of Access: 14 September 2014.

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/education_training_youth/general_framework/ef0016_en.htm.

²⁹⁸ Education and Training for Social Inclusion, European Commission Education and Training (EU) 25 August 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/social-inclusion_en.htm.

²⁹⁹ Rethinking Education, European Commission Languages (EU) 12 September 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. http://ec.europa.eu/languages/policy/strategic-framework/rethinking-education_en.htm.

³⁰⁰ Rethinking Education, European Commission Languages (EU) 12 September 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. http://ec.europa.eu/languages/policy/strategic-framework/rethinking-education_en.htm.

³⁰¹ Education and Training for Growth and Jobs, European Commission Education and Training (EU) 26 August 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/strategic-framework/growth-jobs_en.htm.

³⁰² Skill and Education, European Commission Digital Agenda for Europe (EU) 2009. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/skills-education>.

³⁰³ Grand Coalition for Digital Jobs, European Commission Digital Agenda for Europe (EU) March 2013. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/grand-coalition-digital-jobs>.

³⁰⁴ Lifelong Learning Programme, European Commission Education and Training (EU) 25 August 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/llp_en.htm.

³⁰⁵ Lifelong Learning Programme, European Commission Education and Training (EU) 25 August 2014. Date of Access: 14 September 2014. http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/llp_en.htm.

3. Labour and Employment: Vocational Training Programs

2013-74: “We are committed to creating vocational training programs.”

G20 St. Petersburg Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average Score		+0.85	

Background

The 2013 St. Petersburg Summit marked the first time that the Ministers of Labour were in attendance and active participation, attesting to the importance with which they viewed addressing unemployment challenges. This also represents the collaboration and coordination in labour, social, macroeconomic and financial policies.

Though there are variances across regions, jittery investors and employers have held back from hiring due to the continuously bleak economic outlook and insufficient policy responses. The job market has remained especially difficult for some segments of the population, such as youth and other vulnerable groups. The G20 members plan to improve these groups’ employability through job search assistance, work experience, and public employment programs, as well as hiring subsidies and conditional transfers as per country’s circumstances.

Commitment Features

The G20 members committed to creating apprenticeship and vocational training programmes to encourage hiring. The G20 governments plan to invest in people’s skills, education and continued learning to give them skill portability and better prospects, to facilitate mobility and enhance employability.

Where appropriate, these programmes would find innovative ways to reduce non-wage labour costs, moving towards early intervention measures and effective job-search assistance for different groups of youth, and motivating youth entrepreneurship and business start-ups. Tailored strategies including

youth guarantee approaches, developing school and university curricula that support entrepreneurship, and facilitating exchange of best practices among the G20 members and the social partners are deemed crucial in this respect.

The target groups for these programs are youth, women, long-term unemployed, low skilled workers, single parents, people with disabilities and older workers.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member takes no active steps to create vocational training programs AND declares no intent to do so.
0	Member declares its intent to create vocational training programs for one or more of the defined target groups but does not begin doing so.
+1	Member declares its intent to create vocational training programs AND begins creating them for one or more of the defined target groups.

Lead Analyst: Rui Kelly Li

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to apprenticeship and vocational training programmes, particularly in regard to its efforts in the area of youth employment promotion and skills training.

In January 2014, President Christina Kirchner announced the launch of a new federal program called “ProgresAr,” which will contribute ARS80 million towards youth employment and training. Under the program, Argentinian youth between the ages of 18 and 24 who are unemployed, have informal jobs, receive a salary below minimum wage, or who are not enrolled in higher education will receive a universal stipend of ARS600 per month.³⁰⁶ In return, beneficiaries of the stipend must regularly attend classes to graduate from primary or secondary school, enrol in a university course or participate in another type of formal education or training. The program also allows for access to job placement assistance through the Ministry of Labour, and care of dependent children through the Ministry of Social Development.³⁰⁷ Payments have begun and the registration process can be conducted online. The ProgresAr program will reach 1.5 million eligible youth and also provide support for vocational training, counselling and job placement through Argentina’s Ministry of Labour and Employment.³⁰⁸

On 6 October 2014, the government had reported 470,465 young people receiving payments from the ProgresAr program, with over 1 million enrolled through the www.progresar.anses.gob.ar web page. The Executive Director of the ANSES, Diego Bossio, stated that “the number of entries to PROGRESS exceeded all our expectations.” The numbers of registered individuals are distributed throughout the country as follows: 382,673 in the province of Buenos Aires; 72,451 in Skip; 68,779 in

³⁰⁶ProgresAr, El Nuevo Plan Del Gobierno Para Los Jóvenes “niVni”, La Nacion Argentina (Buenos Aires), 22 January 2014. Date of Access: 23 March 2014.

<http://www.lanacion.com.ar/1657619VprogresarVelVnuevoVplanVdelVgobiernoVparaVlosVjovenesVniVni>.

³⁰⁷ Calendario De Pagos Plan Progresar Septiembre 2014, 25 August 2014. Date of Access: 6 October 2014.

<http://calendariodepago.com.ar/calendario-de-pagos-plan-progresar/>

³⁰⁸“ANSES”receives 106,000 applications to enter ‘Progresar’ program, Buenos Aires Herald (Buenos Aires), 30 January 2014. Date of Access: 23 March 2014. <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/article/150972/ansesVreceivesV106000VapplicationsVtoVenterVprogresarVprogram>.

Tucuman and 68,558 to 68,380 in Santa Fe and Córdoba. Of enrolled participants, 75% are between the ages of 19 and 22 and 73% are engaged in some form of education or training.³⁰⁹

At the municipal level, the Government of the City of Buenos Aires provides over two thousand free vocational training courses each year in technical fields such as construction, auto mechanics, graphic design, plumbing and textile-related trades. These programmes garner over 60,000 participants each year and assist them with skills building, technical knowledge, social inclusion and digital literacy. The City of Buenos Aires also provides separate and more targeted vocational training programmes to youth over 16 years of age. These vocational training centres are implemented through the Ministry of Education with the aim of providing greater employment prospects by helping Argentinians to develop skills that will meet domestic employment demand. A special emphasis has also been placed on social inclusion for vulnerable and marginalized groups.³¹⁰

Thus, Argentina has fully complied with its commitment of establishing and implementing vocational training at various levels of government, particularly in regard to youth unemployment. Through its various initiatives, Argentina is aiming to provide its population with the necessary education and skills to become engaged in the workforce.

Argentina is awarded an overall score of +1.

Analysts: Stacy Bocknek and Ariel Sim

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to provide significant additional funding for schools.

In addition to the above commitment, Australia also committed to provide AUD14.3 billion in additional funding over seven years from 2012-13 to move to full implementation of a national disability insurance scheme by 1 July 2019, and significant additional school funding will be provided over the next four years to strengthen education.

The Australian Department of Education website mentions that the Australian government will “provide over [AUD14 billion dollars] to higher education.”³¹¹ The funding will be administered through the Higher Education Support Act (HESA).

On 17 December 2013, the Australian government announced that “no further projects would be funded under the EIF Regional Priorities Round.”³¹² This announcement came after an assessment of “funding priorities as part of the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook.” It is also mentioned that “the timing of any further Education Investment Fund (EIF) funding rounds is yet to be determined and is a matter for Government.”

³⁰⁹ Más de 470.000 Jóvenes Estudiantes" Acceden Al Cobro De Progresar En Septiembre (Buenos Aires), Date of Access : 6 October 2014. <http://www.progresar.anses.gob.ar/noticia/mas-de-jovenes-estudiantes-acceden-al-cobro-de-progresar-en-septiembre-12>.

³¹⁰ La Ciudad ofrece más de 3500 cursos gratuitos de capacitación laboral, City of Buenos Aires (Buenos Aires), 21 February 2014, Date of Access: 23 March 2014. <http://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/noticias/cursosVgratuitosVdeVcapacitacionV>.

³¹¹ Funding, Australian Government Department of Education, 26 November 2013. Date of Access: 22 February 2014. <http://education.gov.au/funding>.

³¹² Education Investment Fund, Australian Government Department of Education, 29 January 2014. Date of Access: 22 February 2014. <http://education.gov.au/education-investment-fund>.

On 1 July 2014, the Australian Medical levy rose from one and a half to two per cent to help fund the national disability insurance scheme.³¹³

On 26 August 2014, the Australian government announced the 2015 phase of the New Colombo Plan, which will add “approximately 60 scholarships and around \$8 million in mobility grants for Australian undergraduate students.”³¹⁴ The New Colombo Plan aims to foster connections in the Indo-Pacific Region.

On 10 September 2014 the Australian Minister for Education declares that the government will commit a further AUD16.5 million to oversea studies to prepare tertiary students for “work in a global environment.”³¹⁵

On 11 September 2014, the G20 nations signed a Joint Declaration, formalizing a commitment to address issues youth, women, and handicapped people face in industries. The nations promise to ensure youth have solid foundations in literacy and numeracy, and to facilitate communication between schools, employers, and employment services to match workforce needs and training. Furthermore, the G20 nations promise to improve the participation of women in the workforce, with the goal of closing the gap between male and female participation by 25 per cent by 2025.³¹⁶

On 6 September 2014, the National Skill Development Corporate (NSDC) of India and Australia’s Department of Industry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Both countries agreed to strengthen their relationship in the area of technical vocational education and training. Both countries promise to exchange information and policy ideas on issues of mutual interest, with a focus on industry participation and training delivery. By November 2014, both countries aim to run a pilot in the automotive, healthcare, IT, and telecom sectors in order to “create transnational standards for both...countries.”³¹⁷

The Australian Department of Education has also promised AUD209 million for round five of the Trades Skills Centres program.³¹⁸ This funding would benefit 136 centres in more than 220 schools nationally, including Tasman District School.³¹⁹

Australia has declared its intent to fund the creation of additional vocational training centres. The Australian government has also made steps to achieve its goal to provide AUD12.3 billion to the national disability insurance scheme. Although Australia has announced the end of funding under the EIF for the foreseeable future, it declared significant additional funding for tertiary education. Furthermore, the government has stated intent to address workforce challenges faced by the target groups.

³¹³ Federal budget feels pain as savings measures slated for July 1 delayed by Senate, 1 July 2014. Date of Access: 6 October 2014. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-07-01/budget-hole-as-savings-measures-delayed-by-senate/5561118>.

³¹⁴ 2015 Round. Date of Access: 6 October 2014. <http://www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/current-round.html>.

³¹⁵ \$16.5 million to help 5000 Australians study overseas, 10 September 2014. Date of Access: 6 October 2014. <http://ministers.education.gov.au/pyne/165-million-help-5000-australians-study-overseas>.

³¹⁶ G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Declaration, 11 September 2014. Date of Access: 6 October 2014. https://www.g20.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/2014%20LEMM%20Declaration.pdf.

³¹⁷ India, Australia come together to collaborate on skill development, 6 September 2014. Date of Access: 6 October 2014. http://www.indiablooms.com/ibns_new/news-details/N/3989/india-australia-come-together-to-collaborate-on-skill-development.html.

³¹⁸ Trade Training Centres in Schools Program, Australian Government Department of Education, 23 January 2014. Date of Access: 22 February 2014. <http://education.gov.au/trade-training-centres-schools-program>.

³¹⁹ Tasman District School Gets New Trade Skills Centre, Eric Hutchinson MP, 31 January 2014. Date of Access: 22 February 2014. <http://www.eric Hutchinson.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014-01-31-money-for-new-trades-skills-centre-at-Tasman-District-School.pdf>.

Australia is awarded an overall score of +1.

Analyst: Andy Li

Brazil: +1

Brazil has complied with its commitment to invest in educating its labourers to enhance mobility and increase employability. Brazil has complied with its commitment to maintain scholarship programs for undergraduate students to encourage labour productivity.

The Organization of American States (OAS) and the Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities (CGBU), with the support of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's Division of Educational Topics, opened the 2014 round of OAS-GCUB scholarships. This includes 500 plus scholarship opportunities for citizens of OAS member states. The scholarships provide tuition for masters and doctoral candidates to study in Brazil.³²⁰

Brazil extended the Science without Borders to a further 100 000 scholarships for 2015. This extension includes provisions for foreign senior researchers to perform joint research projects in Brazil.³²¹

On 22 October 2013, OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría made a speech at Brasilia, evaluating and congratulating Brazil's progress in improving support for its youth. Her speech also launched the Investigating in Youth: Brazil report, which highlighted initiatives that have produced and continue to produce results. Advances mentioned include the "large increases in funding," the increase in vocational training programmes due to the PRONATEC programme, and the aid provided to school drop-outs to help them acquire necessary workplace skills.³²²

On 4 November 2013, Education Ministers from the BRICS — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — countries met and agreed to coordinate and collaborate at the higher education level. Issues discussed include "strengthening collaboration between BRICS universities, partnerships and knowledge exchanges on technical and vocational education and training."³²³

On 22 July 2014, the Brazilian President signs the new ten-year National Education Plan (PNE). The plan establishes a goal to invest 10 per cent of the country's GDP to education by 2024. The main objectives are to increase school attendance among the poor and to erase illiteracy.³²⁴

According to the government of Canada, Brazilian government will "be implementing a national program to support access to technical and vocational training by vulnerable women." Programs developed through the Knowledge Exchange for Equity Program (KEEP) help women acquire skills in fields related to "tourism, food production and processing, crafts and design, and fisheries."³²⁵

³²⁰ External Award: OAS-GCUB Scholarship in Brazil, 30 June 2014. Date of Access: 6 October 2014. <http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/blog/year/2014/06/OAS-GCUB.html>.

³²¹ Brazil extends Science Without Borders with 100,000 new scholarships, 4 July 2014. Date of Access: 6 October 2014. <http://monitor.icef.com/2014/07/brazil-extends-science-without-borders-with-100000-new-scholarships/>.

³²² Brazil should continue efforts to boost education and improve young people's job prospects, OECD, 22 October 2013. Date of Access: 21 February 2014. <http://www.oecd.org/education/brazilshouldcontinueeffortstoboosteducationandimproveyoungpeoplesjobprospects.html>.

³²³ BRICS ministers agree on high-level HE collaboration, University World News, 8 November 2013. Date of Access: 21 February 2014. <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20131107163621596>.

³²⁴ Brazil's 10-year Education Plan Sanctioned by Rousseff, 22 July 2014. Date of Access: 6 October 2014. <http://riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/rio-politics/brazils-10-year-education-plan-sanctioned-by-rousseff/>.

³²⁵ Brazil, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (Ottawa) 6 September 2013. Date of Access: 21 February 2014. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/cpo.nsf/fWebCSAZEn?ReadForm&idx=01&CC=BR>.

Brazil has and plans to continue increasing labour productivity through funding undergraduate studies. It is anticipated that by 2015 over “10 million students will be in universities,” supported by federal loans given through government programs such as PROUNI and FIES. The “government’s Scientific Mobility Program” will continue to provide 101,000 scholarships to aid university students who wish to study at foreign universities.³²⁶

Although Brazil has not formally declared its intent to continue creating vocational training programs, Brazil has continued to maintain vocational training programs for the specified target groups. Furthermore, Brazil has committed to increasing investment in education for the target groups. With regards to Brazil’s country specific commitments, Brazil has maintained its scholarship programmes for tertiary level students.

Brazil has received a +1 for complying with stated commitments.

Analyst: Andy Li

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to create vocational training programmes and has been working actively towards its implementation.

Canada also committed to fund businesses to train unemployed or underemployed people through the Canada Job Grant, negotiating distinct agreements with its provinces and territories. When fully implemented in 2017-18, approximately 130 000 people will have access to training each year.³²⁷ The CJG is designed to match employer and provincial contributions up to a maximum of \$5000 in order to provide employers with more flexibility on the ways in which this training funding is spent in educational institutions.³²⁸

Canada’s progress was most evident on 11 February 2014, when Finance Minister Jim Flaherty tabled the budget. It contained the following initiatives. To help offset the apprenticeship costs of those registered in the Red Seal trades, it created the Canada Apprentice Loan to provide those individuals with interest-free loans of over CAD 100 million. To support entrepreneurs, it invested CAD 40 million into the Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program, which provides mentorship and other resources to help Canadians start and develop new businesses.³²⁹

Canada announced CAD 26.4 million in funding over four years to help expand two training programs connecting youth and other working-age people with intellectual disabilities and employers. Of this funding, CAD 15 million over three years is earmarked for the Canadian Association for Community Living’s Ready, Willing and Able initiative. Recognizing the challenges faced by those with autism spectrum disorder, Canada set aside CAD 11.4 million over four years to support their vocational training.³³⁰

³²⁶ Education and Training, Export.gov. Date of Access: 22 February 2014. http://export.gov/brazil/static/CC_BR_DoingBusiness_CCG_PDF_Chap4_EducationandTraining_Latest_eg_br_062843.pdf

³²⁷ St. Petersburg Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) September 2013. Access Date: 1 February 2014. https://www.g20.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/Saint_Petersburg_Declaration_ENG.pdf.

³²⁸ The myths about Canada’s skills gap, Maclean’s (Toronto) 30 September 2014. Chris Soerenson. Access Date: 30 September 2014. <http://www.macleans.ca/work/jobs/the-myths-about-canadas-skills-gap/>.

³²⁹ Connecting Canadians with available jobs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) February 2014. Access Date: 19 February 2014. <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/ch3---1---eng.html>.

³³⁰ Job training for Canadians with intellectual disabilities gets boost in federal budget, Toronto Star (Toronto) 11 February 2014. Alex Boutilier and Joel Eastwood. Access Date: 19 February 2014. http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2014/02/11/job_training_for_canadians_with_intellectual_disabilities_gets_boost_in_federal_budget.html.

Additionally, Canada introduced the Flexibility and Innovation in Apprenticeship Technical Training pilot project for apprentice technical training. In discussions with premiers in September 2014, federal employment Minister Jason Kenney suggested that provinces direct more fiscal transfers to polytechnic institutions and vocational schools with programs in skilled trades.³³¹

Addressing the vulnerable seniors' employment difficulties, Canada invested CAD 75 million in the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers to help them transition into the job market.³³²

Canada adhered to its commitments at St. Petersburg by creating vocational training and apprenticeship programmes to help vulnerable groups such as youth, seniors and those with disabilities to participate in the labour force.

Thus, for its efforts, Canada has been awarded the score of +1.

Lead Analyst: Rui Kelly Li

China: +1

China has fully complied with both its commitment to enhance the “social safety net” and “promote” reform by opening up its market, and the Final St. Petersburg Summit Declaration to create vocational training programs. It has supported widespread vocational training programs, and has made steps to target vulnerable groups. It is working multilaterally with other nations to achieve this goal.

A background paper, published April 2014, also by the OECD for the 2014 Melbourne G20 Summit notes that China is accelerating the development of a modern vocational education system. In particular, the paper commends China for the development of short and long term vocational training schools, amounting in 3075 skilled workers' schools, with subsidies attracting students to these programs.³³³

A partnership workshop on vocational education was held on May 5, 2014 between China and Myanmar, organised by the ASEAN-China centre. Experts from both sides were able to share knowledge on vocational education.³³⁴

Premier Li Keqiang stated at a National vocational educational conference in Beijing on June 23, 2014 the importance of having a highly skilled vocational labour workforce. A guideline implemented by the Chinese State Council on June 22, 2014, plans to increase the amount of students in vocational institutions from the current 29.34 million to 38.3 million by 2020. Already, China has the largest number of vocational institutions in the world.³³⁵

³³¹ Jason Kenney: Provinces who want TFWS should invest more in vocational schools, Macleans (Toronto) 30 September 2014. Canadian Press. Access Date: 30 September 2014. <http://www.macleans.ca/news/canada/jason-kenney-provinces-who-want-tfws-should-invest-more-in-vocational-schools/>.

³³² Building Canada one budget at a time: Brietkreuz, News Review (Yorkton) February 2014. Access Date: 19 February 2014. <http://www.yorktonnews.com/article/20140219/YORKTONNEWS0101/302199997/building---canada---one---budget---at---a---time---breitkreuz>.

³³³ G20-OECD-EC Conference on Quality Apprenticeships for Giving Youth a Better Start in the Labour Market, Organisation for Cooperation and Development (Paris), 9 April 2014, http://www.oecd.org/els/emp/G20-OECD-EC%20Apprenticeship%20Conference_Issues%20Paper.pdf

³³⁴ ASEAN-China Centre Organized Myanmar-China Partnership Workshop on Vocational Education in Yangon, Myanmar, ASEAN-China Centre (Beijing), 8 May 2014. Date Accessed: 6 October 2014. http://www.asean-china-center.org/english/2014-05/08/c_133319033.htm

³³⁵ China wants fewer college grads, more skilled workers. Sound familiar? Bloomberg Businessweek (New York), 24 June 2014. Date Accessed: 6 October 2014. <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-06-24/china-wants-more-vocational-students-fewer-universities>

In September 2014, a joint International Labour Organisation, World Bank and the OECD report prepared for the G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial meeting in Melbourne commended China for “aggressively raising” minimum wages. In addition, the report also noted expansion in social protection, and that working poverty has declined particularly in China.³³⁶ This corresponds with its St. Petersburg commitment to “strengthen the social safety net.”

China’s national advisors recommended on September 12, 2014 that China implement vocational training programs as a means of combating the unemployment in regions highly populated by minorities.³³⁷ This indicates that vocational training is a priority for the Chinese economic leaders negotiating the trade.

On September 11, 2014, Britain’s Finance ministry announced that they were about to sign commercial deals with China worth 2.4 billion pounds, 200 million pounds of which would go towards the development of vocational training schools and nursing homes in China.³³⁸

China has taken active steps to meet its St. Petersburg commitments by continuing to fund the creation of vocational schools and improving their accessibility to minorities, youth and in rural areas.

Thus, China is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Madeline Torrie

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to create vocational training programs.

Boundaries to employment removed included the reform of current training contribution requirements. Companies were previously required to make payments towards three separate agencies totalling 0.9 per cent of their mass salary for the purpose of training.³³⁹ This was replaced by a “duty to train” framework which has levels of contribution determinant on company size while ensuring that the funds collected go to only one source, the “Organisme paritaire collecteur agréé.” Additionally, the proposed 24 hour minimum work week for part-time employees was temporarily suspended for six months.³⁴⁰

The Government of France has cited interest in continuing its “jobs of the future” program. On 25 October 2013 it published its 2014 target of creating 150,000 jobs for future positions, a 50 per cent

³³⁶ G20 Labour Markets: Outlook, Key Challenges, and Policy Responses, The International Labour Organisation (Switzerland), Organisation for Cooperation and Development (Paris), and the World Bank Group (New York), 9 September 2014. Date Accessed: 6 October 2014. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/--publ/documents/publication/wcms_305421.pdf

³³⁷ Political Advisors Discuss Ethnic Minority Employment, People's Daily (Beijing), 12 September 2014. Date Accessed: 6 October 2014. <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/n/2014/0912/c90785-8781535.html>

³³⁸ UK says to sign nearly \$4 billion in trade deals with China, Reuters (London), 11 September 2014. 2014. Date Accessed: 6 October 2014. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/11/us-britain-china-trade-idUSKBN0H62L220140911>

³³⁹ Address by Minister Labour, Employment and Social Affairs Michel Sapin at the French National Assembly (Paris) 26 February 2014. Date of Access 28 February 2014. <http://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualite-presse,42/discours,2142/discours-de-michel-sapin-projet-de,17558.html>

³⁴⁰ Formation professionnelle : la réforme définitivement adoptée, MYTF1 News. 27 February 2014. Date of Access : 4 March 2014. <http://lci.tf1.fr/economie/entreprise/formation-professionnelle-la-reforme-definitivement-adoptee-8373981.html>

increase from its 2013 target.³⁴¹ On 29 September 2014 France announced it had met the target and proceeded to increase the 2014 goal by an additional 44,000.³⁴² The program, which provides training for youth without postsecondary education, ended 2013 just shy of reaching its target.³⁴³

On 5 March 2014, France passed a vocational training law intended to implement far-reaching reforms in order to increase the number of apprentices in France. Indeed the promotion and growth of apprenticeship programmes is among the main components of France's youth employment policy; the government aims to increase the number of apprenticeships in the country from 430,000 to 500,000 by 2017.³⁴⁴ This law will also remove bureaucratic boundaries and non-wage costs to employment, while providing more mentorship to individual's skill training.³⁴⁵ The bill would also provide support services for individuals through training and employee mentorship. Moreover, under the February 2014 legislation on vocational training, employment and social democracy, the apprenticeship levy was reformed whereby the levy would be split in order to allocate more resources to apprenticeships programmes through French Apprentice Training Centres.

The legislation also affords more protection to the status of "apprentice," by reforming the apprenticeship contract, which will offer the apprentice the protection and status of a permanent contract of employment without calling their status into question. This provision affords more protection to apprentices by making it easier for them to obtain bank loans or to secure accommodation. It also reflects some employers' desire to retain the apprentices they train.

These initiatives fall within the context of France's framework on the restructuring of France's schools that was implemented on 8 July 2013, as well as the law of 22 July 2013 regarding higher education and research. These aim to improve the integration of young people into the workforce by making sandwich placements and internships a mandatory component of vocational masters and degrees. In this regard, the target is to double the number of students completing internships and course-related work by 2020.

After taking the above measures into account, one can conclude that France has complied with its commitment to vocational training and apprenticeships, both through its recently-passed vocational training law, as well as through the continued success of its "jobs for the future" initiative.

Thus, France has been rewarded a score of +1.

Analyst: M. Iain McCauley

³⁴¹ Budget 2014: l'essentiel de l'effort de redressement repose sur des économies, View Publique. 20 February 2014. Date of Access 4 March 2014. <http://www.vie-publique.fr/actualite/dossier/budget-2014/budget-2014-essentiel-effort-redressement-repose-economies.html>.

³⁴² Le chiffre de 150 000 emplois d'avenir a été atteint aujourd'hui, Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi, de la Formation Professionnelle et du Dialogue Social (Paris) 29 September 2014. Date of Access : 5 October 2014. <http://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualite-presse,42/communiqués,2138/emplois-d-avenir,2189/actualités,2264/le-chiffre-de-150-000-emplois-d,18042.html>.

³⁴³ Sapin: succès dans le dialogue social, revers sur l'emploi, Le Monde. 26 February 2014. Date of Access: 4 March 2014. http://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2014/02/26/le-bilan-de-michel-sapin-succes-dans-le-dialogue-social-revers-sur-l-emploi_4373444_823448.html.

³⁴⁴ Apprentissage : 500 000 apprentis d'ici 2017 en France, Ministère de la ville, de la jeunesse et des sports (Paris) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 21 October 2014. <http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr/actualites/actualites-interministerielles/article/apprentissage-500-000-apprentis-d>

³⁴⁵ Loi relative à la formation professionnelle, à l'emploi et à la démocratie sociale : une adoption expresse pour des réformes d'envergure, Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi, de la Formation Professionnelle et du Dialogue Social (Paris) 27 February 2014. Date of Access: 4 March 2014. <http://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualite-presse,42/communiqués,2138/loi-relative-a-la-formation,17563.html>.

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment. It has both declared its intent to adhere to its commitment and has followed through in creating and maintaining programs for the specified target groups.

In addition to the above commitment, Germany also committed to continue to implement its “Skilled Workers Strategy” to promote the availability of highly qualified workers through its immigration policy.

On 1 November 2013, Germany makes changes to their “Promotion of occupational mobility of interested in training young people and unemployed young professionals from Europe” program to increase vocational training support for youth in the EU. The program, “The Job of my Life,” now provides up to sixteen weeks of German language classes as well as up to twelve weeks of multi-language support during the preparatory training placement. Furthermore, the new guidelines provide support to aid youth with previous vocational training in finding placement in a similar field.³⁴⁶

On 3 December 2013, the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs reaffirms its intent to “increase vocational training rates” through special initiatives such as the Perspective 50 plus programme. The ministry will also lead in utilizing the European Social Fund to improve gender equality in the labour market as well as “create incentives for more part-time training” with particular focus on older or less skilled individuals.³⁴⁷

On 8 January 2014, German Federal Labour Minister Andrea Nahles makes a press release reaffirming Germany’s commitment to aiding those with difficulties finding employment either due to insufficient qualifications or as a “result of having been without work for many years.”³⁴⁸

On 11 September 2014, the G20 nations sign a Joint Declaration, formalizing a commitment to address issues youth, women, and handicapped people face in industries. The nations promise to ensure youth have solid foundations in literacy and numeracy, and to facilitate communication between schools, employers, and employment services to match workforce needs and training. Furthermore, the G20 nations promise to improve the participation of women in the workforce, with the goal of closing the gap between male and female participation by 25 per cent by 2025.³⁴⁹

Germany has been awarded a +1 for adhering to its commitments and has declared its commitment to future support for the target groups.

Analyst: Andy Li

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to create vocational training programs. India has increased expenditures for skill development, continued to provide support in its partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and created stronger institutions to prevent non-wage labour costs through the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF).

³⁴⁶ Seit 1.11.2013 gibt’s was Neues, Bundesagentur für Arbeit (Berlin) 1 November 2013. Date of Access: 18 February 2014. <http://www.thejobofmylife.de/de/neuigkeiten.html>.

³⁴⁷ Initial and continuing training, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 3 December 2013. Date of Access: 18 February 2014. <http://www.bmas.de/EN/Our-Topics/Initial-and-Continuing-Training/start-initial-and-continuing-training.html?nn=45510>.

³⁴⁸ “Create new opportunities on the labour market,” Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 8 January 2014. Date of Access: 19 February 2014. <http://www.bmas.de/EN/Service/Press/press-releases/labour-market-figures-december-2013.html?nn=46168>.

³⁴⁹ G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Declaration, 11 September 2014. Date of Access: 6 October 2014. https://www.g20.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/2014%20LEMM%20Declaration.pdf.

In addition to the above commitment, India also committed to set a target that 50 million people will acquire necessary skills by 2017, including 9 million youth in 2013-14. In addition, the National Skill Development Corporation will set the curriculum and standards for training in different skills and provides monetary incentives for youths to acquire their skill certification for which budget provision of about USD1 billion is made for 2013-14.

On 19 December 2013 the Government of India passed the NSQF.³⁵⁰ This program is meant to simplify vocational training through the creation of a credit accumulation and transfer system integrated into existing programs that allows individuals to move more easily between education, vocational training and work. The program's intent is to minimize non-cost barriers vocational training that exist currently.

On 17 February 2014 the Government of India released their interim budget for 2014-15. In this budget they allocated INR17.89 billion in new funding towards Social Security for Unorganized Workers and Skill Development.³⁵¹

The budget provided further funding for the NSDC allowing to expand its job training programmes significantly.³⁵² The NSDC has provided training for 1,349,742 since 2011 and on 6 March 2014 announced that will have the capacity to train 75,000,000 in the next ten years.

On 13 August 2014 the Government of India passed amendments to the Apprentices Act of 1961. This added new apprenticeship designated trades including IT-services, and non-engineering graduate and diploma holders.³⁵³

India has declared its intent to follow through on the commitment and begun to follow through on this commitment through its budget allocations, passage of NSQF and partnership with the NSDC.

Thus, India has been rewarded a score of +1 for its commitment to vocational training programs.

Analyst: M. Iain McCauley

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to creating vocational training programs. The government has stated its intention to create and reform vocational programs. Additionally, it has undertaken measures to facilitate mobility, enhance employability and create jobs. However, Indonesia has not implemented a comprehensive vocational training program for target groups such as youth, women, low-skilled workers, etc.

An article published on 26 October 2013 noted the Jakarta Education Agency signed an agreement to include retail management in the curriculum of vocational schools in the city. Jakarta's Deputy Governor stated this agreement was important in ensuring vocational graduates are qualified to work in modern stores.³⁵⁴

³⁵⁰ National Skills Qualifications Framework, Press Information Bureau (Mumbai) 19 December 2013. Date of Access: 4 March 2014. <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=102050>.

³⁵¹ Expenditure Budget, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 17 February 2014. Date of Access: 7 March 2014. <http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2014-15/eb/sbe62.pdf>.

³⁵² Address by Minister of Finance Palaniappan Chidambaram at Parliament of India (New Delhi) 17 February 2014. Date of Access: 7 March 2014. <http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2014-15/bs/bs.pdf>.

³⁵³ LS passes Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, Business Standard (New Delhi) 15 August 2014. Date of Access: 5 October 2014. http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/lok-sabha-passes-apprentices-bill-114081400713_1.html.

³⁵⁴ Students to learn about retail management, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta), 26 October 2013. Date of Access: 21 February 2014. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/10/26/students-learn-about-retail-management.html>.

On November 6, 2013, the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration (MOMT) proposed building a cooperative framework with the Japan International Training Cooperation Organization in order to enhance advance training for technical intern trainees at vocational training facilities.³⁵⁵

On 7 November 2013, MOMT Spokesman Suhartono said Indonesia's government was "currently preparing a job creation program" that "would include developing workforce skills through training, helping the workforce set up small and medium enterprises and carrying out an emergency job creation program."³⁵⁶

On 13 — 14 November 2013, the Indonesian Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, the MOMT, International Labour Organization, The National Development Planning Agency, the Indonesian Economy Council, and the Indonesian Employers Association jointly hosted the Indonesia Employment Forum. Stated objectives included: facilitating coordination among Indonesian stakeholders on current policy initiatives, formulating strategies for achieving inclusive economic growth, and following up on G20 commitments to promote job creation.³⁵⁷

On 20 November 2013, the Republic of Indonesia secured a USD \$400,000,000 development policy loan from the World Bank.³⁵⁸ The main objective for the money was to "enhance Indonesia's capacity and institutions for reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity." Specific goals included: strengthening the public sector's fiscal stability, protecting the vulnerable by expanding social assistance, empowering communities to take charge of their development needs, enhancing skills and technology, and improving public financial management for improved service delivery. Examples of implementation would be subsidized fuel price increase and implementation of new national social security system (Sistem Jaminan Sosial Nasional).³⁵⁹

In report published on 17 December 2013, the International Labour Organization pointed out "limited linkages and synergies between various AMLPs [active labour market policies and programmes]," while also noting limited connections between ALMP programs and the needs or demands of the labour market. They cite that ALMPs rarely identify youth as a beneficiary of such program. Additionally, the ALMPs are short term and do not link beneficiaries to job search facilities or other post-training support options. The lack of synergy limits the overall effectiveness of ALMP interventions.³⁶⁰

On 17 January 2014, Better Work Indonesia held a business forum with both MOMT and the recently established Social Security Agency. The forum intended to inform employers on

³⁵⁵ Regular Discussion Held with Indonesian Government Liaison. Date of Access: 24 February 2014. http://www.jitco.or.jp/english/engagement_sending_out/indonesia/2013/1210/.

³⁵⁶ Economic slowdown drives up unemployment rate, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta), 7 November 2013. Date of Access: 21 February 2014. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/11/07/economic-slowdown-drives-unemployment-rate.html>.

³⁵⁷ Indonesia Employment Forum, International Labour Organization, 13 – 14 November 2013. Date of Access: 21 February 2014. http://www.ilo.org/jakarta/whatwedo/eventsandmeetings/WCMS_229967/lang--en/index.html.

³⁵⁸ Official Documents- Loan Agreement, L8304-ID (Closing Package), World Bank (Washington, DC), 20 November 2013. Date of Access: 21 February 2014. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2013/11/18674831/official-documents--loan-agreement-l8304-id-closing-package>.

³⁵⁹ Second Institutional Strengthening for Social Inclusion (Second Institutional, Tax Administration, Social and Investment) Development Policy Loan Project. World Bank (Washington, DC), 21 October 2013. Date of Access: 21 February 2014. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2013/10/18459911/indonesia-second-institutional-strengthening-social-inclusion-second-institutional-tax-administration-social-investment-development-policy-loan-project>.

³⁶⁰ Labour and social trends in Indonesia in 2013: Reinforcing the role of decent work in equitable growth, World Bank, 17 December 2013. Date of Access: 21 February 2014. http://www.ilo.org/jakarta/whatwedo/publications/WCMS_233249/lang--en/index.html.

amendments to social security and health insurance laws, enhancing communication among companies and other stakeholders (such as the government and labour unions) on employee rights.³⁶¹

On 25 January 2014, the Jakarta Post reported that local non-governmental organizations believe there must be more “empowerment” training for women in Greater Manggarai and Flores. Specifically, thousands of women are unemployed due to lack of entrepreneurial skills, so the government must “develop creative programs on topics such as organic farming, plantations and other economic activities.”³⁶²

On 12 February 2014, Soekarwo was re-elected as East Java’s governor. In his inauguration speech, Soekarwo promised to develop more vocation schools in order to reduce unemployment in the next five year. Additionally, he committed to strengthening East Java’s economy by providing “assistance to businesses through cooperatives or community groups.”³⁶³

1-2 April 2014 marks the dates for the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) conference in Jakarta. Several ministries — the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture, the MOMT, the Ministry of Industry, National Development and Planning Agency and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development — jointly agreed to host the conference in order to exchange good TVET practices while stimulating TVET networking within member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations.³⁶⁴

On 22 April 2014, the Embassy of India in Jakarta organized a meeting in which H.E. Mr. Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India, said India was planning to open another vocational training in Papua. Mr. Suryo Sulisto, the Chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce, welcomed India’s investment, “especially participation in focused trade fairs.”³⁶⁵

On 11 June 2014, the secretary-general of the Indonesian Employers Association (Apindo), Suryadi Sasmita, said that tertiary education was still too academic and did not equip graduates with the relevant skills for the workplace.³⁶⁶

In August 2014, the Republic of Indonesia and United Nations established a collaboration to foster knowledge exchange about best sustainable development strategies. Specifically, that committed to identifying 1 million “green youth ambassadors” in schools by 2017.³⁶⁷

In September 2014, the Asian Development Bank warned that there appears to be an “education and skills mismatch with jobs” that poses challenges for local corporations to expand their business. The

³⁶¹ Enterprise Forum, Better Work Indonesia, 4 February 2014. Date of Access: 25 February 2014. <http://betterwork.org/indonesia/?p=4622>

³⁶² More training for women needed in Manggarai, Jakarta Post, Jakarta, 25 January 2014. Date of Access: 6 October 2014. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/01/25/more-training-women-needed-manggarai.html>.

³⁶³ Soekarwo inaugurated as E. Java governor, The Jakarta Post (Surabaya, East Java), 13 February 2014. Date of Access: 29 February 2014. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/02/13/soekarwo-inaugurated-e-java-governor.html>.

³⁶⁴ Ensuring TVET Quality, 10 January 2014. Date of Access: 25 February 2014. <https://www.regional-tvet-conference-indonesia.org/en/article/67.ensuring-tvet-quality.html>.

³⁶⁵ India Business Forum and KADIN Indonesia call for more business collaboration. Date of Access: 5 Oct 2014. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/community/work-at-the-globe-how-to-apply-for-the-2015-summer-program/article20916555/>.

³⁶⁶ Education must prepare students for employment, Jakarta Post, Jakarta, 11 June 2014. Date of Access: 5 October 2014. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/06/11/education-must-prepare-students-employment.html>.

³⁶⁷ Green education promoted for sustainable development, Jakarta Post, Jakarta, 31 August 2014. Date of Access: 4 October 2014. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/08/31/green-education-promoted-sustainable-development.html>.

Jakarta Post report the incoming president Joko Widodo is aware of this problem and has vowed to push “revamping of character-building programs for Indonesian schoolchildren.”³⁶⁸

On 2 October 2014, protestors rallied in front of the state palace, calling upon the government to do more “to end the outsourcing of workers,” in which employers use temporary contracts to avoid high severance payments and minimum wage labour laws.³⁶⁹

Although Indonesia has expressed interest in creating more effective vocational training programs, it has not acted substantially on its declarations. In particular, the government has not taken visible steps to organize programs for target groups. Thus, Indonesia has partially complied with its vocational training commitment and is awarded a score of 0.

Analysts: Victoria Wicks and Derek Cuddington

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its St. Petersburg G20 Summit commitments in regards to labour and employment, specifically dealing with vocational training programs.

On October 9th 2013, the International Labour Office financed by the European Commission released a working paper titled “Coping with the crisis in Italy: Employment relations and social dialogue amidst the recession.” It praised Italy for its reactive economic policies in relation to the economic crisis which effected that country. It credited them with being “successful in retaining employment and demonstrated the ability to address challenges through social concentration.”³⁷⁰

On January 15th 2014, the European Union acknowledged it received Italy’s Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan. With an allocation of 530.18 million Euros to begin the process of instating such policies, Italy is expected to match those funds doled to them by the European Social Fund. Now, member states will receive feedback in-order to ensure their plans are realistic and verified to succeed.³⁷¹

In 2013, Ernest and Young published The EY G20 Entrepreneurship Barometer 2013 describing Italy’s efforts to reduce the tax wedge present in that country. Businesses previously cited a complicated tax regime and regulatory system as key barriers to their success. Italy phased in tax incentives for businesses who hire young workers and began to simplify their tax and regulatory systems allowing for improvements in business start-up time.³⁷²

On July 11th 2014, the European Commission accepted Italy’s national Operational Programme for the Youth Employment Initiative, only the second in Europe after France. This plan will be one part of a multifaceted effort to meet the Youth Guarantee. 1.5 billion Euros are now at the government’s disposal and will begin to be doled out. Also, Italy announced it will include those under 29, not just

³⁶⁸ RI needs major change in education to spur growth, Jakarta Post, Jakarta, 13 September 2014. Date of Access: 4 October 2014. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/09/13/ri-needs-major-change-education-spur-growth.html>.

³⁶⁹ Workers rally in Jakarta ahead of Wage negotiations, Jakarta Globe, Jakarta, 2 October 2014. Date of Access: 5 October 2014. <http://thejakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/news/jakarta/workers-rally-jakarta-ahead-wage-negotiations/>.

³⁷⁰ “Coping with the crisis in Italy: Employment relations and social dialogue amidst the recession”, International Labour Office (Geneva) 9 October 2014. Date of Access: 7 March 2014. http://www.ilo.org/ifpdial/information-resources/publications/WCMS_223695/lang--en/index.html.

³⁷¹ Press Release, European Commission (Brussels) 15 January 2014. Date of Access: 7 March 2014. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-13_en.html.

³⁷² “The EY G20 Entrepreneurship Barometer 2013”, Ernest and Young (United Kingdom) 2013. Date of Access: 7 March 2014. [http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/EY-G20-country-report-2013-Italy/\\$FILE/EY-G20-country-report-2013-Italy.pdf](http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/EY-G20-country-report-2013-Italy/$FILE/EY-G20-country-report-2013-Italy.pdf)

25 as the European Union originally put forward in their plans, in their efforts to secure employment for young people as part of the Youth Guarantee.³⁷³

As demonstrated by these initiatives, Italy is actively working towards a European Union wide initiative to make a Youth Guarantee in hopes of curbing the bleak youth employment market.

Italy receives a score of +1 as it has also taken concrete measures to begin the elimination of the strong tax wedge present in the country, the second part of its commitment at the G20 summit.

Analyst: Max Stern

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to create vocational training programs. Japan implemented employment service programs aimed at the youth demographic and is scheduled to move ahead on policies which develop employment opportunities for elderly persons. Furthermore, Japan expanded its Equal Employment Opportunity Law. However, Japan has not created new policies or opportunities for the disabled, advanced new curricula involving entrepreneurship, or new structures offering support to single parents.

Scheduled for the fiscal year (FY) of 2013, Japan will create university-affiliated job support/consultation “Hello Work” (Japan’s employment service centre) locations for graduates and current students, provide “Intensive Support for Unemployed Graduates 2013” for students who do not receive a job offer prior to graduating, create a network of small to medium-sized companies interested in recruiting young people, create a special designation for companies proactive about hiring younger people, and increase the number of “Regional Youth Support Stations” designed to enhance the vocational independence of young people, including NEETs (young people “Not in Education, Employment, or Training”), from 110 to 160.^{374,375}

Scheduled for FY2013, Japan will implement the ageless society realization model project, increasing consultations with business operators on employment management that aims towards an ageless society and provide subsidies for business operators that develop employment environments for the elderly.

From 3 June 2014, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Annual Health created an online portal which contains assistance for companies with employee management, job-matching, and skills development.³⁷⁶ In September 2014, “Hello Work” made its resources available online to target private businesses and local governments to increase the likelihood of matching job-seekers with employers.³⁷⁷

Effective 1 July 2014, Japan expanded its Equal Employment Opportunity Law to include clauses protecting against same-sex sexual harassment and protecting against companies who refuse to promote employees to management positions based on their marital status, possibility of taking

³⁷³ Press Release, European Commission (Brussels) 11 July 2014. Date of Access: 5 October 2014.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-826_en.html.

³⁷⁴ Labour and Welfare Report 2012-2013, Japan Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Annual Health. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/wp/wp-hw7/dl/05e.pdf>.

³⁷⁵ Human Resources Development Report, Japan Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Annual Health. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/wp/wp-hw7/dl/06e.pdf>.

³⁷⁶ Company Assistance Online Portal Information, Japan Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Annual Health. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000053276.html>.

³⁷⁷ Labour and Welfare Human Resources Press Release, Japan Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Annual Health. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000033347.html>.

maternity leave, or one's family situation.³⁷⁸ Japan is underutilizing its educated women, but the Prime Minister promotes a target of 30 per cent of senior management positions to be filled by women by 2020.^{379,380,381}

As of September 2014, there has been little change in the institutional resources available to persons with disabilities (e.g., vocational ability development schools numbers have stayed at 19 for five years).

261 facilities existed nationwide for vocational training in 2013. This number decreased from 275 in FY 2008-2009, to 269 in FY 2009-2010, to 264 in FY 2010-2011, and 265 in 2011-2012.³⁸²

Japan has complied with its commitment to create vocational and training programs.

Therefore, Japan received a score of +1.

Analysts: Rui Kelly Li and Derek Cuddington

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to enhance labour participation for women, youth, and older workers by strengthening childcare support, launching an apprenticeship system, and providing incentives and subsidies for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to hire these targeted individuals. These measures are part of an overall strategy to increase Korea's employment rate from 64 per cent to 70 per cent by 2017.³⁸³

On 28 November 2013, the Korean Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET) hosted a seminar on labour mobility as part of the Global HR Forum 2013, during which it reaffirmed its intent to implement an apprenticeship system in response to youth unemployment and skills mismatch.³⁸⁴ Korea officially launched the Work-Study Dual System, modelled after the German apprenticeship program, in January 2014. This measure to promote youth employment puts companies in charge of teaching recruits the necessary job skills on top of their academic education.³⁸⁵

³⁷⁸ Equal Employment Opportunity Law Revisions, Japan Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Annual Health. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000033232.html>.

³⁷⁹ The Global Gender Gap Report, World Economic Forum. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://www.weforum.org/reports/global-gender-gap-report-2013>.

³⁸⁰ Education in 2013: An 'A' for Ambition, but Japan will Have to Do Better, The Japan Times, 29 December 2013. Teru Clavel. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/community/2013/12/29/issues/education-in-2013-an-a-for-ambition-but-japan-will-have-to-do-better/>.

³⁸¹ "Japan will implement labour reform measures, such as increasing the capacities of childcare services, to raise the employment rate of women (age 25-44) to 73% by 2020.", St. Petersburg Action Plan. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://www.oecd.org/g20/meetings/saint-petersburg/St-Petersburg-Action-Plan.pdf>.

³⁸² Labour and Welfare Reports 208-13, Japan Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/wp/>.

³⁸³ MOEL pledges to implement 4 policy goals and 11 strategies in 2014 to achieve 70% employment rate, Ministry of Employment and Labour (Sejong) 11 February 2014. Access Date: 3 October 2014. http://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1041.

³⁸⁴ Cedefop presents European VET in South Korea, European Centre for the Development of Educational Training (Seoul) November 2013. Access Date: 11 March 2014. <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/news/22145.aspx>.

³⁸⁵ Column by Vice Minister Jung Hyun-ok on Enterprise- and industry-led vocational training, Ministry of Employment and Labour (Sejong) 7 April 2014. Access Date: 29 September 2014. http://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1046.

On 19 December 2013, President Park Geun-hye introduced a more flexible system of working hours.³⁸⁶ This measure responds to the many Korean women who found it difficult to shoulder both workplace and child-caring responsibilities.

On 10 January 2014, President Park pledged to create 1.65 million jobs for women and to increase the female employment rate from 53.5 per cent to 61.9 per cent before February 2018.³⁸⁷ Park appointed Minister of Gender Equality and Family Cho Yoon Sung to coordinate all government ministries towards meeting this target. Cho followed the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's advice of using peer pressure to press companies into hiring more women, such as praising Samsung Electronics and Lotte Group while calling on Hyundai Motor Co. to create more flexible part-time jobs for women.³⁸⁸

On 4 February 2014, the Ministry of Strategy and Finance (MOSF) reiterated its commitment to support female employment and outlined four areas of focus: maternity care, daycare, reemployment support and flexible work hours, and family-friendly markets. Support measures include creating a temporary database of workers to fill in for women on maternity leave, introducing flexible and extended daycare services, offering monetary support to companies that extend employment contracts for women, and promoting flexible work hours in large firms.³⁸⁹

On 27 March 2014, the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Ministry of Employment and Labour (MOEL) signed a Declaration of Intent (DOI) with Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research on Vocational & Education Training (VET) following President Park's visit to the country. The two countries agreed to enhance collaboration in research and policy in addition to holding annual joint conferences to further VET development.³⁹⁰

On 20 May 2014 at the 39th Employment Policy Council Meeting in Seoul, Employment and Labour Minister Phang Ha-nam announced the MOEL's plan to foster 3000 prospective work-based learning providers this year. The ministry will offer consulting to companies on both the Work-Study Dual System and the youth internship project to facilitate their development into suitable work-based learning providers.³⁹¹

On 10 June 2014, the Ministry of Employment and Labour (MOEL), the Ministry of Education (MOE), the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP), software-related schools, and 11 large and medium-sized firms signed "the MOU for the realization of a competency-oriented society in the software sector."³⁹² Under the MOU, students will be trained according to the National

³⁸⁶ S. Korea's youth unemployment rate rises, China Daily (Beijing) 19 December 2013. Access Date: 11 March 2014. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2013-12/19/content_17184429.html.

³⁸⁷ South Korea Shuns Moms at Peril as Workforce Shrinks, Bloomberg (New York) 23 January 2014. Access Date: 4 October 2014. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-01-23/south-korea-shuns-moms-at-peril-as-workforce-shrinks.html>.

³⁸⁸ Samsung Seen Leading Hyundai as Family Friendly Employer, Bloomberg (New York) 13 March, 2014. Access Date: 4 October 2014. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-03-13/samsung-seen-leading-hyundai-as-family-friendly-employer.html>.

³⁸⁹ Support Focuses on Working Mothers, Returning to Work and Flexible Work Hours, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Sejong) 4 February 2014. Access Date: 6 October 2014. <http://english.mosf.go.kr/pre/view.do?bcd=N0001&seq=3519&bPage=9>.

³⁹⁰ MOE and MOEL sign DOI on cooperation for VET, Ministry of Education (Sejong) 27 March 2014. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://english.moe.go.kr/web/42208/en/board/enview.do?bbsId=265&boardSeq=53364&mode=view>.

³⁹¹ MOEL plans to foster 3,000 prospective work-based learning providers this year, Ministry of Employment and Labour (Sejong) 21 May 2014. Access Date: 29 September 2014. http://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1053.

³⁹² Software industry, schools and government agree to cooperate to realize competency-oriented society, Ministry of Employment and Labour (Sejong) 10 June 2014. Access Date: 29 September 2014. http://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1057.

Competency Standards (NCS), a set of standardized knowledge and skills for a specific job developed by the state in consultation with industries, while software firms agree to hire workers based on their competency levels.³⁹³ Lastly, technical colleges and specialized high schools will reform their vocational curricula to reflect new NCS standards. Moreover, the Korean government and relevant ministries will provide financial support for the implementation of measures in order to increase youths' employability in Korea's software industry.

On 12 June 2014, Gyeonggi Technopark was selected by the "industrial complex-based joint childcare centre support project" to become Korea's first technopark to have a joint workplace childcare center. This project belongs to a larger initiative between the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE), the Ministry of Employment and Labour (MOEL), and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOFEG) to expand the female research and development workforce and prevent women from experiencing career-interruptions as a result of child-rearing. The Korean government will subsidize up to 90 per cent of the cost for establishing the center in addition to offering partial support for operating costs up to KRW1.2 million per childcare teacher.³⁹⁴

On 21 July 2014, the Ministry of Education and the Human Resources Development Service of Korea launched a redesigned web portal to assist workers and students in designing long-term career paths online. Four hundred sixty-eight learning modules, guidebooks that outline both theoretical and practical skills to help individuals prepare for specific jobs, are available in addition to hiring, assignment, promotion checklists, training criteria, and 245 NCS.³⁹⁵

On 24 September 2014, the MOEL announced comprehensive employment measures for older workers that centered on issues of employment insecurity, low-quality re-employment, and retirement income worries. To prepare older workers for future employment opportunities, it plans to offer career planning and skills upgrading programs such as the "compass project for older workers." The Korean government will issue "second career subsidies" of KRW10 million per person to employers who willingly provide job placements for soon-to-be retirees as well as up to KRW30 million per company to help them create age-friendly jobs. Moreover, governmental measures to combat employment insecurity will include supporting talent exchange between large companies and SMEs in addition to extending internship support for older workers wishing to transfer to start-up companies.³⁹⁶

Korea has adhered to its commitment of implementing vocational training programmes and curricula reform for youth, strengthening childcare support and introducing flexible work hours for women, as well as improving older workers' employability and job security.

Thus, Korea is awarded a score of +1.

Analysts: Rui Li and Yinan Yang Li

³⁹³ Column by Vice Minister Jung Hyun-ok on Enterprise- and industry-led vocational training, Ministry of Employment and Labour (Sejong) 7 April 2014. Access Date: 29 September 2014.

http://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1046.

³⁹⁴ Joint workplace childcare center to be set up for female researchers in Gyeonggi Technopark, Ministry of Employment and Labour (Sejong) 12 June 2014. Access Date: 29 September 2014.

http://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1058.

³⁹⁵ Integrated web portal for NCS and learning modules start its service Jul. 21st, Ministry of Employment and Labour (Sejong) 21 July 2014. Access Date: 29 September 2014.

http://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1070.

³⁹⁶ MOEL unveils comprehensive employment measures for older people, Ministry of Employment and Labour (Sejong) 24 September 2014. Access Date: 29 September 2014.

http://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1077.

Mexico: 0

Mexico partially complied with its St. Petersburg G20 Summit commitments in regards to labour and employment, specifically dealing with vocational training programs. It has made specific commitments towards legislating a labour reform bill which would work towards labour flexibility and efficiency. However, no movement towards these efforts can be found.

On November 29th 2012, the Mexican legislature passed a labour reform bill in hopes of improving working conditions and dealing with issues of: wage payments, employment contracts and temporary employment, discrimination, outsourcing, termination and back wages, productivity and training, and union elections and transparency. All of these issues remain part of Mexico's commitments after the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg. Mexico's first labour law was enacted in 1931 and this is one of two significant updates to it since that time. Though the bill became effective on December 1st 2012, its content was diluted in-order to pass it through the legislature. Labour reform still is a pressing issue the government is trying to address.³⁹⁷

Thus, Mexico is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Max Stern

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on vocational training programs.

On 15 April 2014, the Russian government updated the State Program on Promotion of Employment, which includes the Development of the Labour Market Institutions subprogram. It creates conditions for increasing quality of labour force and its professional mobility development and improves labour conditions. The subprogram provides for the development of vocational training and professional mobility through training and skills improvement and the improvement of the national system of professional qualifications. RUB18.9 billion will be allocated in 2013-2020.³⁹⁸

On 16 April 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed an executive order creating the Presidential National Council for Professional Qualifications. The council will work on "issues pertaining to creating and developing in Russia a system of professional qualifications."³⁹⁹ It 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.⁴⁰⁰

To increase employment among women on leave for child care, Russia has introduced additional vocational training measures and other support measures. RUB153.1 million and RUB161.2 million are allocated for training of 12,700 and 13,100 women in 2014 and 2015 respectively.⁴⁰¹

³⁹⁷ "Mexican Federal Labor Law Reform: Opportunities and Challenges for Employers with Operations in México", Mondaq: Connecting People and Knowledge (London, New York City, Sydney) 8 January 2013. Date of Access: 7 March 2014. <http://www.mondaq.com/x/215108/Contract+of+Employment/Mexican+Federal+Labor+Law+Reform+Opportunities+And+Challenges+For+Employers+With+Operations+In+Mxico>.

³⁹⁸ 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>.

³⁹⁹ Presidential National Council for Professional Qualifications created, President of Russia 16 April 2014. <http://eng.kremlin.ru/acts/7032>.

⁴⁰⁰ Statute of the Presidential National Council for Professional Qualifications, President of Russia 16 April 2014. <http://state.kremlin.ru/council/39/statute>.

⁴⁰¹ On the training of women on leave for childcare purposes, Russian Government 11 May 2014. <http://government.ru/orders/12269>.

On 28 May 2014, the Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection reported that 5,800 persons of pre-retirement age were engaged in vocational training in 2013 as compared to 5,600 persons in 2012.⁴⁰² The Ministry notes that the level of employment of senior people increased to 29.2 per cent in 2013, which is 1.5 percentage points higher than in 2012.⁴⁰³

Russia has taken actions to demonstrate its intent to comply the commitment and create vocational training programs for target groups. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Mark Rakhmangulov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the vocational Programmes Commitment by instituting apprenticeship and vocational training programmes that facilitate better prospects and enhance employability, with a focus on specific target groups.

On 25 February 2014 Niagara College won a bid to operate 26 vocational and technical training institutions in Saudi Arabia. The current focus of the colleges is to exclusively train young, male students. The college is exploring possibilities of including female students.⁴⁰⁴

On 28 February 2014 a Saudi Petroleum Services Polytechnic (SPSP) Construction and Drilling Training Centre was launched in Dammam. The SPSP institutions provide vocational training specific to petroleum industries.⁴⁰⁵

On 7 March 2014 the Saudi Industrial Property Authority launched a project to establish an “industrial city for women workers” located in Yanbu. Initially, this will create 50 jobs for women. The purpose of this venture is to support the target group of women in industry, and will include technical training institutes for women. Currently 2000 plants are under construction.⁴⁰⁶

On 4 April 2014 the Technical Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) announced that 300 new vocational training facilities are under construction, and are expected to be operational within three years. This skills and training program will reach approximately 450 000 trainees over a period of five years, and is targeted in a range of technical vocations for young women and men.⁴⁰⁷

On 16 September 2014 the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) launched a program to construct nine new facilities for the Vocational Junior College in the northern province of Ha Nam. The focus of this program is youth training in human resources, and is expected to be complete in late 2017.⁴⁰⁸

Saudi Arabia has implemented training facilities, vocational programmes and is working to enhance the employability of women, a target group. Additional vocational programmes are in progress.

⁴⁰² Results of the monitoring of social and economic status of senior people, Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection 28 May 2014. <http://www.rosmintrud.ru/docs/mintrud/protection/93>.

⁴⁰³ Citizens of pre-retirement and retirement age can get free vocational training, Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection 29 May 2014. <http://www.rosmintrud.ru/employment/employment/379>.

⁴⁰⁴ College’s Taif classes for men only, St. Catharine’s Standard, 25 February 2014. Date Accessed: 4 March 2014. <http://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/2014/02/25/colleges-taif-classes-for-men-only>.

⁴⁰⁵ Polytechnic to build skills for petroleum services industry, Arab News, 28 February 2014. Date Accessed: 4 March 2014. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/532351>.

⁴⁰⁶ Women-only industrial city to operate soon in Yanbu, Arab News, 7 March 2014. Date Accessed: 7 March 2014. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/536216>.

⁴⁰⁷ Vocational training program planned, 4 April 2014. Date Accessed: 4 October 2014. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/550426>.

⁴⁰⁸ Saudi Arabia invests in Vocational Junior College in Ha Nam, 17 September 2014. Date Accessed: 4 October 2014. <http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/education/112048/saudi-arabia-invests-in-vocational-junior-college-in-ha-nam.html>.

Thus Saudi Arabia has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Alison Dillman

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment to support and implement quality vocational training programs. South Africa has displayed a commitment to the creation of vocational training programs, having launched new initiatives targeting youth and older workers.

On 16 January 2014, Minister of Higher Education B.E. Nzimande discussed the expansion of post-school education and training in his speech given at the launch of the White Paper for Post-School Education and Training. Nzimande specifically addressed the training needs of youth and of older workers. Nzimande noted that “the Post-School System will prioritize funding of the marginalised,” to increase access to these programs.⁴⁰⁹

Rob Davies, Minister of Trade and Finance, introduced the Itukise Internship Program for Unemployed Graduates at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in Cape Town, South Africa.⁴¹⁰ Implementation of the ZAR 71 million program commenced on 1 April 2014. Davies stated that, “the development of skills and the creation of opportunities for youth and graduates, will go a long way in reducing the levels of poverty and unemployment in South Africa.” He expressed the government’s objective to create opportunities for youth, while encouraging cooperation from the private sector. He noted that the Itukise program is also focused on marketing the manufacturing sector to young adults, and will enable labour force training, and learning “on and off the job.”

Nzimande further stated that the post-school system “will be responsive to the needs of individual citizens and employers in the public and private sectors, as well as serving broader developmental objectives.”

In his July 2014 budget speech, Deputy Minister of Education and Training, Mr. Mduduzi Manana, reiterated the government’s commitment to addressing unemployment among South African youth, noting in particular that the government has provided training programs in the mining sector for vulnerable youth. Manana also noted that the Ministry of Education and Training is developing a policy framework targeted towards disabled persons.⁴¹¹

South Africa’s recent efforts reflect its commitment to the growth and improvement of vocational training programs. Since the St. Petersburg Summit, South Africa has consistently supported vocational programming for youth and older workers, and has indicated its intention to develop programming targeted towards persons with disabilities.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Kertia Johnson and Kirstyn Koswin

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to create vocational training programs.

⁴⁰⁹Speech by the Minister of Higher Education and Training Education, MP, Dr B.E. Nzimande at the Launch of the White Paper for Post-School Education and Training, Department of Higher Education and Training (Pretoria) 16 January 2014. Date of Access: 4 October 2014. <http://www.gov.za/speeches/view.php?sid=43020>.

⁴¹⁰Skills development is vital in reducing youth unemployment – Minister Davies, Department of Trade and Industry (Pretoria) 4 March 2014. Date of Access: 4 October 2014. <http://www.gov.za/speeches/view.php?sid=44130>.

⁴¹¹Budget Vote Speech by the Deputy Minister of Education and Training, Department of Higher Education and Training (Cape Town) 22 July 2014. Date of Access: 4 October 2014. <http://www.gov.za/speeches/view.php?sid=46983>.

In May 2012, the Improving the Quality of Vocational Education and Training in Turkey (METEK) Project was launched in collaboration with the European Union.⁴¹² The objective of this project is to realize the multi-dimensional activities under the title of “Quality Education and Communication” in order to reach a qualified, measurable and sustainable vocational and technical education system to meet the needs of business and students. Set to run until May 2014, below are a variety of activities that have taken place to improve vocational training in Turkey during the compliance cycle.⁴¹³

From 10 to 18 April 2013, several informational seminars were held on “Vocational Guidance and Career Counseling” and “Vocational Guidance for Disadvantaged Groups” in several cities in the province of Gaziantep.⁴¹⁴ Seminar participants had the opportunity to partake in a variety of sessions including; career counselor roles and competencies, career counseling paradigm shifts and results, the professional development process, stages of career development processes, and theories of career counselling.

On 6 September 2013, Turkey and the European Union, funded by Ministry of National Education, in partnership with the Labour and Social Security Ministry of Human Resources Development Operational Programme, carried out a Vocational and Technical Education Quality Improvement Project.⁴¹⁵ The project will create nine curriculum development workshops in Mardin. The workshops under the Ministry of National Education will include 57 area teachers from secondary institutions, 78 academics, as well as public, private and civil society organizations, and two industry representatives.

On 30 September 2013, the Republic of Turkey and the European Union, funded by the Ministry of National Education and Labour and Social Security and the Ministry of Human Resources Development Operational Programme carried out a Vocational and Technical Education Quality Improvement Project on Career Guidance and Career Counseling Education.⁴¹⁶ The programme involved ten curriculum development workshops that were held in Gaziantep and had 110 participating educational institutions.

On 1-3 November 2013, during the Turkish Government’s Consultation and Evaluations meeting, the Prime Minister announced his determination to close down private tutoring schools, known as “dershane” in Turkish, suggesting that such schools violate the principle of equal

⁴¹²“Project, METEK Project (Ankara)” Access Date: 10 May 2014 <http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/project>.

⁴¹³ “Turkish government determined to close private tutoring schools, Hurriyet Daily News (Ankara)” 5 November 2015. Access Date: 10 May 2014. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkishVgovernmentVdeterminedVtoVcloseVprivateVtutoringVschoools.aspx?PageID=238&NID=57375&NewsCatID=338>.

⁴¹⁴“METEK Project,Vocational,Guidance,and Career, Counseling and Vocational Guidance for disadvantages groups “informational”seminars”Coru, Sivas,Pain,and was held in Gaziantep, METEK Project (Gzaiantep)”21 April 2014. Access Date: 10 May 2014. <http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/pressVroom/news/446VmetekVprojesiVmeslekiVrehberlikVveVkariyerVdanismanligiVveVdezavantajliVgruplaraVyonelikVmeslekiVrehberlikVkonuluVbilgilendirmeVseminerleriVcorumVsivasVagriVveV gaziantepVteVgerceklestirildi..>

⁴¹⁵“METEK, Projesi Dokuzuncu Müfredat Geliştirme Çalıştayı Mardin de Yapıldı. 6 September 2014. Access Date: 10 May 2014. [http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/trainingVperformedVactivities/234VmetekVprojesiVdokuzuncuVmufredatVgelistirmeVcalistayiVmardinVdeVyapildi.\(Accessed using Google Translate.\)](http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/trainingVperformedVactivities/234VmetekVprojesiVdokuzuncuVmufredatVgelistirmeVcalistayiVmardinVdeVyapildi.(Accessed using Google Translate.))

⁴¹⁶“METEK, Career, Guidance, and Career, Counseling, Project, Training, and Curriculum Development Workshop 10 Hotels in Gaziantep was held in Tugcan, METEK Project(Tugcan)” 30 September 2013.AccessDate:10May2014. <http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/pressVroom/news/243VmetekVprojesiVmeslekiVrehberlikVveVkariyerVdanismanligiVegitimiVileV10VmufredatVgelistirmeVcalistayiVgaziantepVtugcanVotelVdeVyapildi>.

opportunity in education.⁴¹⁷ Education Minister Nabi Avci announced that during the 2014-2015 academic year no dershanes will be present in the education system and at least 20 percent will be converted into private schools. Recip Tayyip Erdogan also suggested employing the teachers who lose their jobs after the closure of the dershanes in public schools.

On 6 November 2013, Gokhan Cetinsaya, President of the Council of Higher Education (YOK), announced Turkey's first academic freedom declaration.⁴¹⁸ The declaration includes nine articles that relate to the academic freedom of faculty members and students. This is a major step as the YOK had previously been criticized for rigid and authoritarian policies such as banning headscarves on campuses, forcing some students to drop out of school, and its "coefficient" system that limited students learning opportunities in vocational and religious schools.

On 17 December 2013, the International Conference on "Building Mutual Trust between the Labour Market and Vocational Education and Training" was held in Istanbul.⁴¹⁹ The objective of the conference was to create mutual trust between the labour market and vocational training entities by drawing attention to the quality system in vocational education and training. During the conference a variety of panels were held including; Employer's View on Vocation and Technical Education and Training, Quality-Oriented Vocational Education and Training, Key Actors in VET: Teachers, and Improving the Quality of Students to Meet the Needs of Qualified Graduates.

On 27 January 2014, the Ministry of National Education Associate Director General of Technical and Vocational Education, Omar Acikgoz and Cooks and Pastry Federation President Umit Yuksel signed the Protocol on Cooperation in Education.⁴²⁰ The Protocol will allow the directors of schools and institutions working in the food and beverages service area to develop teacher competence, update current programs, implement related Turkish cuisine joint work executions, increase students adequacy to be employed in the sector and develop competency certification programs.

On 6-7 March 2014, a national conference was held with the aim of discussing the problems and solutions regarding the structure of the post-secondary schools, quality of education and transition process from education to employment.⁴²¹

On 30 March — 5 April 2014, vocational education representatives visited Vienne and Prague to exchange information training of trainers, training systems, vocational guidance and career

⁴¹⁷ Turkish government determined to close private tutoring schools, Hurriyet Daily News (Ankara) 5 November 2015. Access Date: 10 May 2014. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish%20government%20determined%20to%20close%20private%20tutoring%20schools.aspx?PageID=238&NID=57375&NewsCatID=338>.

⁴¹⁸ "Turkey's First Academic Freedom Declaration, Hurriyet Daily News (Ipek Coskun)" 11 November 2014. Access Date: 10 May 2014. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys%20first%20academic%20freedom%20declaration.aspx?pageID=238&nID=57702&NewsCatID=396>.

⁴¹⁹ "International Conference on Building Mutual Trust Between the Labour Market and Vocational Education held in Istanbul, METEK Project (Istanbul)" 17 December 2013. Access Date: 10 May 2014. <http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/press%20room/news/315%20international%20conference%20on%20building%20mutual%20trust%20between%20the%20labour%20market%20and%20vocational%20education%20held%20in%20istanbul>.

⁴²⁰ "With the Directorate General of Technical and Vocational Education and Pastry Cooks Federation between the Protocol on Cooperation in Education was signed, Republic of Turkey Ministry of National Education (Ankara)" 28 January 2014. Access Date: 10 May 2014. <http://mtegm.meb.gov.tr/www/mesleki%20ve%20teknik%20egitim%20genel%20mudurlugu/vile/vascilar%20ve%20pastacilar%20federasyonu/aspafed%20varasinda%20egitim%20de%20vis%20birligi%20protokolu%20imzalandi/icerik/564>.

⁴²¹ "Post/Secondary Education School Discussed "Quality" in Education and Training, METEK Project (Corum)" 10 March 2014. Access Date: 10 May 2014. <http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/press%20room/news/397%20post%20secondary%20education%20schools%20discussed%20quality%20in%20education%20and%20training>.

counseling services. The visit included the “Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women’s Affairs,” “Euroguidance,” “Czech Republic’s Ministry of Education” and the “National Vocational Education and Training Institution.” There were 10 participants including; representatives from the Minister of National Education, İŞKUR, the METEK Project and school principals and teachers.⁴²²

On 7-9 May 2014, a METEK Project Curriculum Development Workshop was held in Mardin. Under the Project’s Training Component, participants assembled at Mardin Artuklu Anatolian High School to develop training standards. Participants included vocation and technical education teachers, the Branch Manager of Mardin Provincial Directorate of National Education, the Directorate General of Vocational and Technical Education, the Acting Head of Social Partners and Projects Department, and staff from the fields of justice, marine, ship building, child development, food technology, nursing, livestock, agriculture, laboratory services and medical laboratories.⁴²³

On 12 May 2014, students of vocational high schools described the school of their dreams at the exhibition of the “My Perfect School” Competition initiated under the METEK Project by General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education, held at Başkent Teacher’s House. The competition ended in February 2014 and engaged 43 provinces. The top 10 student works from students in 10th, 11th and 12th grades described an ideal vocational school, to be shared with authorities from the Ministry of National Education. Ministry of National Education representatives and the Acting Director General of Vocational and Technical Education Osma Yıldırım were in attendance.⁴²⁴ A similar session was held on 17 — 21 February 2014 in Rize Dedeman Otel.

On 12-16 May 2014, a Teacher Training on Vocational Counselling and Career Guidance was held in Van, with 120 staff, teachers and academicians from secondary schools, vocational high school, post-secondary institutions and representatives from the Ministry of National Education in attendance. Topics included transforms in business life, the labour market, choice of profession, career guidance, assessment, career management and job seeking techniques. Van Provincial Directorate of National Education and METEK Project representatives also participated.⁴²⁵

On 24-25 April and 5-7 May 2014, workshops were provided for vocational education representatives on quality system development in Ankara. The workshops also evaluated pilot programs and existing quality implementation measures in schools. Sponsored by the Ministry of National Education, the Council of High Education, İŞKUR, the Vocational Qualifications

⁴²² Study Visit to Austria and Czech Republic Made. METEK Project. Access Date: 6 October 2014.

<http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/press-room/news/450-study-visit-to-austria-and-czech-republic-made>.

⁴²³ “METEK Project Curriculum Development Workshop Held in Mardin. METEK Project.” Access Date: 6 October 2014. <http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/press-room/news/454-metek-project-curriculum-development-workshop-held-in-mardin>.

⁴²⁴ “Students of Vocational High Schools Described the School of their Dreams...”, METEK Project.” Access Date: 6 October 2014. <http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/press-room/news/456-students-of-vocational-high-schools-described-the-school-of-their-dreams>.

⁴²⁵ “Teacher Training on Vocational Counselling and Career Guidance Held in Van, METEK Project.” Access Date: 6 October 2014. <http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/press-room/news/477-teacher-training-on-vocational-counselling-and-career-guidance-held-in-van>.

Authority, representatives from TOBB, TİSK, TESK, TÜRK-İŞ, HAK-İŞ, branch managers of provincial directorates of national education and school staff were in attendance.⁴²⁶

Although Turkey has taken many steps through the Improving the Quality of Vocational Education (METEK) Project and other initiatives, its programs have not targeted vulnerable groups.

Turkey is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

Analysts: Antonia Tsapralis and Ariel Sim

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to creating an educated workforce through vocational and training programs. Consistent efforts have been made to improve technical education and funding has been allocated to this endeavour, with particular attention paid to the needs of youth in vocational programming.

Skills Minister Matthew Hancock spoke on technical and vocational training on 28 January 2014. Minister Hancock addressed the 1944 Butler Education Act, and the importance of “equal prestige for vocational and academic routes.”⁴²⁷ Hancock expressed the need for a refocusing on the vocational system in order to increase the prospect of success for youth. He outlined key focus areas such as the responsiveness of the system and better standards for apprenticeships. Efforts are focused on a variety of industries including the food, finance and aerospace industries. Hancock called for an increase in standards, which will allow for an equally valued vocational education system as compared to academic education.

Efforts made towards this achievement includes the introduction of new fields of study, while encouraging 16 to 18 year old youth to choose programs and acquire qualifications that will lead to employment. Meanwhile, traineeships and extended work experience allows for a better integration of youth into the workforce.⁴²⁸ So far, over GBP7 billion has been spent on the education and training for 16 and 17 year olds within this year.

A total of GBP238 million has been made accessible to multiple companies within the UK, through government funding, with the aim of improving the skills base of the country to meet workforce needs. Corporations have also collaborated with government initiative to fund vocational training.⁴²⁹

The UK government has implemented policy for the improvement of the Further Education system. It is concerned with the supply of quality education and vocational training, and “creating

⁴²⁶ "National Quality Development System Evaluation of Pilot Implementation Workshops Held in Ankara. METEK Project. Access Date: 6 October 2014. <http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/press-room/news/452-national-quality-development-system-evaluation-of-pilot-implementation-workshops-held-in-ankara>.

⁴²⁷ The Skills Summit: importance of technical and vocational training, Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills; Department for Education (London) 28 January 2014. Date of Access: 13 October 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-skills-summit-importance-of-technical-and-vocational-training>.

⁴²⁸ The Skills Summit: importance of technical and vocational training, Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills; Department for Education (London) 28 January 2014. Date of Access: 13 October 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-skills-summit-importance-of-technical-and-vocational-training>.

⁴²⁹ Millions in government funding made available to target industrial strategy skills training, Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills (London) 9 September 2013. Date of Access: 13 October 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-in-government-funding-made-available-to-target-industrial-strategy-skills-training>.

the skilled workforce employers need.”⁴³⁰ Key areas of focus include but are not limited to the improvement of apprenticeships, introducing a new funding system, implementing a new traineeship programme, and introducing a Technical Baccalaureate allowing for high quality vocational qualifications. Between 12 September and 20 November 2013, consultations were held on improving the quality of further education and training, while cooperating with students, parents and education providers.⁴³¹

On 5 August 2014, the Department of Education announced proposals for seven new university technical colleges. These new schools will create spaces for 5,000 14 to 19 year-olds to obtain a technical or vocational based education, using programs designed by the universities and employers.⁴³²

On 20 August 2014 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills announced the “Get In, Go Far” campaign. The campaigns launch corresponds with the announcement of 40 new apprenticeship positions designed by employers, which give youth an opportunity to earn income while learning vocational skills.⁴³³ The aim of the campaign is to encourage youth to take advantage of the apprenticeship opportunities available.

The UK government has allocated funds to technical/vocational training programs and facilities, with particular emphasis on creating opportunities for youth. The UK government has also taken significant steps towards the improvement of its educational system through a variety of reforms and policies, and increased partnerships with the private sector.

Therefore, the United Kingdom is given a +1 for compliance.

Analyst: Kirstyn Koswin

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to support and implement quality vocational training programs.

US President Barack Obama included funding for jobs training in his 2015 budget proposal.⁴³⁴ The budget proposed over USD7.7 billion in new spending for apprenticeship and skills training.⁴³⁵ However, Republicans, including Speaker of the House of Representatives John Boehner, were strongly opposed to the proposed budget.⁴³⁶

⁴³⁰ Improving the Quality of Further Education and Skills Training, Government UK, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Department for Education (London) 01 October 2014. Access Date: 14 October 2014 <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-quality-of-further-education-and-skills-training>.

⁴³¹ Improving the Quality of Further Education and Skills Training, Government UK, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Department for Education (London) 01 October 2014. Access Date: 14 October 2014 <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-quality-of-further-education-and-skills-training>.

⁴³² New technical schools provide job boost for young people, Department of Education (London) 5 August 2014. Date of Access: 14 October 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-technical-schools-provide-job-boost-for-young-people>.

⁴³³ Get in and Go Far with new apprenticeships, Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills (London) 20 August 2014. Date of Access: 14 October 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/get-in-and-go-far-with-new-apprenticeships>.

⁴³⁴ The Budget for the Fiscal Year 2015, Department of Labor (Washington) Date of Access: 5 October 2014. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2015/assets/labor.pdf>.

⁴³⁵ Obama budget would spend big on job training, Reuters (Washington) 4 March 2014. Date of Access: 5 October 2014. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/04/us-usa-fiscal-training-idUSBREA231WJ20140304>.

⁴³⁶ John Boehner: ‘Most Irresponsible Budget Yet’, Politico (Arlington County) 4 March 2014. Date of Access: 5 October 2014. <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/03/john-boehner-budget-104237.html>.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act was passed on 22 July 2014. While all contents of Obama's 2015 budget proposal have not been passed into law, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act represents a significant step towards achieving the goals outlined in the proposed budget. The Act provides for additional employment and training support for youth and people with disabilities.⁴³⁷

The US has also provided additional funding for vocational training through several other programs.

On 23 December 2013 the US Department of Labour launched the "Self-Employment Training pilot program" in Los Angeles City and County, California.⁴³⁸ The program targets unemployed workers with the hopes that they can be trained to start businesses in their field of expertise. This is one of four pilot programs announced throughout the US.

On 19 November 2013 the Departments of Labour and Education launched the Youth CareerConnects Grants.⁴³⁹ This will make USD100 million available to provide high school students with programs that provide education and skill development relevant to industry needs.

On June 24 the Department of Labor announced USD1.9 million in grants to provide financial support for training in the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations program.⁴⁴⁰

On 6 August 2014 the Department of Labor announced USD73.6 million in YouthBuild grants to support at-risk youth through academic and occupational skills training.⁴⁴¹

The United States efforts, including the passing of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act and multiple other programs within the Department of Labor, reflects the commitment of the United States to supporting and implementing quality vocational programs.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Iain M. McCauley and Kirstyn Koswin

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to support and implement quality vocational training programs. The EU has taken numerous steps and courses of action to continue in assisting members with the implementation of vocational training programs, particularly in regard to addressing the issue of youth unemployment.

The Copenhagen process that has begun in 2002 is on-going, and has aimed to improve the performance, quality and attractiveness of vocational education and training (VET) through

⁴³⁷ H.R.803 - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 113th Congress (Washington) 22 July 2014. Date of Access: 5 October 2014. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/803/text>.

⁴³⁸ US Department of Labor unveils Self-Employment Training pilot program to help unemployed workers create their own business, United States Department of Labor (San Francisco) 23 December 2013. Date of Access: 5 October 2014. http://www.doleta.gov/ETA_News_Releases/20132467.cfm.

⁴³⁹ Youth CareerConnects Grants, United States Department of Labor (Washington) 19 November 2013. Date of Access: 5 October 2014. http://www.doleta.gov/ETA_News_Releases/20132231.cfm.

⁴⁴⁰ \$1.9M in grants to support women in nontraditional occupations announced by US Labor Department, Department of Labor (Washington) 24 June 2014. Date of Access: 5 October 2014. <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ETA20141177.htm>.

⁴⁴¹ \$73.6M in YouthBuild grants awarded by the US Labor Department, Department of Labor (Washington) 6 August 2014. Date of Access: 5 October 2014. <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ETA20141446.htm>.

enhanced cooperation at the European level. These goals have been established through mutually agreed priorities and are continuously reviewed.⁴⁴²

More specifically, the EU's VET goals include improving the quality of training, teachers and other professionals in the sector, and improving the relevance of European VET courses to the labour market. These objectives are being achieved by improving national European vocational training systems through the European Quality Assurance Framework for Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET). Activities include supporting skills competitions, supporting an EU-wide "toolkit" to integrate the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET), and by implementing the Youth on the Move initiative — an EU campaign that helps young people gain the necessary knowledge and skills to gain employment.

Since the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, the EU has reiterated its commitment to implement these aforementioned policies and programs.

On 28 January 2014, the EU Commission published a report that was sent to the European Parliament and Council on the progress of the 2009 EQAVET framework. The report notes the experience gained since the framework was initially implemented, and provides suggestions for improvements going into the future. For example, it notes that EU states should improve VET programs by increasing their attractiveness, embedding stronger work-based learning, enhancing labour market relevance, developing stronger career and education guidance, implementing teachers and trainers professional development, as well as improving the recognition and transparency of VET learning outcomes between countries.⁴⁴³

On 11 April 2014, Joachim Calleja, Director of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) reiterated the importance of vocational training as a means to combat youth unemployment, and pledged further support to EU members for apprenticeships as a platform for building learning environments in workplaces. He also referred to EU-led initiatives that are being implemented to tackle youth unemployment, such as the youth guarantee and the use of structural funds and Erasmus+, initiatives that are being funded by the Commission between 2014-2020.⁴⁴⁴

While many of the EU's vocational programs are broadly targeted, it also has programs that specifically target youth. Youth guarantee and Erasmus+ are two such programs. Youth Guarantee aims to ensure youth under 25 find quality employment within four months of leaving formal education or becoming unemployed.⁴⁴⁵ Erasmus+ is a seven-year, EUR14.7 billion program,

⁴⁴² The Copenhagen process: enhanced European cooperation in vocational education and training (Belgium) 8 April 2011. Date of Access: 4 October 2014.

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/education_training_youth/vocational_training/ef0018_en.htm.

⁴⁴³ Report on the implementation of the recommendation of European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009 on the establishment of a European Quality Assurance Framework for Vocational Education and Training (Brussels) 28 January 2014. Date of Access: 5 October 2014. http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/vocational-policy/doc/eqavet_en.pdf.

⁴⁴⁴ European policies: catalysts for innovation and youth employment, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training 30 April 2014. Date of Access: 4 October 2014.

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/news/22620.aspx>.

⁴⁴⁵ Youth Guarantee, Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusions. Date of Access: 4 October 2014.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1079>.

currently being implemented by the EU to provide study, training, and work experience opportunities for youth.⁴⁴⁶

The European Commission's many efforts to provide vocational and skills programming, which include initiatives specifically targeted towards youth, reflects the commitment of the European Union to supporting and implementing quality vocational programs.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kirstyn Koswin

⁴⁴⁶ Erasmus+: The new program for Education, Training, Youth, and Sport for 2014-2020, EU Program for Education, Training, Youth, and Sport 2 October 2014. Date of Access: 4 October 2014.
http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/discover/index_en.html.

4. Youth Employment

[We are committed to] finding innovative ways to encourage firms to hire youth for example by, where appropriate, reducing non-wage labour costs, moving towards early intervention measures and effective job-search assistance for different groups of youth, and motivating youth entrepreneurship and business start-ups.

Assessment

Country	Non-Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China	-1		
France		0	
Germany		0	
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea		0	
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa			+1
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.55	

Background

While employment was incorporated as part of the G20 growth agenda at the second summit in London, United Kingdom, targeted commitments to increase youth employment were not made until the sixth summit in Cannes, France in 2011.

At the Cannes Summit determined to support the social dimension of globalization leaders committed to set up a G20 Task-Force on Employment, with a focus on youth. The Task Force was to report to the Labour and Employment Ministers under the Mexican presidency of the G20 in 2012. In the Cannes communiqué leaders also renewed their commitment to “efforts to combat unemployment and promote decent jobs, especially for youth and others who have been most affected by the economic crisis.”⁴⁴⁷ Leaders requested international organizations, specifically the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank to report to their Finance Ministers on a “global employment outlook” and how economic reform under the G20 Framework could contribute to job creation. The commitment to support youth employment at the Cannes Summit was based in the determination of leaders to support the social dimension of globalization and social inclusion and the necessity of social protection floors.

⁴⁴⁷ Cannes Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Cannes), Date of Access: March 25, 2014.

The following year at the Los Cabos Summit leaders endorsed the recommendations of their Labor and Employment Ministers. Leaders extended the mandate of the Task Force on Employment for another year and recommitting to combat unemployment particularly for youth and other vulnerable groups. Further, they committed to strengthen cooperation in “education, skills development and training policies, including internship and on-the-job training, which support a successful school-to-work transition.”⁴⁴⁸

At the Los Cabos Summit leaders also recognized the Youth20 and Labor-20 through their continued commitment to develop efforts with non-members.⁴⁴⁹ Both the Cannes and Los Cabos Summits concluded with separate action plans on jobs and growth.

Commitment Features

To comply with this commitment government’s must find innovative ways to encourage firms to hire youth. Therefore, the public proclamation of a strategy without its introduction (eg. Formal approval, or budget allocation) does count towards compliance. For example, a government can introduce a strategy or program to legislature for approval therefore meeting the standard of developing innovative ways.

The G20 members committed to support “firms” of whatever size and therefore meaning the private sector to hire youth. The commitment outlines examples of ways in which each member can achieve compliance. They are:

1. To reduce non-wage labour costs
2. Move towards early intervention measures and effective job-search assistance for different groups of youth
3. Motivating youth entrepreneurship and business start-ups.
4. Other non-specified ways

The standard definition of innovative is to introduce or use new ideas or methods, or to have a new idea about how something can be done. The inclusion of the term “innovative” in the context of this commitment is interpreted to mean that the action taken by the G20 member must be new and not an extension of an existing program, unless however, the extension is a new element added to the existing program.

The commitment states that the G20 member will find innovative “ways” to encourage firms to hire youth. This indicates that the member must take more than one action to achieve a score of full compliance. However, the inclusion of the terms “where appropriate” gives a country more latitude to select areas most relevant to their national economy and therefore they do not have to take actions in all areas suggested in the commitment text.

In order to receive a score of full compliance the G20 member must take new or additional actions in more than one area to support the private sector to hire youth. Actions considered as compliance are not limited to those in the list provided in the text of the commitment. Partial compliance will be awarded if a country takes actions in one of the four suggested areas. This is due to the fact that the commitment uses the terms “where appropriate” indicating that actions should be based on national circumstances.

Scoring Guidelines

Score	Description
-1	The G20 member does not take actions to find innovative ways to encourage firms to hire

⁴⁴⁸ Los Cabos Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Los Cabos), Date of Access: March 25, 2014

⁴⁴⁹ Los Cabos Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Los Cabos), Date of Access: March 25, 2014

	youth.
0	The G20 member takes actions to find innovative ways to encourage firms to hire youth in one way
+1	The G20 member find innovative ways to encourage firms to hire youth in more than one way

Argentina: +1

Argentina has successfully complied with its commitment on youth employment. During the compliance period, various ministries of the Argentinian government have introduced new projects to improve effective job-search assistance for youth on top of the ongoing ones.

In October 2013, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation in partnership with the Sadosky Foundation launched a user-friendly website “Estudiar Computación” as a hub to provide knowledge to the general public, especially the young population, on IT-related careers as well as universities and scholarships available in the field.⁴⁵⁰

On 22 January 2014, Argentinian President Christina Fernandez de Kirchner officially launched the nation-wide education reform plan under PROG.R.ES.AR. PROG.R.ES.AR is a universal provision aimed to 18 to 24 year old unemployed Argentine youngsters who want to start or complete their studies at any level of education or be trained in technical occupations. By pledging a monthly benefit of ARS600, the government actively provides opportunities for its young population to learn and develop their skills which will overall improve their employability. The program also provides assistance for job orientation, intermediation, and placement, to improve its young population’s employability.⁴⁵¹ Through the partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the program also provides support for vocational training, counseling and job placement. PROG.ES.AR is expected to impact as many as 1.5 million youth.⁴⁵²

On 31 March 2014, The Ministry of Science, through the National Agency for Science and Technology Promotion, announces the provision of subsidies for entrepreneurs and young companies of the software industry and the ICT industry. It introduced three lines of funding through 2014 ICT Youth Scholarships, FONSOFT 2014 Entrepreneurs and ANR Young Enterprise FONSOFT 2014.⁴⁵³

ICT Youth Scholarships will grant up to \$ 80,000 to students from local universities or public administration universities who pursue Bachelor of Computing, Bachelor of Computer Science, Bachelor in Systems/Information Systems, IT Systems Analyst, Bachelor in Bioinformatics, Computer Information or Information Systems Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electronics Engineering, Telecommunications Engineering and Bioengineering. FONSOFT 2014 Entrepreneurs provides subsidies up to the amount of \$ 600,000 to fund up to 50% of the total project costs. Finally, ANR Young Enterprise 2014 FONSOFT offers benefits between \$ 400,000 and \$ 800,000 to

⁴⁵⁰ Promoting IT-vocations through web-based information, Era Watch. Access Date: 5 October 2014.

<http://erawatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/erawatch/opencms/system/modules/com.everis.erawatch.template/pages/exportTypesToHtml.jsp?contentid=080947b4-44fc-11e3-9d68-3b1a37daf5b5&country=Argentina&option=PDF>

⁴⁵¹ PROG.R.ES.AR – Programme to support Students from Argentine, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva, System Strengthening. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://en.mincyt.gob.ar/accion/progresar-programme-to-support-students-from-argentine-republic-9452>

⁴⁵² ANSES receives 106,000 applications to enter ‘Progresar’ program, Buenos Aires Herald (Buenos Aires) 30 January 2014. Access Date: 19 September 2014. <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/article/150972/anses-%C2%AD-receives-%C2%AD-106000-%C2%AD-applications-%C2%AD-to-%C2%AD-enter-%C2%AD-progresar-%C2%AD-program>

⁴⁵³ Ministry of Science, Subsidies for Entrepreneurs and Young Companies of the Software Industry and the ICT Industry, 31 March 2014, <http://en.mincyt.gob.ar/news/subsidies-for-entrepreneurs-and-young-companies-of-the-software-industry-and-the-ict-industry-9454>

legally registered and independent legal entities whose work is oriented to quality certification or the development of new software processes, products, services, systems or solutions in technology or telecommunications.⁴⁵⁴

Aside from PROG.R.ES.AR., the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Services also continue to facilitate a number of ongoing programs to support youth employment. The main employment promotion services are provided through the “Youth with More and Better Work” program that was first introduced in 2007⁴⁵⁵ and the Insurance Training and Employment (SCyE) program.⁴⁵⁶

For its novel effort to support youth employment and education Argentina has been awarded a compliance score of +1.

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to find innovative ways to encourage firms to hire youth and assist youth in job searching.

In February 2014, “Generation Success” was launched in the country. Generation Success is an industry-led initiative aimed at drawing employer’s attention to youth unemployment in Australia. It provides Australian youth with access to a comprehensive online database comprised of resources and useful links, in order to assist those who seek for jobs. The assistance provided is multi-faceted. It offers basic practical resources, including convenient links to job postings and Business Leader career profiles, as well as useful guides for youth on topics such as “how to make the most of work experience and your first job” and “advice on how to succeed in job interviews.”⁴⁵⁷ The initiative also provides advice to employers as well as parents and educators.⁴⁵⁸

On 16 April 2014, Assistant Minister for Employment Luke Hartsuyker pledged support for the Generation Success initiative⁴⁵⁹ and announced the new initiatives by the Australian Government to support young people to find jobs and stay employed.⁴⁶⁰ These initiatives are the following:

- The introduction, from 1 July, of the Job Commitment Bonus, under which young, long-term unemployed people can receive bonuses of up to \$6500 if they find work and stay off welfare for two years.⁴⁶¹

⁴⁵⁴ Subsidies for entrepreneurs and young companies of the software industry and the ICT industry, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva, System Strengthening. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://en.mincyt.gov.ar/news/subsidies-for-entrepreneurs-and-young-companies-of-the-software-industry-and-the-ict-industry-9454>

⁴⁵⁵ Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Services, Jovenes con Mas y Mejor Trabajo. Access Date: 6 October 2014. <http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/responsabilidad/%26biw%3D1366%26bih%3D603>

⁴⁵⁶ Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Services, Seguro de Capacitación y Empleo. Access Date: 6 October 2014. <http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/responsabilidad/>

⁴⁵⁷ Generation Success - youth employment initiative, Department of Employment. Access Date: 6 October 2014. <http://employment.gov.au/generation-success-youth-employment-initiative>

⁴⁵⁸ Generation Success - youth employment initiative, Department of Employment. Access Date: 6 October 2014. <http://employment.gov.au/generation-success-youth-employment-initiative>

⁴⁵⁹ Government welcomes Generation Success commitment to help young job seekers find work , Department of Employment 16 April 2014. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://employment.gov.au/news/government-welcomes-generation-success-commitment-help-young-job-seekers-find-work>

⁴⁶⁰ Government welcomes Generation Success commitment to help young job seekers find work, Minister’s Media Centre 16 April 2014. <http://ministers.employment.gov.au/node/6237>

⁴⁶¹ Government welcomes Generation Success commitment to help young job seekers find work, Minister’s Media Centre 16 April 2014. <http://ministers.employment.gov.au/node/6237>

- Delivering the Relocation Assistance to Take Up a Job scheme from 1 July, which gives long-term job seekers up to \$6000 if they move to a regional area for work or \$3000 if they move to a metropolitan area.⁴⁶²
- Cutting red tape out of the Job Services Australia system so that local providers can spend more time helping people find work.⁴⁶³

Australia has been awarded a score of +1 for its commitment to improving youth employment.

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to improve the employability of the Brazilian youth through actively supporting youth entrepreneurship, providing youth training programs and encouraging companies to hire youth.

On 27 September 2013, the Subcommittee on Decent Work and Youth under the Ministry of Labour organized a meeting to discuss the National Plan for Decent Work for Youth. The plan is designed to improve education and training for youth, assist them in balancing studies with work, as well as integrate them into the labour sector.⁴⁶⁴

On 22 October 2013, the Minister of Labour Manoel Dias participated in the second Brazilian seminar on “Transition from School to Work: Brazilian Experience in Other Emerging OECD Economies”⁴⁶⁵ during which he declared that the policy of the ministry was to promote decent jobs and fully integrate youth into the labour market. To do so, the Ministry of Labour and Education would collaborate with the Ministry of Education to create vacancies in the National Technical Training Program which would allow workers to be vocationally qualified, certified, and directed to the specific need in the labour market.⁴⁶⁶

On 6 November 2013, the Minister of Labour and Unemployment Manoel Dias presided at the opening of the 19th National Congress of Young Entrepreneurs. The Minister took this opportunity to promote the engagement of youth in the labour market. He also promoted the National Program of Oriented Productive Microcredit, which is an existing program (pre-2011) that provides low interest loans to young entrepreneurs opening their first business.⁴⁶⁷

On 14 February 2014, the Minister of Labour and Employment Manoel Dias was present to inaugurate a Professional Centre for Persons with Disabilities in Fortaleza. The centre intends to be a touchstone for professional training, intermediation and integration in the labour market for Fortaleza. The Centre has a capacity to serve 1,200 youth and adults in its classrooms and laboratories. Training will be provided in the areas of information technology, telemarketing, hospitality, commercial and administrative service and manufacturing to promote social and labour

⁴⁶² <http://ministers.employment.gov.au/node/6237>

⁴⁶³ Ministers Media Centre, government Welcomes Generation Success Commitment to Help Young Job Seekers Find Work, 16 April 2014, <http://ministers.employment.gov.au/node/6237>

⁴⁶⁴ Subcomitê discute trabalho decente aos jovens, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego 27 September 2013. Access Date: 22 September 2014. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/subcomite-discute-trabalho-decente-aos-jovens.htm>

⁴⁶⁵ Launch of Investing in Youth: Brazil, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 22 October 2013. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://www.oecd.org/employment/launch-investing-in-youth-brazil.htm>

⁴⁶⁶ Manoel Dias Enfatiza Políticas para Jovens, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego 22 October 2013. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/ii-seminario-ocde-manoel-dias-enfatiza-o-papel-das-politicas-para-jovens-e-trabalho-decente/palavrachave/ocde-pronatec-jovens.htm>

⁴⁶⁷ Empreendedorismo é tema de debate em Goiânia, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego 6 November 2013. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/empreendedorismo-e-tema-de-debate-em-goiania.htm>

inclusion of persons with disabilities. Currently, Brazilian law enforces hiring quotas of persons with disabilities to companies with 100+ employees, increasing by the size of the work force.⁴⁶⁸

On 14 February 2014, in Fortaleza, Manoel Dias promoted the Apprentice School project which offers employment contacts to third-year high school students from 12 local schools. The program emphasizes the interaction between the private and public sector by seeking partnerships with private entities to offer young people their first job vacancies. By law companies are required to comply with a minimum of 5 per cent and maximum of 15 per cent of jobs which require professional training, allowing for the inclusion of youth through state sponsored training programs.⁴⁶⁹

Also on 14 February 2014, in Fortaleza the Minister of Labour and Employment presided at a ceremony held at the Legislative Assembly of Fortaleza to award certificates to 3,225 young trainees in the Projovem Workers Programme in various labour sectors. The objective of the existing Projovem Programme, offered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment alongside different levels of government, is to give youth experience in the labour market and alternative occupations. Youth may participate in the program if they are unemployed, between 18 to 29 years and a member of a low-income family. The youth receives a stipend of \$100 in up to six installments upon proof of 75 per cent class attendance. Training includes 350 hours of class, 100 hours of social skills and 250 hours of professional qualification.⁴⁷⁰

On 21 February 2014, the Minister of Labour and Employment Manoel Dias participated in the “State Forum for Professional Learning and Youth Inclusion and Teens in Labour Market Maranhao” that aims to promote youth inclusion in the labour market and assist companies in complying with the Federal Law of Learning. The Law of Learning is a youth apprenticeship program which requires youth between 14 and 24 years old to receive a formal contract of employment for up to two years with a private company in conjunction with technical and professional training.⁴⁷¹

Since 2011, the Brazilian government has carried 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.⁴⁷² By 2014, Brazilian government has spent approximately EUR14 billion on this program. The government promises to invest additional EUR14 billion in 2015 to create 8 million professional jobs, mainly targeting the young population. Pronatec includes several initiatives. First, it oversees the provision of technical education for high school students. Second, it provides the resources and management for professional training for youth and adults.⁴⁷³

Brazil has managed to fully comply with its commitment on youth employment during the compliance period and thus it has been awarded a score of +1.

⁴⁶⁸ Minister Inaugurates Center for Inclusion of People with Disabilities, Ministry of Labour and Employment (Brasilia) 14 February 2014. Access Date: 10 March 2014. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/ministro-inaugura-centro-para-inclusao-de-pessoas-com-deficiencia/palavrachave/deficiencia.htm>

⁴⁶⁹ Projovem Worker form 3225 in Ceara, Ministry of Labour and Employment (Brasilia) 14 February 2014. Access Date: 10 March 2014. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/projovem-trabalhador-forma-3225-no-caera.htm>

⁴⁷⁰ Projovem Worker form 3225 in Ceara, Ministry of Labour and Employment (Brasilia) 14 February 2014. Access Date: 10 March 2014, <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/projovem-trabalhador-forma-3225-no-caera.htm>

⁴⁷¹ Ministro instala Fórum de Aprendizagem no Maranhão, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego 21February 2014. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/delegacias/ma/ministro-instala-forum-da-aprendizagem-no-maranhao.htm>

⁴⁷² PRONATEC - O que é o Pronatec?, Pronatec. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://pronatec.mec.gov.br/institucional-90037/o-que-e-o-pronatec>

⁴⁷³ PRONATEC - O que é o Pronatec?, Pronatec. Access Date: 5 October 2014. <http://pronatec.mec.gov.br/institucional-90037/o-que-e-o-pronatec>

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment on youth employment mainly through its comprehensive Action Plan 2014, which involves the coordination and collaboration across various federal offices and departments.

On the employment front, the Action Plan proposes to review the Youth Employment Strategy to better align it with the evolving realities of the job market. It is equipped with a budget of CAD330 million to provide skills development and work experience for Canadian youth.

The Economic Action Plan supports the training and employment of Canada's youth by providing CAD100 million of the Canada Apprentice Loan and CAD40 million for 3,000 full-time internships.⁴⁷⁴

Additionally, Canada has also introduced the Flexibility and Innovation in Apprenticeship Technical Training pilot project for apprentice technical training. To support entrepreneurs, it invested CAD40 million into the Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program, which provide mentorship and other resources to help Canadians, especially youth, start and develop new businesses.⁴⁷⁵

The Canadian government also established The Apprenticeship Incentive Grant. This CAD1,000 grant is available to registered youth apprentices who have completed their first and/or second year of an apprenticeship program in a designated Red Seal trade. Through this grant, youth apprentices can receive up to \$2,000.⁴⁷⁶

To encourage business to hire apprentices the Canadian government also continues to offer tax reduction benefits to companies as governed under the Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit that was first introduced in 2006.⁴⁷⁷

Canada also continues to run its "Canada Youth Employment Strategy" that serves to "helping young people, particularly those facing barriers to employment, get the information and gain the skills, work experience and abilities they need to make a successful transition into the labour market." The plan is comprised of three program streams: *Skills Link*, *Career Focus*, and *Summer Work Experience*, and involves 11 federal departments and agencies. *Skills Link* helps youth facing barriers to employment, such as single parents, youth with disabilities, and youth in rural and remote areas, to develop skills and gain the experience needed to find a job. *Career Focus* provides funding to employers to hire young post-secondary graduates to give them career-related work experience and help them acquire skills to transition into the job market. And the *Summer Work Experience/ Canada Summer Jobs* program provides funding to not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses to create summer job opportunities for young people aged 15 to 30 years old who are full-time students intending to return to their studies in the next school year.⁴⁷⁸

In the most recent federal budget, released in 2014, the following updated Youth Employment Strategy (YES) initiatives were announced:

⁴⁷⁴ The Road to Balance: Creating Jobs and Opportunities, Action Plan Canada 2014. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/budget2014-eng.pdf>

⁴⁷⁵ The Road to Balance: Creating Jobs and Opportunities, Action Plan Canada 2014. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/budget2014-eng.pdf>

⁴⁷⁶ Apprenticeship Incentive Grant, Government of Canada. Access Date: 6 October 2014. <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/goc/apprenticeship/incentivegrant/program.shtml>

⁴⁷⁷ Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit (AJCTC), Canada Revenue Agency. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/ncm-tx/rtrn/cmpltng/ddctns/lns409-485/412/jctc-eng.html>

⁴⁷⁸ Service Canada, Government of Canada. Access Date: 6 October 2014. <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/epb/yi/yep/newprog/general.shtml>

- The Government will review and improve the YES to align it with the evolving realities of the job market and to ensure federal investments in youth employment provide young Canadians with real-life work experience in high-demand fields such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and the skilled trades.⁴⁷⁹
- In order to help youth transition from school to their first job and provide young Canadians with real-life work experience, the Government of Canada will dedicate \$40 million over two years towards supporting up to 3,000 full-time internships for post-secondary graduates in high-demand fields such as STEM and the skilled trades through Career Focus.⁴⁸⁰
- To facilitate linkages between small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and youth, the Government will reallocate \$15 million annually towards supporting up to 1,000 internships in SMEs.⁴⁸¹

The Government of Canada also provides financial support to province-based initiatives to encourage firms to hire youth, such as the “Get Youth Working!” program in British Columbia, under the Canada- British Columbia Labour Market Agreement.⁴⁸² According to the Canadian Ministry of Employment and Social Development, each fiscal year during the period beginning April 1, 2008 and ending March 31, 2014, Canada agreed to “make a contribution to British Columbia.”⁴⁸³

On 20 June 2014, The Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Employment and Social Development, and Chris Alexander, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, announced there would be a comprehensive overhaul of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP). The reforms are meant to push Canadian businesses to make a greater effort to recruit and train Canadians and increase wages instead of hiring temporary foreign workers.⁴⁸⁴ While the program indicates an innovative way to support businesses to employ Canadians there was no indication that the program was targeted toward youth. Employment and Social Development estimated the program would cost \$11.8 million for two years and \$3.3 million per ongoing year to launch. The program is an effort to ensure that Canadians receive the first chance of relevant employment in their local areas.⁴⁸⁵

On 20 June 2014, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the organizations selected for the Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program (CAIP). The CAIP launched in 2013 and was designed to help outstanding small- and medium-sized Canadian enterprises to grow, prosper and create jobs. The National Research Council’s Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) facilitates the program on behalf of the government. An additional \$40 million will be provided to aid

⁴⁷⁹ The Road to Balance: Creating Jobs and Opportunities, Department of Finance. Access Date: 7 October 2014. <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/pdf/budget2014-eng.pdf>

⁴⁸⁰ The Road to Balance: Creating Jobs and Opportunities, Department of Finance. Access Date: 7 October 2014. <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/pdf/budget2014-eng.pdf>

⁴⁸¹ The Road to Balance: Creating Jobs and Opportunities, Department of Finance. Access Date: 7 October 2014. <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/pdf/budget2014-eng.pdf>

⁴⁸² Get Youth Working. Access Date: 7 October 2014. <http://www.getyouthworking.ca/faq/>

⁴⁸³ CANADA – BRITISH COLUMBIA LABOUR MARKET AGREEMENT, Employment and Social Development 23 April 2014. Access Date: 6 October 2014. http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/jobs/training_agreements/lma/bc_agreement.shtml#sda

⁴⁸⁴ Government of Canada Overhauls Temporary Foreign Worker Program, PR Newswire. Access Date: 7 October 2014, <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/government-of-canada-overhauls-temporary-foreign-worker-program-264008621.html>

⁴⁸⁵ <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/government-of-canada-overhauls-temporary-foreign-worker-program-264008621.html>

entrepreneurs in building their start-ups and companies through accelerators and incubators.⁴⁸⁶ While this program supports SMEs it does not target youth.

Another initiative is the Job Matching Service and enhanced version of the National Job Bank. The enhanced program will match registered job seekers and employers automatically on the basis of skills, knowledge and experience. It is an attempt to provide better and timely labour market information. It is also intended to inform young people about fields of study that are relevant to demand for labour.⁴⁸⁷

On 24 July 2014, the Canadian Government extended support for the Ontario Youth Jobs Strategy. The Ontario Legislature passed the Building Opportunity and Securing Our Future Act (Budget Measures). This plan focuses on “Building on Ontarians’ skills to support a talented workforce... and extending the Ontario Youth Jobs Strategy.”⁴⁸⁸

During the compliance period, Canada has fully complied with its commitment by finding innovative ways to encourage businesses to hire youth. Canada received a score of +1.

China: -1

China failed to comply with the commitment. The Chinese government failed to find innovative ways to support business to hire youth.

The EU-China seminar on youth entrepreneurship, organised by the European Commission and the All China Youth Federation, took place on 25-27 November 2013 in Brussels as a follow-up activity of the EU-China High Level People-to-People Dialogue and the EU-China Year of Youth. The seminar facilitated youth focused policy dialogue and on the exchange of experiences and good practice of youth entrepreneurship in both places. There were a total of 60 participants who discussed topics such as individual skills and competences, framework conditions for entrepreneurship, the development of social networks and the value added of EU-China cooperation. The event was complemented by a visit to a Youth in Action project and an academic lecture on Social entrepreneurship.⁴⁸⁹

A global database on Chinese youth employment policies was launched on the International Labor Organization (ILO) website. The database was the research result of the project “Research on Chinese Youth Employment Policies” led by Xiangquan Zeng, dean of School of Labor and Human Resources, Renmin University of China. The research project was an important part of ILO’s project “Analysis of youth employment policy and dissemination through global database and publications (component for Asia and the Pacific),” which collected information on national youth employment policies and in-depth reviews to provide recommendations for action in countries in Asia and the Pacific area.⁴⁹⁰

⁴⁸⁶ Prime Minister of Canada, PM Helps Canadian Start-up Companies to Grow and Prosper, Date of Access August 20, 2014. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2014/06/20/pm-helps-canadian-start-companies-grow-and-prosper>

⁴⁸⁷ Economic Action Plan 2014: Supporting Jobs and Growth, Government of Canada 11 February 2014. Access Date: 6 October 2014. <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/themes/jobs-emplois-eng.html>

⁴⁸⁸ 2014 Ontario Budget Passes in Legislature, Ontario Newsroom 24 July 2014. Access date: 6 October 2014. <http://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2014/07/2014-ontario-budget-passes-in-legislature.html>

⁴⁸⁹ EU-China seminar on Youth entrepreneurship, 25-27 November 2013, European Commission 3 October 2014. Access Date: 7 October 2014. http://ec.europa.eu/youth/events/2014/eu-china-seminar_en.htm

⁴⁹⁰ InMap of Chinese Youth Employment Policies on Website of International Labor Organization Was Put Into Use, School of Labour and Human Resources 11 March 2014. Access Date: 7 October 2014. <http://slhr.ruc.edu.cn/en/showarticle.asp?id=536>

The Chinese government has repeatedly acknowledged the significance of youth employment and put in place a monitoring system for youth unemployment in the country. However, it failed to directly encourage businesses to hire youth. Thus, China received a compliance score of -1.

France: 0

France has partially complied with the commitment to find innovative ways to support businesses to hire youth. The French government has taken actions in two areas by planning to decrease wage labour costs and taking initiatives to encourage youth to enter the labour market.

In October 2013, a test program “Garantie jeunes” or “Youth Guarantee” under the EU-led Youth Employment Initiative was launched. The program provides support to youth ages 16-25 who are not employed or in an education or training institutions with counselling, training and support to enter the labour market.⁴⁹¹

In January 2014, French President Francois Hollande announced intentions to ease high payroll taxes to reduce the cost of labour in an effort to get businesses to create more jobs.⁴⁹² On April 8, 2014, French Prime-Minister Manuel Valls promised more than 11 billion Euros in extra tax cuts for businesses stating need to create new jobs as the main reason. However, as per October 2014, the reforms have yet to be implemented.⁴⁹³

On 4 June 2014, the European Commission adopted the French National Operational Programme for the implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). Under this Operational Programme, France will receive EUR432 million for the YEI and the European Social Fund to help young people not in employment, education or training to find a job in those regions with youth unemployment rates over 25%.⁴⁹⁴

On 4 July 2014, the French Office for Science and Technology and the Invest in France Agency announced the launch of the 2014 YEI competition. The aim of the initiative is to encourage young entrepreneurs and young innovative tech companies.⁴⁹⁵

Although the planned tax reduction for businesses is not directly designed to promote youth employment, the French government has indeed taken an initiative in the area through the launching of the YEI, which oversees various initiatives to better assist youth in finding employment and encourage entrepreneurship. Therefore France has been awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

Germany: 0

Germany partially complied with the commitment.

In April 2014, the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs produced the “National Implementation Plan to Establish the EU Youth Guarantee in Germany.”⁴⁹⁶ Youth Guarantee is an

⁴⁹¹ Décret n° 2013-880 du 1er octobre 2013 relatif à l'expérimentation de la « garantie jeunes, Government of France 2 October 2013. Access Date: 7 October 2014.

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000028022726&dateTexte=&oldAction=dernierJO&categorieLien=id>

⁴⁹² Francois Hollande makes drastic U-turn on tax cuts and welfare in bid to save presidency , Independent 6 January 2014. Access Date: 7 October 2014. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/francois-hollande-makes-dramatic-uturn-on-tax-cuts-and-welfare-in-bid-to-save-presidency-9042432.html>

⁴⁹³ 'France is pro-business' PM Valls tells London audience, RFI 6 October 2014. Access Date: 7 October 2014. <http://www.english.rfi.fr/economy/20141006-france-pro-business-pm-valls-tells-london-audience>

⁴⁹⁴ Youth Employment Initiative: €620 million to tackle youth unemployment in France , Europa Press Release 3 June 2014. Access Date: 7 October 2014. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-622_en.htm

⁴⁹⁵ 2014 Young Entrepreneurs Initiative competition launched, Invest in France Agency 4 July 2014. Access Date: 7 October 2014. <http://www.invest-in-france.org/us/news/launch-of-the-2014-edition-of-the-yei-competition.html>

EU-wide initiative to tackle youth unemployment by ensuring that all young people under 25 — whether registered with employment services or not — get a good-quality offer within 4 months of them leaving formal education or becoming unemployed. The EU countries first took up this initiative in 2013.⁴⁹⁷

On 17 April 2014 the regulations for the Investment Grant for Business Angels (Invest Zuschuss für Wagniskapital) were changed to meet the requirements of both private investors (business angels) and young and innovative companies. This will help improve access to finance small technology companies seeking equity.⁴⁹⁸

On 29 April 2014 the ERP-Wirtschaftsplangestz (KfW) 2014 (plan to support SME and start-up financing) was passed. With this regulation the German government continues its support to facilitate access to finance for SMEs and start-ups using loans services by KfW. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy sponsors the loans using EPR funds and ensures favourable credit conditions for the recipients.⁴⁹⁹

In 2013, Germany took part in the European Alliance for Apprenticeships aims to increase the quality and supply of apprenticeships across Europe in order to facilitate a smooth transition of young people from education to work. In 2014 about EUR50 million will be allocated to “Education Alliances,” that is approximately 67 per cent more than in 2013.⁵⁰⁰

While the German government has continued its existing program to support youth employment and introduced measures to support young companies, it has not proposed a new project that targets youth employment. Thus, Germany has been awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

India: +1

India fully complied with its commitment. The policy measures and budget allocation, the government of India emphasized youth employment, with a particular focus on self-employment and jobs in the private sector, and underlined the development of entrepreneurial skills among youth.

On 10 June 2014, the government announced its new budget with a focus on creating jobs for youth, encouraging entrepreneurship and start-ups among youth, and on development of entrepreneurship skills. The budget proposed to establish a INR 10,000 crore fund to provide venture capital in the micro, small and medium enterprise sector intended to act as a catalyst to attract further investment from the private sector. The fund would provide equity, quasi equity, soft loans and other risk capital to start-up companies. The budget also outlined INR 200 crore to establish a technology centre network to promote innovation and entrepreneurship.⁵⁰¹

⁴⁹⁶ National Implementation Plan to Establish the EU Youth Guarantee in Germany, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Access Date: 7 October 2014. http://www.bmas.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/PDF-Publikationen/a761-implementierungsplan-jugendgarantie-en.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

⁴⁹⁷ Youth Guarantee, Europa. Access Date: 7 October 2014. <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1079>

⁴⁹⁸ Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie, Bundesanzeiger (Berlin) 17 April 2014. Date of Access: 7 October 2014. http://www.exist.de/imperia/md/content/pdf_sonstiges/investitionszuschuss-wagniskapital-richtlinie.pdf

⁴⁹⁹ ERP-Wirtschaftsplangestz 2014, Bundesanzeiger Verlag (Berlin) 23 April 2014. Access Date: 7 October 2014. http://www.bgbl.de/banzxaver/bgbl/start.xav?startbk=Bundesanzeiger_BGBl&jumpTo=bgbl114s0413.pdf#__bgbl_%2F%2F%5B%40attr_id%3D'bgbl114s0413.pdf'%5D__1407426978271

⁵⁰⁰ Nationaler Aktionsplan Integration, Federal Ministry of Education and Research May 2013. Access Date: 7 October 2014. http://www.bmbf.de/pub/bilanz_nationaler_integrationsplan.pdf

⁵⁰¹ Budget puts big thrust on self-employment, entrepreneurship, Livemint (New Delhi) 10 July 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/F1gHZhkb1POYpTHoBneGON/Budget-puts-big-thrust-on-self-employment-entrepreneurship.html>

In the 2014-2015 annual budget plan, the government allocates money to achieve various advancements in education for youth as well as specific measures to boost youth entrepreneurship as well as employability. The government also proposes to launch a national multi-skill programme called Skill India to equip the youth with entrepreneur skills to boost their employability. It will also provide training and support for traditional professions. Employment exchanges will work as career centers and provide counseling to the youth so that they are not only informed about job opportunities but pick options according to their aptitude. Moreover, Apprenticeship Act will be suitably amended to make it more responsive to industry and youth. MSMEs will also be encouraged to avail the benefits of this scheme.⁵⁰² Finally, the government allocated initial sum of INR100 crore under the “Start Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme” in its annual budget to encourage rural youth to take up local entrepreneurship programs.⁵⁰³

India has taken significant innovative steps in allocation of resources and program initiatives to encourage youth employment in private sector and to improve entrepreneurship skills among youth and to spur start-ups. Thus, India was awarded a full compliance score of +1.

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to finding innovative ways to encourage firms to hire youth.

On 17 December 2013, the International Labour Organization, in a report on Indonesia, pointed out “limited linkages and synergies between various AMLPs [active labour market policies and programmes],” while also noting limited connections between ALMP programs and the needs or demands of the labour market. They cite that ALMPs rarely identify youth as a beneficiary of such program. Additionally, the ALMPs are short term and do not link beneficiaries to job search facilities or other post-training support options. The lack of synergy limits the overall effectiveness of ALMP interventions.⁵⁰⁴

On 27 November 2013, Indonesia and Thailand signed a Framework of cooperation for Academic Cooperation and Exchange Program. The framework was designed to connect vocational training institutions of the two states in order to improve improve the mobility and employability of workers abroad. The focus of the program was underprivileged youth who represent the largest part of the unemployed or underemployed population. On 26-27 November and 6-10 August 2014, the two countries collaborated to hold workshops in Bandung and Chiang Mai respectively.⁵⁰⁵

On 1-2 April 2014, Indonesia hosted a regional conference on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to encourage regional dialogue at the intergovernmental level on the issues of youth unemployment and youth training. The conference addressed key issues for improvement of the youth employability through tailored and specialized education in the national and regional context and for enhancing quality of training of workers. Several Indonesia ministries — the

⁵⁰² Union Budget 2014-15: Developments in the Education Sector, India Today (New Delhi) 10 July 2014. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/union-budget-2014-15-developments-in-the-education-sector/1/370623.html>

Union Budget, National Portal of India. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://india.gov.in/spotlight/union-budget-2014-2015#budget2>

⁵⁰³ Key Features of Budget 2014-2015, Ministry of Finance. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2014-15/bh/bh1.pdf>

⁵⁰⁴ Labour and social trends in Indonesia in 2013: Reinforcing the role of decent work in equitable growth, World Bank (Washington DC) 17 December 2013. Access Date: 21 February 2014.

http://www.ilo.org/jakarta/whatwedo/publications/WCMS_233249/lang--en/index.htm

⁵⁰⁵ Workshop Indonesia-Thailand Vocational Partnership Chiang Mai 6-10 August 2014, SEAMOLEC-OVEC Workshop/Meeting, SEAMOLEC 11 July 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014.

<https://tivocs.wordpress.com/category/seamolec-ovec-workshopmeeting/>

Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration (MOMT), the Ministry of Industry, National Development and Planning Agency and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development — were present.⁵⁰⁶

Moreover, the Directorate of Learning and Student Affairs under the Ministry of Education and Culture continues to take active steps to support university entrepreneurship through various programs, such as Program Mahasiswa Wirausaha and Program Kreativitas Mahasiswa.⁵⁰⁷

During the compliance period, the Indonesian government has introduced some measures to address issues on youth employment. However, the government has not explicitly encouraged firms to hire youth as the engagement with the private sector remained limited. Thus, Indonesia is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

Italy: +1

Italy fully complied with commitment through implementation and reinforcement of the social reforms and programs which aimed at employment and training of the youth and at support of young entrepreneurs.

On 18 September 2013, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy announced 794 million to be allocated to measures to increase youth employment, as part of the implementation of Decree Law no. 76 of 28 June 2013, converted into Law 99 of 9 August 2013.⁵⁰⁸

On 31 October 2013 the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy announced the approval of the principles and criteria to implement the “Youth Guarantee” (Garanzia Giovani) plan, an EU-wide youth promotion policy endorsed by the European Commission in spring 2013. The plan called for EU members to implement reforms and infrastructure to address the high levels of youth unemployment and to ensure young people have access to a job, an apprenticeship or a spot in a higher education institution within 4 months of becoming unemployed or finishing school.⁵⁰⁹ The policies, scheduled to be rolled out in January 2014, would ensure that youth receive appropriate guidance in schools, training and apprenticeships initiatives and create a system of integrated labour market information databases to inform their decisions.⁵¹⁰

On 20 February 2014, the Regions and the Italian state approved the guidelines for the implementation of the Youth Guarantee program, as well as the creation of a unified online platform, connecting regional employment databases to facilitate job search and job matching.⁵¹¹ This was an effort to create a more “homogenous labour market” across the country.

⁵⁰⁶ Ensuring TVET Quality, 10 January 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <https://www.regional-tvet-conference-indonesia.org/en/article/67.ensuring-tvet-quality.html>

⁵⁰⁷ Program Mahasiswa Wirausaha, Direktorat Jendral Pendidikan Tinggi, Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://dikti.go.id/id/mahasiswa/bidang-minat-bakat-danatau-keorganisasian/program-mahasiswa-wirausaha-pmw/>

⁵⁰⁸ Con la Circolare applicativa dell'INPS partono gli incentivi per le nuove assunzioni di giovani lavoratori. Press release: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 18 September 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2014. http://www.lavoro.gov.it/Notizie/Pages/20130918_Incentivi-assunzioni-giovani.aspx

⁵⁰⁹ Employment: Commission urges Member States to urgently implement Youth Guarantee to help young jobless European Commission - MEMO/13/984 (Brussels) 12 November 2013. Access Date: 28 February 2014. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-984_en.htm

⁵¹⁰ Garanzia Giovani: Approvato il Piano che definisce i principi e i criteri che regoleranno l'attuazione del programma. Press release: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 October, 2013. Access Date: 28 February 2014. http://www.lavoro.gov.it/Notizie/Pages/20131031_Garanzia_Giovani.aspx

⁵¹¹ Garanzia Giovani. La Conferenza Stato-Regioni approva la piattaforma informatica unitaria Press release: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 20 February 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2014. http://www.lavoro.gov.it/Notizie/Pages/20140220_Conf_Stato_Regioni.aspx

On 3 December 2013 a memorandum was signed between Labour and Social Policy Minister Giovannini and the southern provinces of Sicilia, Calabria, Puglia and Campania to cooperate in the area of youth employment promotion by tackling skills mismatch issues, “NEETs” (youth that are not in Education, Employment or Training), by promoting internships and improving the quality of vocational training in higher education institutions as well as encouraging entrepreneurship initiatives.⁵¹²

On 15 January 2014, the European Union announced Italy’s participation in EU-led initiative “Youth Guarantee” plan.⁵¹³ The plan called for EU members to enact reforms and measures to increase youth employability by providing job-search support and training, and modernizing the apprenticeship system. Italy agreed to follow through with this plan. This step is taken to ensure young people have access to a job, an apprenticeship, or a higher education institution.⁵¹⁴

On 20 February 2014, the Regions and the Italian state approved the guidelines for the implementation of the Youth Guarantee program, as well as the creation of a unified online platform, connecting regional employment databases to facilitate job search and job matching. This was an effort to create a more “homogenous labour market” by increasing information exchange among stakeholders in the market.⁵¹⁵

On 11 July 2014, the Italian government announced launched the Youth Employment Initiative as a programme to tackle unemployment. It will mobilize EUR1.5 billion in addition to EUR1.1 billion provided by the European Commission for the programme. According to Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Laszlo Andor, Italy’s programme for the implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative should reach over half a million young Italians currently out of employment, education or training. All beneficiaries will be offered a large variety of tailored actions: information and guidance sessions, vocational training, work placements, apprenticeships, particularly for the youngest, promotion of self-employment and self-entrepreneurship, and a civil service scheme with a possibility to certify the acquisition of new skills.⁵¹⁶

On 28 July 2014, the Italian Minister of Agriculture Food and Forestry Policies, Maurizio Martina, signed a Legislative Decree Terrevive that allocated six thousand hectares (ha) of public land for sale and/or for lease to young farmers under the age of 40. This move is specifically designed to encourage agricultural entrepreneurship for Italian youth.⁵¹⁷

Italy has implemented various reforms to boost young employment in business and self-employment during the compliance period. Thus, Italy is awarded a compliance score of +1 for fully meeting its commitment.

⁵¹² Rilancio dell’Occupazione al Sud. Firmato il protocollo tra Ministero e Regioni del meridione . Press release: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 3 December, 2013. Access Date: 28 February 2014.

http://www.lavoro.gov.it/Notizie/Pages/20131203_Protocollo-occupazione.aspx

⁵¹³ Press Release, European Commission (Brussels) 15 January 2014. Access Date: 7 March 2014.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-13_en.htm

⁵¹⁴ Employment: Commission urges Member States to urgently implement Youth Guarantee to help young jobless, Memo, European Commission (Brussels) 12 November 2013. Access Date: 21 September 2014.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-984_en.htm

⁵¹⁵ Garanzia Giovani. La Conferenza Stato-. –Regioni approva la piattaforma informatica unitaria Press release: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 20 February 2014. Access Date: 21 September 2014.

http://www.lavoro.gov.it/Notizie/Pages/20140220_Conf_Stato_Regioni.aspx

⁵¹⁶ Youth Employment Initiative adopted in Italy: 1.1 billion euro to tackle unemployment, EU News 11 July 2014.

Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://www.eunews.it/en/2014/07/11/youth-employment-initiative-adopted-in-italy-1-1-billion-euro-to-tackle-unemployment/19296>

⁵¹⁷ Terrevive, Ministero delle Politiche Agricole e Forestali 28 July 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014.

<http://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/7867>

Japan: +1

In September 2013, during his visit to the United States, Abe announced that the economic policies would focus on deregulation. He also indicated that his government would work to encourage employment of young women in Japan because in his own words “if these women rise up, Japan can achieve strong growth.” For this purpose, he promised to increase facilities to take care of about 400,000 child while their mothers are at work.⁵¹⁸

In November 2013, which was also Japan’s human resources development month in, the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Vice Minister Shigeki Sato made requests to major business organizations, such as the Japan Economic Federation (Keidanren), to distribute literature on human resources development measures by the MHLW, which was also made available through Prefectural Labour Bureau and Hello Work employment centres.⁵¹⁹ At the regional level, the MHLW coordinated human resource development training courses under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). The collaboration training course of the ASEAN, entitled “Management of Vocational Training Institutions for Realizing Decent Work,” took place in October 2013 and focused on career guidance and training support service, including human resources development administration, career advice, career consulting and employment support for youth. The APEC forum on Human Resource Development took place in November 2013.⁵²⁰

On 5 December 2013, the Government of Japan announced JPY300 billion in funding to support job creation for young people and women, as part of a JPY5.5 trillion stimulus package to offset the sales tax increase planned for April 2014. The stimulus package also includes JPY600 billion for subsidies to low-wage earners. In addition, the government has asked large companies to increase salaries following the tax increase in exchange for a decrease in the corporate tax rate from 38.01 per cent to 35.64 per cent.⁵²¹

On 24 January 2014, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivered a policy speech to the 186th Session of the Diet that outlined a number of measures related to labour and employment. These measure include: the expansion of subsidies for career development and advancement of non-permanent employees to permanent positions; the development of a customized support system, including vocational training, for people with disabilities; improved childcare availability and promotion of men’s participation in childcare in order to encourage labour force participation by women with children; career development and training opportunities during parental leave; and support for internships and entrepreneurship.⁵²²

In June 2014, Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, announced that the new set of economic policies intended to spur growth in Japan will focus increasing the number of young women in the workplace

⁵¹⁸ The Japan Times, Abe Pitches Deregulation, Women Workers to wall Street, 26, September 2013, <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/09/26/business/abe-pitches-deregulation-women-workers-to-wall-street/#.U77vbvldWNY>

⁵¹⁹ Japanese Government Programs in the HRD Promotion Month, Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (Tokyo) November 2013. Access Date: 10 October 2014. http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/policy/employ-labour/human-resources/dl/news_letter_2013_11.pdf

⁵²⁰ 24th MHLW HRD Information, Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (Tokyo) October 2013. Access Date: 10 October 2014. http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/policy/employ-%C2%AD-labour/human-%C2%AD-resources/dl/news_letter_2013_09.pdf

⁵²¹ Japan Lays Out ¥5.5 Trillion Stimulus Package, Wall Street Journal (New York) 5 December 2013. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303997604579239740505369468>

⁵²² Policy Speech by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the 186th Session of the Diet, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet 24 January 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014. http://japan.kantei.go.jp/96_abe/statement/201401/24siseihousin_e.html

and more entrepreneurs.⁵²³ Specifically, Abe promised to dismantle many barriers embedded in an educational, employment, social and financial system that strongly discourages entrepreneurship.⁵²⁴

During the compliance period, Japan has taken innovative measures to encourage youth employment in the private sector and continue to facilitate the development of entrepreneurial skills among youth. Thus, Japan has been awarded a score of +1.

Korea: 0

Korea partially complied with its commitment on youth employment.

In November 2013, President Park Geun-hye has declared that her government will “raise the employment rate from 64% to 70% in the next five years under the Creative Economy strategy.” The strategy is threefold: (1) strengthen the employability of youth; (2) provide “technical and financial support for start-up businesses”; (3) strengthen “the social safety net.”⁵²⁵ These goals are reiterated on 11 February 2014 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment which pledges to implement the 4 policy goals and 11 strategies in achieving its employment rate target.⁵²⁶

On 20 February 2014, Minister of Employment and Labor Phang Ha-Nam announced a series of policy initiatives to increase the employment rate of the population to 70 per cent⁵²⁷ (from the current level of 58.5 per cent)⁵²⁸ by creating more job opportunities for youth, helping women fully exert their abilities, and expanding welfare for low-income people to ensure future prosperity. The measures would include changes to unemployment benefit rules to include more professions, changes to childcare leave to improve life-work balance of employees, and the opening of employment-welfare centers.

On 14 February 2014, the Korean Ministry of Employment and Labour pledged to put the expansion of job opportunities as well as the integration of youth into labour force on their top 2014 agenda. Part of the plan would include the creation of a dual vocational education system for high school and college students, similar to those in Switzerland and Germany, which would help high school graduates get employment experience before going to college and allow employers to hire young workers that have already received on-the-job training.⁵²⁹

At the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers’ Meeting on 11 September 2014 in Melbourne, Employment and Labor Minister Lee Ki-kweon said that the government is focusing on implementing the Work-Study Dual System to promote youth employment, creating quality part-time

⁵²³ <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/25/business/international/shinzo-abes-bid-to-shake-up-corporate-japan.html>

⁵²⁴ Associate Press, Abe’s Grand Plan to Revive Japan’s Economic Might, 24 June 2014, <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/abes-grand-plan-revive-japans-economic-might>

⁵²⁵ Jobs and the disciplined market, *The Economist* (London) 18 November 2013. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://www.economist.com/news/21589119-well-functioning-market-will-widen-opportunities-young-people-believes-park-geun-hye-president>

⁵²⁶ MOEL pledges to implement 4 policy goals and 11 strategies in 2014 to achieve 70% employment rate, Ministry of Employment and Labor 11 February 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014. http://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliLaw_view.jsp?idx=1041

⁵²⁷ MOEL pledges to implement 4 policy goals and 11 strategies in 2014 to achieve 70% employment rate, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Sejong-si) 20 February 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014. http://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1041

⁵²⁸ Economically Active Population Survey in January 2014, Press Release, Statistics Korea (Seoul) 12 February 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://kostat.go.kr/portal/english/news/1/1/index.board?bmode=read&bSeq=&aSeq=311685&pageNo=1&rowNum=10&navCount=10&currPg=&sTarget=title&sTxt=>

⁵²⁹ [Editorial] Strong jobs data. Efforts required to tackle youth unemployment, *The Korea Herald* (Seoul) 14 February 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2014. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20140214000600>

jobs for women and increasing the number of employment-welfare centers to help the poor escape poverty through work.⁵³⁰

Moreover, the government also continues to support its past initiatives including the Small and Medium Business Administration (SMBA), which inspired young people, especially university students, to understand entrepreneurship.⁵³¹

The Korean government has been awarded a score of partial compliance. While the government continues to support its existing programs for youth employment and pledges to introduce innovative measures, none of this plans has been fully materialised during the compliance period.

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with their commitment to find innovative ways to encourage firms to hire youths. Actions taken include motivating youth entrepreneurship and business startups, handing over financial resources to young people, and providing job-search training and assistance.

On 20 November 2013, Mexico's president Enrique Pena Nieto said that the Mexican Government is working to create the economic and social environment that will allow youths to have a promising future.⁵³² The Director General of the Mexican Institute of Youth (IMJUVE) said that youth is a priority for the vision of the government, and reforms pushed by the president will allow youth opportunities to grow in Mexico.⁵³³

On 13 January 2014, the Mexican Institute of Youth (IMJUVE) awarded over 4 million dollars to 28 different institutions in Mexico through the Young Entrepreneurs program.⁵³⁴ The goal of these awards is to encourage productivity of young entrepreneurs by delivering the best productive economic projects and creating sustainable business support.⁵³⁵

On 7 March 2014, Mexico's State Government and the IMJUVE strengthened the "Youth Instances Municipal joint venture" with a contribution of 300,000 pesos.⁵³⁶ The director of Secretoral and Regional Coordination of the IMJUVE, Maria Fernanda Bayardo Salim, explained the guidelines ad

⁵³⁰ Minister Lee Ki-kweon gives speech at G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting in Melbourne, Australia on Sep. 11, Ministry of Employment and Labour 11 September 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014. http://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliLaw_view.jsp?idx=1075

⁵³¹ Intern Management System, Korea Venture Business Association. Access Date: 10 October 2014. http://est.yesp.co.kr/intro/intro.do?agency_seq=6

⁵³² Ours to be a time of transformation: EPN, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 20 November 2013. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. <http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/articulos-prensa/el-nuestro-debe-ser-un-tiempo-de-transformacion-epn/>

⁵³³ Ours to be a time of transformation: EPN, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 20 November 2013. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. <http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/articulos-prensa/el-nuestro-debe-ser-un-tiempo-de-transformacion-epn/>

⁵³⁴ Resources Delivered the program "Youth Entrepreneurship", IMJUVE (Mexico City) 13 January 2014. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. http://www.imjuventud.gob.mx/pagina.php?pag_id=730

⁵³⁵ Resources Delivered the program "Youth Entrepreneurship", IMJUVE (Mexico City) 13 January 2014. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. http://www.imjuventud.gob.mx/pagina.php?pag_id=730

⁵³⁶ MJUVE Presents programs in Guerro, IMJUVE (Mexico City) 7 March 2014. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?act=url&depth=1&hl=en&ie=UTF8&prev=_t&rurl=translate.google.ca&sl=auto&tl=en&u=http://www.imjuventud.gob.mx/pagina.php%3Fpag_id%3D770&usg=ALkJrhiY7o0uvi1DK6-LLluso05gLf-crg

programs which include the “Support for Strengthening Municipal Youth Instances,” “Young Entrepreneurs” and “Project Support Juvenile Impulse Mexico.”⁵³⁷

On 25 August 2014, the Mexican Youth Institute (IMJUVE) and the Secretariat of Public Education (SEP) handed over different resources for the benefit of young people.⁵³⁸ The official said that the IMJUVE’s delivery of resources to youths meet the objective of investing in social development programs, institutions and public policies aimed at addressing the needs of the youth sector of the population.⁵³⁹

On 25 August 2014, the IMJUVE initiated the training workshop of the “Youth Entrepreneurship” initiative.⁵⁴⁰ This training seeks to provide attendees with information on federal government programs in order to encourage youths who have a business plan to start up their own business.⁵⁴¹

On 29 August 2014, the General Director of the IMJUVE, José Manuel Romero Coello said that it is imperative to incorporate youth development in the country.⁵⁴² He recognized that youths today have less access to employment and therefore he IMJUVE is working on programs and actions to support them and give them the tools they can take to create more jobs.⁵⁴³

On 19 September 2014, the Spain presidency and Vice Presidency in the Mexico Board of the Latin American Youth Organization concluded the Ibero-American Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth.⁵⁴⁴ The Final Declaration includes securing equal opportunities, improving vocational training, promoting labor practices and improving the conditions in which young people join the labor force.⁵⁴⁵ The declaration also recognized the importance of reducing youth unemployment and policies to create youth opportunities and generating venture.⁵⁴⁶

Mexico has fully complied with their commitment to improve youth employment. Thus, Mexico has been assigned a score of +1.

Analyst: Alissa (Xinbe) Wang

⁵³⁷ IMJUVE Presents programs in Guerro, IMJUVE (Mexico City) 7 March 2014. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?act=url&depth=1&hl=en&ie=UTF8&prev=_t&rurl=translate.google.ca&sl=auto&tl=en&u=http://www.imjuventud.gob.mx/pagina.php%3Fpag_id%3D770&usg=ALkJrhiY7oOuvi1DK6-LLluso05gLh-crg

⁵³⁸ Young Poblano Receive Financial Support, IMJUVE (Puebla) 25 August 2014. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. http://www.imjuventud.gob.mx/pagina.php?pag_id=924

⁵³⁹ Young Poblano Receive Financial Support, IMJUVE (Puebla) 25 August 2014. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. http://www.imjuventud.gob.mx/pagina.php?pag_id=924

⁵⁴⁰ Sign IMJUVE Workshops Programme “Youth Entrepreneurship”, IMJUVE (Mexico City) 25 August 2014. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. http://www.imjuventud.gob.mx/pagina.php?pag_id=926

⁵⁴¹ Sign IMJUVE Workshops Programme “Youth Entrepreneurship”, IMJUVE (Mexico City) 25 August 2014. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. http://www.imjuventud.gob.mx/pagina.php?pag_id=926

⁵⁴² Boost IMJUVE Young Entrepreneurs, IMJUVE (Monterrey) 29 August 2014. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. http://www.imjuventud.gob.mx/pagina.php?pag_id=928

⁵⁴³ Boost IMJUVE Young Entrepreneurs, IMJUVE (Monterrey) 29 August 2014. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. http://www.imjuventud.gob.mx/pagina.php?pag_id=928

⁵⁴⁴ Youth Employment Centre of the Conclusions of the IberoAmerican Youth Conference, IMJUVE (Burgos) 19 September 2014. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. http://www.imjuventud.gob.mx/pagina.php?pag_id=944

⁵⁴⁵ Youth Employment Centre of the Conclusions of the IberoAmerican Youth Conference, IMJUVE (Burgos) 19 September 2014. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. http://www.imjuventud.gob.mx/pagina.php?pag_id=944

⁵⁴⁶ Youth Employment Centre of the Conclusions of the IberoAmerican Youth Conference, IMJUVE (Burgos) 19 September 2014. Date accessed: 4 November 2014. http://www.imjuventud.gob.mx/pagina.php?pag_id=944

Russia: 0

Russia partially complied with its commitment on youth employment through the introduction of one innovative youth employment policy.

In September 2013, Russian Deputy Minister Olga Golodets launched a new approach to promoting job creation in September 2013 under the New Employment Program, designed to stimulate youth employment, the employment of persons with disabilities and residents of depressed regions. The programme is set to provide annual funding of 1.28 billion dollars over three years to support these disadvantaged groups. The UNDP has noted that this program is expected to benefit 100,000 Russians in 2014 alone through its annual funds.⁵⁴⁷

Moreover, the New Employment Program was also designed to address disparities between skilled labour and highly qualified youth in urban and rural areas by shifting some responsibility of implementation of New Employment Program to regional authorities. This was done as local administrations can better address youth employment in the local reality. The New Employment Programme presupposes design of a number of smaller local initiatives aimed at employment of the youth and persons from disadvantaged groups. It was identified that collaboration of local educational institutions and businesses could be decisive through development of internships for students and through support of entrepreneurship initiatives.⁵⁴⁸

During the compliance period, Russia has launched a new initiative to address the issue of youth employment. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its youth employment commitment by introducing the Nitaqat nationalization program to assist recent graduates to find employment.

At the Global Competitiveness Forum in January 2014, Labor Minister Adel Fakeih announced that the Nitaqat Nationalization Program, which aims to replace foreign professionals with Saudi nationals, will now focus specifically on youth employment. He announced that the estimated 180,000 Saudi's expected to graduate from foreign universities and return to Saudi Arabia would be guaranteed employment within a maximum of 5 months.⁵⁴⁹ In March 2014, the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) made an announcement for 683 job openings in 19 private companies for Saudi youth. Moreover, the RCCI set up a Training Center to provide various diploma programs in human resources, banking, business management and development.⁵⁵⁰

Moreover, the country also continues its Taqat Online initiative that provides online employment support services to more than 2 million Jobseekers, bringing them together with local employers via best in class and user friendly job matching engine.⁵⁵¹ Another ongoing program is HRDF's national eTraining Program that is designed to utilize user friendly and reliable web technologies in offering

⁵⁴⁷ Youth employment critical to BRICS growth – UNDP, The BRICS Post 1 April 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://thebricspost.com/youth-employment-critical-to-brics-growth-undp/#.VDSQ-laAQpE>

⁵⁴⁸ Youth Employment Policies of the Russian Federation: *Opportunities and Challenges*, The International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, Academia. Access Date: 10 October 2014. http://www.academia.edu/6868531/Youth_Employment_Policies_of_the_Russian_Federation_Opportunities_and_Challenges

⁵⁴⁹ Labor Market to Absorb Saudi Students Who Studied Abroad, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 January 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/512046>

⁵⁵⁰ Companies offer 638 jobs to Saudis, Arab News (Riyadh) 7 March 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://www.thenewstribes.com/2014/03/07/saudi-arabian-companies-open-employment-doors-focusing-national-youth/>

⁵⁵¹ Taqat On-Line, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://www.itu.int/wsis/stocktaking/plugin/documents.asp?project=1358933177&lang=en>

direct Training Courses to assist Job seekers in developing both soft and interpersonal skills that will boost their employability and readiness to enter the job market.⁵⁵² Finally, the government also continues to offer Prince Abdulaziz Award for Entrepreneurship for the second year to recognize successful entrepreneurs in the Kingdom.⁵⁵³ These initiatives, however, are not specifically designed for youth groups.

Saudi Arabia has introduced a specific measure to boost youth employment and continued its other existing employment initiatives which are not particularly designed to support youth.

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment on youth employment through introducing projects to increase youth employability as well as regulatory measures to incentivize business to hire youth.

On 20 September 2013, South Africa's cabinet approved new tax incentives to encourage companies to hire youth. The Department of Finance and National Treasury announced, that companies which hire youth will be able to deduct some of the wage tax for the first two years of employment under the new the Youth Wage Subsidy Employment Tax Incentive, Act No 26 of 2013.⁵⁵⁴

On 12 November 2013, the Employment Services Bill was approved by the National Assembly and has been referred to the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) for concurrence.⁵⁵⁵ The bill provides for public employment services, facilitates the exchange of information among employers, workers and private employment agencies, and "other specialised services to assist the youth, new entrants into the labour market, and vulnerable work seekers (e.g., persons with disabilities) to find work."⁵⁵⁶ The Opposition criticized the bill claiming that the regulation of employment agencies would not address the issue of abuse of workers' rights.⁵⁵⁷

Also in November 2013, the Department of Trade and Industry developed a comprehensive Youth Enterprise Development Strategy for 2013-2023. It outlines programs and initiatives to educate youth, including early intervention by employing teenagers in grade 11 and 12 in order to develop professional skills. The strategy also outlined programs for youth in rural areas and expectation for the private sector with respect to the employment of youth. It intends to foster youth economic participation by deliberately enhancing youth entrepreneurship, accelerating the growth of youth-

⁵⁵² HRDF's national eTraining Program, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://www.itu.int/wsis/stocktaking/plugin/documents.asp?project=1359364847&lang=en>

⁵⁵³ Prince AbdulAziz International Prize for Entrepreneurship in Saudi, Wamda 16 December 2013. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://www.wamda.com/2013/12/prince-abdulaziz-international-prize-for-entrepreneurship-in-saudi>

⁵⁵⁴ Act No. 26 of 2013: Employment Tax Incentive Act, 2013, Government Gazette, Republic of South Africa 18 December 2013. Access Date: 10 October 2014.

<http://www.treasury.gov.za/legislation/acts/2013/Act%2026%20of%202013%20-%20EmployTaxIncen.pdf>

⁵⁵⁵ National Assembly passes Employment Services Bill bringing to four bills passed this year alone, Department of Labour (Pretoria) 12 November 2013. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <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-1>

⁵⁵⁶ What you need to know about the Employment Services Bill, HR Pulse (Pretoria) 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://www.hrpulse.co.za/legal/employment-services-bill/229053-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-employment-services-bill>

⁵⁵⁷ Employment Services Bill on labour brokers gets go-ahead, Mail & Guardian (Cape Town) 12 November 2013. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://mg.co.za/article/2013-11-12-employment-services-bill-on-labour-brokers-gets-go-ahead>

owned and managed enterprises capable of contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate and increasing youth self-employment and innovation.⁵⁵⁸

On 3 December 2013, the Department of Labour announced a ZAR300 million program to address skills shortages in both urban and rural areas by boosting training and skills development. The programme seeks to empower up to 8,000 youth and unemployed and train them in areas such as: aviation related skills, mechanical skills, plumbing and renewable energy skills, construction skills and skills in information and communication technologies; thus reducing their dependency on social grants and unemployment insurance payments.⁵⁵⁹

On 19 December 2013, the Employment Tax Incentive Bill (better known as the youth wage subsidy Bill) was signed into law, offering tax-based incentives for up to two years to employers hiring youth workers. The measures came into effect in January 2014.⁵⁶⁰

On 16 January 2014, the Minister of Higher Education and Training Blade Nzimande launched The White Paper for Post-School Education and Training, a strategy to pull some of the over 3 million “neets” (15- to 24-year olds who are neither in employment nor in education or training) out of “poverty and misery.”⁵⁶¹ The White Paper envisages expanding post-school provision to improve access to education and training opportunities, emphasizes the crucial role of technical and vocational education, and contains plans for universities to target skills shortages.⁵⁶²

On 26 February 2014, the South African government announced its initiative to spur dialogue on youth unemployment between youth, the private sector and the government under a three-day event Presidential Youth Indaba on Jobs and Skills. 500 young people from all nine provinces are expected to gather to give effect to the Youth Employment Accord signed on 18 April 2013. The Accord was a commitment by civil society, government, labour, business and the youth movement to raise the levels of youth in jobs, training and education as well as support youth owned enterprises and cooperatives.⁵⁶³

During the compliance period South Africa has taken comprehensive and innovative actions to boost youth employment through the provision of training and employment services as well as fiscal strategies to incentivize businesses to hire youth. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Turkey: 0

Turkey partly complied with its commitment. While it developed programs to assist youth to find employment, it had not worked with private firms to encourage them to hire youth.

On 6 September 2013, Turkey and the European Union, funded by Ministry of Education and Labour and Social Security Ministry of Human Resources Development Operational Programme,

⁵⁵⁸ Youth Enterprise Development Strategy 2013-2023, Department of Trade and Industry, Republic of South Africa. Access Date: 10 October 2014. http://www.dti.gov.za/news2013/YEDS_strategy2013.pdf

⁵⁵⁹ Department of Labour’s UIF to fund a R300-million training programme with Seta’s to empower youth and unemployed, Department of Labour (Pretoria) 3 December 2013. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2013/departement-of-labour2013s-uif-to-fund-a-r300-million-training-programme-with-seta2013s-to-empower-youth-and-unemployed>

⁵⁶⁰ Zuma signs youth wage subsidy Bill into law, Mail & Guardian (Cape Town) 19 December 2013. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://mg.co.za/article/2013-12-19-zuma-signs-youth-wage-subsidy-into-law>

⁵⁶¹ Blade launches white paper to meet needs of 'neets', Mail & Guardian (Cape Town) 16 January 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://mg.co.za/article/2014-01-16-blade-launches-dhets-white-paper-to-meet-needs-of-the-neets>

⁵⁶² White Paper to expand post schooling, training. South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 16 January 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/white-paper-expand-post-schooling-training>

⁵⁶³ Presidential Indaba on youth jobs and skills, Republic of South Africa 26 February 2014. Access Date: 10 October 2014. <http://www.gov.za/events/view.php?sid=43945>

carried out in partnership a Vocational and Technical Education Quality Improvement Project. The project will create nine curriculum development workshops in Mardin. The workshops under the Ministry of Education will include 57 area teachers from secondary institutions, 78 academics, as well as public, private and civil society organizations, and two industry representatives.⁵⁶⁴

On 25 September 2013, Turkish Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ministry of Education and representatives of the European Union introduced the joint Professional and Technical Education Quality Improvement Project. This initiative strengthens the link between labour market needs and education and improves the national training system. It involves state officials and employers community representatives, and will be implemented as a pilot project in 21 Turkish provinces. This program potentially will benefit youth although it was not designed specifically to aid this group.⁵⁶⁵

On 30 September 2013, the Republic of Turkey and the European Union, funded by the Ministry of Education and Labour and Social Security and the Ministry of Human Resources Development Operational Programme carried out a Vocational and Technical Education Quality Improvement Project on Career Guidance and Career Counseling Education. The programme involved ten curriculum development workshops that were held in Gaziantep and had 110 educational institutions participating.⁵⁶⁶

Under the auspices of the President of Turkish Republic with the partnership of the Turkish Ministry of Youth and Sports, the International Symposium on Youth Employment Challenges was held on 23-27 June 2014 in Kayseri, Turkey. The Symposium focused on youth employment and served as a platform to bring the educational and private sectors together for conversation on existing challenges on youth employment in Turkey and to formulate recommendations for a “better cross-sectorial cooperation and its promotion within the academic institutions as well as in civil society organizations.”⁵⁶⁷

On 27 January 2014, the Ministry of National Education Associate Director General of Technical and Vocational Education, Omar Acikgoz and Cooks and Pastry Federation President Umit Yuksel signed the Protocol on Cooperation in Education.⁵⁶⁸ The Protocol will allow the directors of schools and institutions working in the food and beverages service area to develop teacher competence in the area, update current programs, Turkish cuisine related joint work executions, increase students adequacy to employed in the sector, and developing competency certification.

⁵⁶⁴ METEK Projesi Dokuzuncu Müfredat Geliştirme Çalıştayı Mardin'de Yapıldı. 6 September 2014. Access Date: 20 October 2014. <http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/training-performed-activities/234-metek-projesi-dokuzuncu-mufredat-gelistirme-calistayi-mardin-de-yapildi>

⁵⁶⁵ Türkiye’de Mesleki ve Teknik Eğitimin Kalitesinin Geliştirilmesi Projesi, Ministry of National Education of Turkey 25 September 2013. Access Date: 20 October 2014. <http://www.meb.gov.tr/turkiyede-mesleki-ve-teknik-egitimin-kalitesinin-gelistirilmesi-projesi/haber/6356>.

⁵⁶⁶ METEK Career Guidance and Career Counseling Project Training and Curriculum Development Workshop 10 Hotels in Gaziantep was held in Tugcan, METEK Project (Tugcan) 30 September 2013. Access Date 20 October. <http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/press-room/news/243-metek-projesi-mesleki-rehberlik-ve-kariyer-danismanligi-egitimi-ile-10-mufredat-gelistirme-calistayi-gaziantep-tugcan-otel-de-yapildi>.

⁵⁶⁷ Symposium on Youth Employment Challenges, Kayseri, Turkey, Salto Youth 4 April 2014. Access Date: 20 October 2014. <https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/euromed/news/symposium/>

⁵⁶⁸ With the Directorate General of Technical and Vocational Education and Pastry Cooks Federation between the “Protocol on Cooperation in Education” was signed, Republic of Turkey Ministry of National Education (Ankara) 28 January 2014. Access Date: 20 October 2014. <http://mtegm.meb.gov.tr/www/mesleki-ve-teknik-egitim-genel-mudurlugu-ile-ascilar-ve-pastacilar-federasyonu-aspafed-arasinda-egitimde-is-birligi-protokolu-imzalandi/icerik/564>.

On 14 February 2014, the General Directorate of the Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency signed the “Cooperation in Vocational and Technical Education Protocol.”⁵⁶⁹ The Protocol will allow the Turkish government and the Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency to work together to develop applications, curriculum and practices associated with the provisions of new technologies and knowledge sharing practices for vocational and technical education systems. This program will increase the competitiveness and employability of Turkish youth.

On 6-7 March 2014, a national conference was held with the aim of discussing the problems and solutions regarding the structure of the post-secondary schools, quality of education and transition process from education to employment.⁵⁷⁰

In November 2014, Turkey will participate in the annual Global Entrepreneurship Week 2014 in Morocco. The forum is designed to identify ways to deepen ties between business leaders, foundations, universities, and entrepreneurs in the United States and Muslim communities around the world.⁵⁷¹

Turkey has partly complied with its commitment and thus is awarded a score of 0.

United Kingdom: +1

United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to finding innovative ways for firms to hire youth. While it continues some of its older programs, the government has introduced new projects under these programs.

The United Kingdom government continues to offer the *Inspiring the Future* program. It is a free service with volunteers from all sectors and professions going into state schools and colleges to talk about their jobs and sectors. On 17 October 2013, the government launched the national Inspiring Women campaign. It provided 11,000 successful women ready to give jobs and careers advice to young women. The goal of this program is to involve 15,000 women from a wide range of occupations going into state schools, over the next year, talking to 250,000 young women.⁵⁷²

On 16 April 2014, the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills and the Department for Work and Pensions announced a press release stating £170 million was to be allocated to help young people find jobs through the new Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). The funding was equally matched by the European Social Fund and by project partners, bringing the total funding to nearly £490 million.⁵⁷³

The United Kingdom government also continues the Employer Incentive an apprenticeship grant for employers of 16 to 24 year olds first introduced in 2012. The grant aims to support businesses (who

⁵⁶⁹ General Directorate of the Turkish International Cooperation and Coordination Agency “Cooperation in Vocational and Technical Education” Protocol was signed, Republic of Turkey Ministry of National Education (Ankara) 14 February 2014. Date of Access: 10 May 2014. <http://mtegm.meb.gov.tr/www/genel-mudurlugumuz-ile-turk-isbirligi-ve-koordinasyon-ajansi-baskanligi-arasinda-mesleki-ve-teknik-egitimde-isbirligi-protokolu-imzalandi/icerik/574>.

⁵⁷⁰ Post-Secondary Education School Discussed “Quality” in Education and Training, METEK Project (Corum) 10 March 2014. Access Date 10 May 2014. <http://metek.meb.gov.tr/index.php/en/press-room/news/397-post-secondary-education-schools-discussed-quality-in-education-and-training>.

⁵⁷¹ Facts on Global Entrepreneurship Summit 014 in Morocco, IIP Digital, United States of America 7 October 2014. Access Date: 20 October 2014.

<http://translations.state.gov/st/english/texttrans/2014/10/20141007309424.html#axzz3GeLi3bL>

⁵⁷² Inspiring Women Campaign, Inspiring the Future. Access Date: 20 October 2014.

<http://www.inspiringthefuture.org/about/inspiring-women-campaign.aspx>

⁵⁷³ £170 million to help young people find jobs, Press Release, Gov UK. 16 April 2014. Access Date: 20 October 2014.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/170-million-to-help-young-people-find-jobs>

would not otherwise be in a position to do so) to recruit individuals aged 16 to 24 into employment through the Apprenticeship program. The National Apprenticeship Service provides eligible employers, in respect of qualifying apprentices, with an individual value of £1,500. Employers can be paid ten grants in total during the lifetime of the initiative. The program targets employers with less than 1000 employees, who are new to apprenticeships or haven't enrolled a new recruit or existing employee into an Apprenticeship program in the previous 12 months.⁵⁷⁴

On 13 — 15 November 2014, the British government will host Europe's largest skills and careers event, The Skills Show, at the NEC Birmingham from. Visitors to The Skills Show will be able to have a go at a range of skills, get careers advice, meet with employers who are offering real job opportunities and hear from current and former apprentices about their experiences. There will also be the chance to watch the UK's most talented battle it out to be named the 'best of the best' in their chosen skill in the finals of the WorldSkills UK National Competitions.⁵⁷⁵

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment by providing help to youth to find employment as well as giving incentives to businesses to employ youth. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

United States: +1

United States has fully complied with its commitment on youth employment. During the compliance period, it has taken various initiatives to train and assist youth to find employment as well as provide funding to encourage youth entrepreneurship.

On 27 February 2014, President Obama announced the launch of the My Brother's Keeper initiative, a public-private partnership which targets employment and provision of education opportunities for disadvantaged black and Latino young men. The new initiative is a partnership of public sector and businesses and philanthropists.⁵⁷⁶

On 7 April 2014 United States President Barack Obama announced the launch of a new competitive grants program, *Youth CareerConnect*, to help equip high school students with the skills necessary for future employment. The program provides 24 Youth CareerConnect grants amounting to a total of USD107 million. The funding will support local partnerships of local education agencies, workforce investment boards, institutions of higher education and employer partners as they re-design teaching and learning experiences for youth to prepare them with the knowledge, skills, and industry-relevant education needed for successful future careers, including post-secondary education or registered apprenticeship.⁵⁷⁷

On 16 April 2014, President Obama and Vice-President Joe Biden visited the Community College at Allegheny County where they announced a number of refocused job training initiatives. These new proposals build on the Senate's PA Works Plan and include a number of legislature proposals including an employer-driven Train-To-Work PA Program (SB 223) and tax credits for businesses that hire qualified interns (SB 230). Other legislative proposals included a summer youth employment

⁵⁷⁴ Promoting Apprenticeships, Apprenticeships 12 September 2014. Access Date: 20 October 2014.

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Employers/Steps-to-make-it-happen/Incentive.aspx>

⁵⁷⁵ Promoting Apprenticeships, Apprenticeships 12 September 2014. Access Date: 20 October 2014.

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/employers/steps-to-make-it-happen/promoting-apprenticeships.aspx>

⁵⁷⁶ President Wields 'Soft Power' to Help Minority Youth, The Wall Street Journal (Washington) 27 February 2014.

Access Date: 20 October 2014.

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304071004579407992832670628>

⁵⁷⁷ FACT SHEET: Youth CareerConnect, Office of the Press Secretary, the White House 7 April 2014. Access Date: 20 October 2014. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/04/07/fact-sheet-youth-careerconnect>

program (SB 208) and permission for vocational students to earn industry accreditation in accelerated programs.⁵⁷⁸

On 18 June 2014, the White House hosted the first ever White House Maker Faire during which President Obama announced a number of new public-private collaborative efforts to spur U.S. manufacturing entrepreneurship. During the first Maker Faire, the Federal administration is enlisting more than 90 mayors and local leaders to make new spaces available for manufacturing and prototyping. The White House also plans to make it easier for entrepreneurs to access approximately \$5 billion worth of federally owned equipment for research and production, expand federal agency support for smaller manufacturers and invest \$150 million in advanced materials research through the Materials Genome Initiative to fund. The Maker Movement undertaken in partnerships with various academic institutions and businesses to “fuel the imagination of American students, and equip them with the skills they need to invent the future.” During this occasion, the President announced a number of new initiatives:⁵⁷⁹

- The Department of Education and its partners are launching a “make over” challenge to create more makerspaces in schools to accelerate the redesign of career and technical education (CTE) classrooms to meet the needs of manufacturing in the 21st century. The Department of Education will partner with private industry to launch a “Career and Technical Education Make Over Challenge” for community colleges and high schools around the country. States and local educational agencies will compete to receive technical assistance, and professional development, equipment, and or technology to modernize and upgrade CTE facilities. The challenge is planned for the 2014-2015 school year.
- The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office will provide novel support for Maker startups and small businesses. The USPTO is working to educate the youngest entrepreneurs through a summer institute on making and intellectual property for middle and high school teachers; new digital badging for boys and girls in collaboration with the 4-H and Girl Scouts; a collaboration with the YMCA to create Maker spaces for students; and the launch of a “USPTO Kids” web site that will showcase young inventors and Making activities.
- A partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and 4-H clubs nationwide is inspiring more than 27,000 students in rural areas to invent and Make. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Division of Youth and 4-H, in partnership with the National 4-H Council and state 4-H programs, will introduce Making to youth across the country, ensuring that students in rural areas also have access to Making. At 4-H’s first ever Maker Youth Summit in November 2014, 120 4-H mentors will participate in hands-on training in Making.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture will launch two new competitions to galvanize colleges and schools to create commercialization plans and prototypes for existing Agriculture Research Service technologies. The competitions will help promote agricultural technological development and entrepreneurship that can support food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues.

In November 2014, President Barack Obama committed USD100 million to support the expansion and research in the new educational program Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-

⁵⁷⁸ President Obama, Vice President Biden to Announce Refocused Job Training Initiatives, Pasenate (Harrisburg) 16 April 2014. Access Date: 20 October 2014. <http://www.pasenate.com/2014/04/16/president-obama-vice-president-biden-to-announce-refocused-job-training-initiatives/>

⁵⁷⁹ Fact Sheet: President Obama to Host First-Ever White House Maker Faire, Office of the Press Secretary, the White House 18 June 2014. Access Date: 20 October 2014. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/18/fact-sheet-president-obama-host-first-ever-white-house-maker-faire>

Tech) to boost the employability of young Americans. The program is designed to engage businesses in this public-private initiative. The P-Tech Model is threefold: (1) “the program: students remain in high school an extra two years to earn an associate’s degree”; (2) “the skills: employers help craft the curriculum so graduates are ready for good jobs”; (3) “the payoff: a promise of a job at graduation.”⁵⁸⁰

On 17 July 2014, the White House Initiative on AAPIs (WHIAAPI) and the White House Office of Public Engagement hosted an AAPI Youth Forum with the East Coast Asian American Student Union (ECAASU), gathering 100 young AAPI leaders at the White House. At this year’s Youth Forum, WHIAAPI launched its 2014-2015 E3! Ambassadors Program, which seeks to “Educate, Engage, and Empower” young leaders to increase awareness and outreach around the four aforementioned focus issues. Hosted on Challenge.gov, a portal for the federal government to post challenges that seek innovative solutions from the public, E3! lends young leaders the opportunity to brainstorm and implement their own unique ideas to help improve the quality of life and opportunity for young AAPIs.⁵⁸¹

During the compliance period, the United States has introduced numerous innovative programs to boost youth employment, some of them specifically target the disadvantaged groups within the broader youth group. For its comprehensive approach, it has been awarded the full compliance score of +1.

European Union: +1

The European Union fully complied with the commitment.

In January 2014, 17 EU members submitted Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans which are a part of the ambitious EU-wide reform aiming to help all jobless people under 25 find employment.⁵⁸²

To increase available EU financial support to the regions where youth unemployment is the most acute, the Council and the European Parliament agreed to create a dedicated Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). The Commission has proposed to frontload the 6 billion under the YEI so that all this money is committed in 2014 and 2015 rather than over 7 year period as it was planned earlier.⁵⁸³

The European Commission continuously acknowledged youth unemployment as a priority and called for the members of EU for action on youth employment and development of employable skills among European youth. The Commission called for steps to be taken without delay to get young people back into work, education or training. These steps covered the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, investment in young people through the European Social Fund, the front-loading of the Youth Employment Initiative, and steps to ease the transition from education to work by boosting the supply of high-quality apprenticeships and traineeships and addressing skills shortages.⁵⁸⁴

⁵⁸⁰ The School That Is Changing American Education, The Time (New York) 13 February 2014. Access Date: 20 October 2014. <http://time.com/10038/the-school-that-is-changing-american-education/>

⁵⁸¹ WHIAAPI Launches E3! Ambassadors Program for Young Leaders, AAPI, the White House 22 July 2014. Access Date: 20 October 2014. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/07/22/whiaapi-launches-e3-ambassadors-program-young-leaders>

⁵⁸² European Commission Database, Employment: 17 Member States have submitted Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans, 15 January 2014, http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-13_en.htm

⁵⁸³ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-784_en.htm

⁵⁸⁴ European Commission Database, Youth Employment Initiative: Commission and Member States meet to speed up implementation of €6bn euro dedicated fund 8 July 2014, http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/;ELX_SESSIONID=X2g4TQdVqkVTHPFpNTVpyrrSrvCx1gDFnxpMthtYCzLq4PC9Ggp!-2052500015?uri=CELEX:52013DC0447

On July 9, 2014, research partnerships between the EU, the private sector and Member States presented their first call for projects and partners under Horizon 2020, the EU's 80 billion Euros research and innovation programme. This new initiative is dedicated to increasing the competitiveness of European companies.⁵⁸⁵

The Erasmus programs provides financial support for European Union students to gain skills and train abroad. The new Erasmus+ programme will provide grants for 4 million people, including 2 million higher education students and 300 000 staff over the next seven years (2014-2020). It will also fund 135 000 student and staff exchanges between Europe and partner countries worldwide. The expanded programme, which includes Erasmus and similar mobility schemes for other groups including apprentices and volunteers, puts more emphasis on linguistic support, more flexible rules for grants, as well as specific additional support for people with special needs, from disadvantaged backgrounds and remote areas.⁵⁸⁶

At an emergency meeting in Brussels on July 11, 2014, the European Commission adopted the national Operational Programme for the implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative in Italy. The European budget will allocate 1,1 billion Euros to this programme while Italy will mobilize 1,5 billion from various resources.⁵⁸⁷ A month earlier, the European Commission adopted a similar programme to address youth unemployment in France.

The European Union pursued continuous efforts to address youth unemployment through allocation of funds to innovative programs dedicated to youth education and employment, through targeted allocation of resources to the most needed youth groups in the EU and through innovative policy measures. Thus, the member was awarded compliance score of +1.

⁵⁸⁵ European Commission Database, Horizon 2020 – Industrial Leadership – Innovation in SMEs – Enhancing SME Innovation capacity by providing better innovation support – 20414, <http://www.welcomeurope.com/europe-funding-opportunities/horizon-2020-industrial-leadership-innovation-smes-enhancing-sme-innovation-capacity-providing-better-innovation-support-2014-6236+6136.html>

⁵⁸⁶ European Commission Database, Another Record Breaking Year for ERASMUS, 10 July 2014, <http://www.welcomeurope.com/news-europe/record-breaking-year-erasmus-16130+16030.html#afficheTexte>

⁵⁸⁷ European Commission Database, YEI: 1.1 Billion Euro Against Unemployment in Italy, 11 July 2014, <http://www.welcomeurope.com/news-europe/yEI-1-1-billion-euro-unemployment-italy-16131+16031.html>

5. Long-Term Investment

To lift growth and create jobs by boosting investment, we commit to identify and start to implement by the Brisbane Summit a set of collective and country-specific actions that tangibly improve our domestic investment environments such that they are more favorable to long-term investment financing and can lead to an effective increase of implemented projects, particularly in infrastructure and for SMEs.

Assessment

Country	Non-Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom		0	
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.85	

Background

In response to the 2008 financial crisis G20 leaders committed at the Washington Summit to reduce barriers to trade and investment and resist all forms of protectionism. This commitment was reiterated at the following five summits.

It was at the 2011 Cannes Summit that leaders further developed the dialogue on investment with commitments to build an enabling environment for private and public financing for infrastructure with a focus on regional projects. The following year at the 2012 Los Cabos Summit a similar commitment was made to create a more “conducive environment for development, including supporting infrastructure investment.”⁵⁸⁸

The Los Cabos Summit also concluded with the release of country-specific structural reform commitments intended to “strengthen and sustain global demand, foster job creation, contribute to global rebalancing and increase growth potential.” Further, G20 finance ministers were asked to develop ways to foster investment in infrastructure and on how to ensure adequate funding for infrastructure projects.⁵⁸⁹

⁵⁸⁸ G20 Information Centre, “G20 Leaders Declaration”, June 18-19 2012, Date of Access: April 9, 2014

⁵⁸⁹ G20 Information Centre, ‘G20 Leaders Declaration’, June 18-19, 2012, Date of Access: April 11, 2014.

Under the Russian presidency of the G20, financing for long-term investment was prioritized. At the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting prior to the summit a study group, working closely with the World Bank, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Financial Stability Board, the United Nations and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on Financing for long-term Investment was created. The study group was given the task to determine a work plan for the G20 regarding the role of the private sector and official sources of long-term financing.⁵⁹⁰

At a second meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors in July 2013, ministers endorsed the work plan prepared by the Study Group and welcomed the “High-Level Principles of Long-Term Investment Financing by Institutional Investors.” They acknowledged that to improve investment conditions they would have to improve the processes and transparency in planning, and improve the design of public- private partnership (PPP) arrangements.⁵⁹¹

Commitment Features

The commitment identifies that multiple actions must be taken by the Brisbane Summit. The G20 member countries must identify and start to implement both country-specific and collective actions to foster domestic investment environments with the overall goal to create favourable environments for investment in infrastructure and for SMEs.

While the G20 Study Group on Financing for Investment continues to coordinate the collective work stream, each G20 member must also develop country-specific processes that outline individual country circumstances and actions to remove the barriers to long-term investment to build infrastructure and support SMEs.

To comply with the commitment, members must identify a national strategy to address domestic barriers to investment. These plans must include references to supporting infrastructure and SMEs as a direct goal. The national plans may include research on the priorities identified by the Study Group on Financing for Investment which include:

1. Capital Markets: domestic capital markets, including local currency bond markets, could play a role in mobilizing resources for long-term financing;
2. Private sources of financing: analyzing institutional investors to better understand their viability as a source of long-term financing, including for infrastructure;
3. Identify official sources of financing: including multilateral development banks, with
4. particular attention to the critical importance of using the resources and expertise of these entities to more effectively catalyze long-term financing from other sources, particularly in the private sector; and
5. Global financial regulatory reform and the extent to which it may impact the availability of long-term financing.

The G20 member must also contribute to the collective processes of agenda setting and the support the work stream of the Study Group on Financing for Investment. Specific issues including the intermediation of the global savings pool and supporting multilateral development banks to catalyze private finance are examples of two areas where support would contribute toward compliance.

⁵⁹⁰ Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, “Analytical Time Table based on the G20 Financial Track Communiqué” February 15-16, 2013, Date of Access: April 5, 2014

⁵⁹¹ Government of Canada, Department of Finance, “Communiqué, Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, Moscow” July 20, 2013, Date of Access: April 11, 2014 <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n13/13-096-eng.asp>

Scoring Guidelines

Score	Description
-1	The G20 member did not begin to identify national plans to address domestic barriers to investment AND did not support collective measures
0	The G20 member identified country-specific measures BUT did not begin to implement the measures, OR the G20 member identified and began to implement country-specific measures BUT did not reference infrastructure and SMEs as priority goals OR G20 member identified and began to implement country-specific measure BUT did not support collective actions.
+1	The G20 member identified AND began to implement country-specific measures to address barriers to domestic investment WITH a reference to the goals of infrastructure and SMEs AND supported collective actions.

Argentina: +1

Argentina fully complied with their commitment to lift growth and create jobs by improving the investment environment with specific reference to helping SMEs and developing infrastructure. Both national and collective measures were identified and implemented.

On 6 January 2014, Argentina announced the Export Diversification and Enhancement Program (PADEX).⁵⁹² The main objective of the program is to improve Argentine exports, develop regional economies, increase the number of exporting companies and diversify export destinations and types.⁵⁹³ The program is stated to result in improved infrastructure, railways, and road transport.⁵⁹⁴ The credit mechanisms included in the proposal also include export financing and investment projects.⁵⁹⁵

On 29 May 2014, Argentina reached an agreement with the Paris Club.⁵⁹⁶ The Paris Club contains 19 countries with which Argentina contracted debts.⁵⁹⁷ The payment scheme reduces the financial cost of Argentina's unpaid debt, and is an important step to promote investment in Argentina.⁵⁹⁸

On 30 May 2014, Argentina's Minister of Economy Axel Kicillof stated that the agreement with the 19 members of the Paris Club "have created a partnership to boost investment in Argentina."⁵⁹⁹

⁵⁹² Kicillof presented a program to increase exports, Ministry of Economy and Public Finance of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 6 January 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014.

<http://www.mecon.gov.ar/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/gacetilla-padex.pdf>

⁵⁹³ Kicillof presented a program to increase exports, Ministry of Economy and Public Finance of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 6 January 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014.

<http://www.mecon.gov.ar/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/gacetilla-padex.pdf>

⁵⁹⁴ Kicillof presented a program to increase exports, Ministry of Economy and Public Finance of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 6 January 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014.

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⁵⁹⁵ Kicillof presented a program to increase exports, Ministry of Economy and Public Finance of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 6 January 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014.

<http://www.mecon.gov.ar/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/gacetilla-padex.pdf>

⁵⁹⁶ Argentina and the Paris Club reached an agreement, Ministry of Economy and Public Finance of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 29 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014

<http://www.mecon.gov.ar/desde-paris-argentina-y-el-club-de-paris-alcanzan-un-acuerdo/>

⁵⁹⁷ Argentina and the Paris Club reached an agreement, Ministry of Economy and Public Finance of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 29 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014

<http://www.mecon.gov.ar/desde-paris-argentina-y-el-club-de-paris-alcanzan-un-acuerdo/>

⁵⁹⁸ Argentina and the Paris Club reached an agreement, Ministry of Economy and Public Finance of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 29 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014

<http://www.mecon.gov.ar/desde-paris-argentina-y-el-club-de-paris-alcanzan-un-acuerdo/>

Kilcillof stated that this collective effort is a way “for governments to encourage enterprises to generate investments in the country.”⁶⁰⁰

On 13 August 2014, Argentina’s secretary of commerce, Augusto Costa met with representatives of Argentina’s SMEs in the Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (APYME).⁶⁰¹ Costa stated that the government will continue to promote measures that empower consumers and generate predictability to the whole economy and to continue the path of growth to ensure consumption and sustain employment.⁶⁰² Costa also stated that the government is now discussing laws for regulation and problems of the SMEs sector.⁶⁰³

On 17 September 2014, Argentina’s Federal Government stated that preliminary agreement had been reached with the provinces to reform energy regulations to improve incentives and boost investment.⁶⁰⁴ The government aimed to create a national framework that applies to all regions and ease the investment process.⁶⁰⁵ The bill also cuts the minimum investment needed to exempt companies from certain controls from \$1 billion to \$250 million.⁶⁰⁶

On 18 September 2014, Argentina’s Congress approved a bill allowing the government to intervene in pricing and output level of large companies.⁶⁰⁷ The bill serves to protect consumers from unfair

⁵⁹⁹ Kilcillof: With the Paris Club “have created a partnership to boost investment in Argentina”, Ministry of economy and public finances (Buenos Aires) 30 May 2014. Date accessed: 18 September 2014 <http://www.mecon.gov.ar/kicillof-con-el-club-de-paris-hemos-creado-una-sociedad-para-potenciar-las-inversiones-en-argentina/>

⁶⁰⁰ Kilcillof: With the Paris Club “have created a partnership to boost investment in Argentina”, Ministry of economy and public finances (Buenos Aires) 30 May 2014. Date accessed: 18 September 2014 <http://www.mecon.gov.ar/kicillof-con-el-club-de-paris-hemos-creado-una-sociedad-para-potenciar-las-inversiones-en-argentina/>

⁶⁰¹ Augusto Costa met with representatives of SMEs nationwide, Ministry of economy and public finances (Buenos Aires) 13 August 2014. Date accessed: 18 September 2014 <http://www.mecon.gov.ar/augusto-costa-se-reunio-con-representantes-de-las-pymes-de-todo-el-pais/>

⁶⁰² Augusto Costa met with representatives of SMEs nationwide, Ministry of economy and public finances (Buenos Aires) 13 August 2014. Date accessed: 18 September 2014 <http://www.mecon.gov.ar/augusto-costa-se-reunio-con-representantes-de-las-pymes-de-todo-el-pais/>

⁶⁰³ Augusto Costa met with representatives of SMEs nationwide, Ministry of economy and public finances (Buenos Aires) 13 August 2014. Date accessed: 18 September 2014 <http://www.mecon.gov.ar/augusto-costa-se-reunio-con-representantes-de-las-pymes-de-todo-el-pais/>

⁶⁰⁴ Argentina agrees draft energy law to boost foreign investment, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 17 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/17/argentina-energy-idUSL6N0RI38Q20140917>

⁶⁰⁵ Argentina agrees draft energy law to boost foreign investment, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 17 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/17/argentina-energy-idUSL6N0RI38Q20140917>

⁶⁰⁶ Argentina agrees draft energy law to boost foreign investment, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 17 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/17/argentina-energy-idUSL6N0RI38Q20140917>

⁶⁰⁷ Argentina’s Congress approves supply bill; business frets, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 18 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/18/us-argentina-economy-idUSKBN0HD2KR20140918>

price fluctuations and decrease job losses.⁶⁰⁸ The bill also aims to protect small and medium-sized companies, encourage investment, and create jobs.⁶⁰⁹

The Argentine government identified both national and collective measures to boost investment. Helping SMEs and building infrastructure were addressed as goals of these measures. Therefore, Argentina has been assigned a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Alissa (Xinbe) Wang

Australia: +1

Australia fully complied with its commitment to lift growth and create jobs by boosting investment. The Australian government has taken both country-specific and collective actions that improve the investment climate and lead to an increase in infrastructure and support for SMEs.

On 08 October 2013, Australia announced to contribute \$3 million towards a pilot Public Private Partnership (PPP) Centre for growing infrastructure needs of the APEC region.⁶¹⁰ The PPP uses the private sector's expertise to find new ways to facilitate investment and deliver infrastructure. Australia's contribution will be sourced from an existing Aus-Aid Asia Development Bank Trust Fund, which supports infrastructure in Indonesia.⁶¹¹ More than \$8 trillion worth of infrastructure has been identified within the APEC region in which Australia can play a role in turning it into economic opportunity.⁶¹²

On 7 January 2014, the Minister for Small Business released the statement titled "life made easier for small business."⁶¹³ The media release states that the Federal Government has taken the first step to reduce the burden of small businesses of making superannuation contributions for their workers.⁶¹⁴ The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) was reported to take over the running of the Small Business Superannuation Clearing House, a free online service that helps small businesses meet their

⁶⁰⁸ Argentina's Congress approves supply bill; business frets, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 18 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/18/us-argentina-economy-idUSKBN0HD2KR20140918>

⁶⁰⁹ Argentina's Congress approves supply bill; business frets, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 18 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/18/us-argentina-economy-idUSKBN0HD2KR20140918>

⁶¹⁰ Australia to co-fund innovative project to tackle the growing infrastructure needs of APEC economies, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 8 October 2013. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2013-10-08/australia-co-fund-innovative-project-tackle-growing-infrastructure-needs-apec>

⁶¹¹ Australia to co-fund innovative project to tackle the growing infrastructure needs of APEC economies, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 8 October 2013. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2013-10-08/australia-co-fund-innovative-project-tackle-growing-infrastructure-needs-apec>

⁶¹² Australia to co-fund innovative project to tackle the growing infrastructure needs of APEC economies, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 8 October 2013. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2013-10-08/australia-co-fund-innovative-project-tackle-growing-infrastructure-needs-apec>

⁶¹³ Life made easier for small business, Australian Government-The Treasury (Canberra) 7 January 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/001-2014/>

⁶¹⁴ Life made easier for small business, Australian Government-The Treasury (Canberra) 7 January 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/001-2014/>

superannuation guarantee obligations.⁶¹⁵ This initiative is a part of the government's commitment to cut \$1 billion worth of red-tape out of the economy.⁶¹⁶

On 6 March 2014, the Australian Government announced a \$50m boost to help small and medium sized businesses reach their export potential.⁶¹⁷ The initiative aims to assist SMEs to enter new markets and encourage them to become long-term exporters and employers.⁶¹⁸

On 16 March 2014, the Prime Minister of Australia said that the government is determined to cut \$1 billion in red tape costs every year to improve Australia's competitiveness and create more jobs.⁶¹⁹

On 19 March 2014, the Australian Government introduced the legislation and tabled documents to repeal over 10000 pieces of legislation and regulations.⁶²⁰ The repealed legislation and regulations are said to be "unnecessary" and "dead weight on Australian businesses."⁶²¹ The Government stated that they are committed to cutting red tape costs by \$1 billion a year to improve the nation's competitiveness, create more jobs, and make it easier for small businesses to do business with Government.⁶²² This reduction will reduce red tape across the economy by more than \$700 million a year, every year.⁶²³

On 24 March 2014, the Australian Prime Minister stated that "better infrastructure will be the hallmark of the Coalition Government."⁶²⁴ The National Infrastructure Committee will ensure that Commonwealth supported infrastructure are well coordinated and accountable.⁶²⁵ The government has also introduced legislation to make infrastructure more effective.⁶²⁶ The government is also working to ensure that infrastructure is built more quickly.⁶²⁷

⁶¹⁵ Life made easier for small business, Australian Government-The Treasury (Canberra) 7 January 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/001-2014/>

⁶¹⁶ Life made easier for small business, Australian Government-The Treasury (Canberra) 7 January 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/001-2014/>

⁶¹⁷ \$50m boost to help small businesses export, Australian Government-The Treasury (Canberra) 6 March 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/009-2014/>

⁶¹⁸ \$50m boost to help small businesses export, Australian Government-The Treasury (Canberra) 6 March 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/009-2014/>

⁶¹⁹ A message from the Prime Minister - Cutting Red Tape, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 16 March 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-03-16/message-prime-minister-cutting-red-tape-0>

⁶²⁰ Reducing Red tape to build a strong and prosperous economy, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 19 March 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-03-19/reducing-red-tape-build-strong-and-prosperous-economy>

⁶²¹ Reducing Red tape to build a strong and prosperous economy, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 19 March 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-03-19/reducing-red-tape-build-strong-and-prosperous-economy>

⁶²² Reducing Red tape to build a strong and prosperous economy, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 19 March 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-03-19/reducing-red-tape-build-strong-and-prosperous-economy>

⁶²³ Reducing Red tape to build a strong and prosperous economy, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 19 March 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-03-19/reducing-red-tape-build-strong-and-prosperous-economy>

⁶²⁴ Delivering Australia's Infrastructure Needs, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 24 March 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-03-24/delivering-australias-infrastructure-needs>

⁶²⁵ Delivering Australia's Infrastructure Needs, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 24 March 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-03-24/delivering-australias-infrastructure-needs>

⁶²⁶ Delivering Australia's Infrastructure Needs, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 24 March 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-03-24/delivering-australias-infrastructure-needs>

⁶²⁷ Delivering Australia's Infrastructure Needs, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 24 March 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-03-24/delivering-australias-infrastructure-needs>

On 28 March 2014, the Australian Government asked the Board of Taxation to identify features of the tax system that are hindering small businesses from reaching their commercial goals.⁶²⁸ The goal is to have small business owners spend less time on paperwork, and to drive innovation and jobs growth and business growth.⁶²⁹

On 28 March 2014, the Treasurer of Australia agreed with the State and Territory Treasurers to boost infrastructure.⁶³⁰ The treasurer stated Australia needs to enhance its infrastructure to “boost economic growth and create jobs.”⁶³¹ An asset recycling initiative was suggested and endorsed by the treasurers.⁶³² The aim of the initiative is to remove infrastructure bottlenecks, stimulate construction and drive real activity in the economy.⁶³³

On 16 April 2014, the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments were to deliver the shared plan for Western Sydney by investing over \$1 billion in major infrastructure upgrades that will transform the region’s economy.⁶³⁴ The plan involves transport links from gains from developing an airport at Badgerys Creek, which will boost the local economy of Western Sydney and make it a better place to live and do business.⁶³⁵

On 19 April 2014, the Australian Prime Minister stated that the government continued to deliver their commitment to build the infrastructure of the 21st century.⁶³⁶ The government is working with state governments around Australia to deliver major roads.⁶³⁷ The government also decided to build an airport in Western Sydney, the construction of which will provide up to 60,000 new jobs.⁶³⁸ The Commonwealth will also provide \$3.5 billion in new road funding which will create 4000 new jobs over the next 10 years.⁶³⁹ The prime minister stated that “investments in infrastructure are investments in the economy of our future.”⁶⁴⁰

⁶²⁸ Working to remove barriers to help small businesses grow, Australian Government-the Treasury (Canberra) 28 March 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014/ <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/015-2014/>

⁶²⁹ Working to remove barriers to help small businesses grow, Australian Government-the Treasury (Canberra) 28 March 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014/ <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/015-2014/>

⁶³⁰ Treasurers agree to boost infrastructure, Australian Government-the Treasurer (Canberra) 28 March 2014. Date accessed :20 September 2014. <http://jbh.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/010-2014/>

⁶³¹ Treasurers agree to boost infrastructure, Australian Government-the Treasurer (Canberra) 28 March 2014. Date accessed :20 September 2014. <http://jbh.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/010-2014/>

⁶³² Treasurers agree to boost infrastructure, Australian Government-the Treasurer (Canberra) 28 March 2014. Date accessed :20 September 2014. <http://jbh.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/010-2014/>

⁶³³ Treasurers agree to boost infrastructure, Australian Government-the Treasurer (Canberra) 28 March 2014. Date accessed :20 September 2014. <http://jbh.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/010-2014/>

⁶³⁴ Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan: More jobs, better roads, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 16 April 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-04-16/western-sydney-infrastructure-plan-more-jobs-better-roads>

⁶³⁵ Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan: More jobs, better roads, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 16 April 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-04-16/western-sydney-infrastructure-plan-more-jobs-better-roads>

⁶³⁶ A message from the Prime Minister, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 19 April 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-04-19/message-prime-minister-0>

⁶³⁷ A message from the Prime Minister, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 19 April 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-04-19/message-prime-minister-0>

⁶³⁸ A message from the Prime Minister, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 19 April 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-04-19/message-prime-minister-0>

⁶³⁹ A message from the Prime Minister, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 19 April 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-04-19/message-prime-minister-0>

⁶⁴⁰ A message from the Prime Minister, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 19 April 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-04-19/message-prime-minister-0>

On 30 April 2014, the Australian Government took the first step in delivering a Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman with real power.⁶⁴¹ The Government aims to establish a single entry-point for small business, which tackles the difficulty small businesses face with not knowing where to get assistance.⁶⁴² The Ombudsman will help to minimize compliance burdens and reduce red tape to make life easier for small businesses.⁶⁴³

On 13 May 2014, the Australian Minister for Small Business announced that small businesses will get the same protections as consumers when it comes to “unfair contracts imposed by big business.”⁶⁴⁴ The Government will provide \$1.4 million to extend consumer protection to small businesses.⁶⁴⁵

On 13 May 2014, the Government announced to set up a new unit to provide specialist advice on contracts to ensure small businesses are not disadvantaged.⁶⁴⁶ The government allocated \$2.8 million over 4 years to help small businesses access Commonwealth contract.⁶⁴⁷ This tackles the barriers that small businesses face with contracting documents and expensive insurance.⁶⁴⁸

On 13 May 2014, the Government announced to roll out its biggest infrastructure program with the aim of strengthening the economy, easing congestion, cut travel times and create new jobs.⁶⁴⁹ The government will establish an Asset Recycling Fund to build infrastructure on July 1, 2014.⁶⁵⁰ An initial contribute of \$5.9 billion was made to the fund.⁶⁵¹ The government committed to make an addition \$11.6 billion through the Infrastructure Growth Package.⁶⁵²

On 23 May 2014, the Australian Government released a discussion paper with state and territory consumer affairs ministers.⁶⁵³ This discussion tackles the barriers created by current Australian Consumer Law, which protects individual consumers from unfair terms in standard contracts, but

⁶⁴¹ Government looks to make life easier for small business, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 30 April 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/026-2014/>

⁶⁴² Government looks to make life easier for small business, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 30 April 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/026-2014/>

⁶⁴³ Government looks to make life easier for small business, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 30 April 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/026-2014/>

⁶⁴⁴ Small business to get the same protection as consumers, Australian Government - the Treasury (Canberra) 13 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/027-2014/>

⁶⁴⁵ Small business to get the same protection as consumers, Australian Government - the Treasury (Canberra) 13 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/027-2014/>

⁶⁴⁶ Small businesses to benefit from new Commonwealth contracting arrangement, Australian Government - the Treasury (Canberra) 13 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/029-2014/>

⁶⁴⁷ Small businesses to benefit from new Commonwealth contracting arrangement, Australian Government - the Treasury (Canberra) 13 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/029-2014/>

⁶⁴⁸ Small businesses to benefit from new Commonwealth contracting arrangement, Australian Government - the Treasury (Canberra) 13 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/029-2014/>

⁶⁴⁹ Government rolls out biggest infrastructure program ,Australian Government-the Treasury (Canberra) 13 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://jbh.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/024-2014/>

⁶⁵⁰ Government rolls out biggest infrastructure program ,Australian Government-the Treasury (Canberra) 13 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://jbh.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/024-2014/>

⁶⁵¹ Government rolls out biggest infrastructure program ,Australian Government-the Treasury (Canberra) 13 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://jbh.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/024-2014/>

⁶⁵² Government rolls out biggest infrastructure program ,Australian Government-the Treasury (Canberra) 13 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://jbh.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/024-2014/>

⁶⁵³ Ministers agree to push for small business protections, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 23 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/031-2014/>

does not provide safeguards for small businesses.⁶⁵⁴ Ministers agreed to push for small business protections.⁶⁵⁵ An important consideration in this consultation was getting the balance right between protecting small businesses against unfair contract terms while at the same time not imposing unnecessary burden on businesses.⁶⁵⁶

On 02 June 2014, the Government of Australia passed the “Paid Parental Leave Amendment 2014” through the House of Representatives.⁶⁵⁷ The amendment hopes to allow businesses to no longer act as the “pay-clerk” for the paid parental leave scheme.⁶⁵⁸ The removal of the “pay-clerk” burden will remove a current barrier faced by businesses.⁶⁵⁹

On 24 June 2014, the Australian Government launched a new online tool, “Dispute Support” for dispute resolution information and referral, aimed at saving small businesses time and money and helping them quickly and easily find the information they need to solve disputes.⁶⁶⁰ This initiative is a step in developing the “Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman with real power and a concierge function for dispute resolution.”⁶⁶¹

On 01 July 2014, Australian Industry Minister Ian Macfarlan said that the Government is working with businesses on new programs to make Australian industry more productive, and that a new era for industry development was begun with focus on new investment, jobs growth and new opportunities for Australian entrepreneurs.⁶⁶² The new programmes will drive business productively and help create new jobs.⁶⁶³ The government is investing \$92.4 million to a new streamlined Single Business Service Delivery initiative.⁶⁶⁴ Small businesses and independent contractors will now be able to access Department of Industry information and services through a single website or contact number.⁶⁶⁵

⁶⁵⁴ Ministers agree to push for small business protections, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 23 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/031-2014/>

⁶⁵⁵ Ministers agree to push for small business protections, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 23 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/031-2014/>

⁶⁵⁶ Ministers agree to push for small business protections, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 23 May 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/031-2014/>

⁶⁵⁷ \$48m in red-tape saving passes the House, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 3 June 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/034-2014/>

⁶⁵⁸ \$48m in red-tape saving passes the House, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 3 June 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/034-2014/>

⁶⁵⁹ \$48m in red-tape saving passes the House, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 3 June 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/034-2014/>

⁶⁶⁰ New online tool makes it easier for small businesses to find dispute resolution services, Australian Government -The Treasury (Canberra) 24 June 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/036-2014/>

⁶⁶¹ New online tool makes it easier for small businesses to find dispute resolution services, Australian Government -The Treasury (Canberra) 24 June 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/036-2014/>

⁶⁶² A new era for Australian industry and small business, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 01 July 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/038-2014/>

⁶⁶³ A new era for Australian industry and small business, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 01 July 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/038-2014/>

⁶⁶⁴ A new era for Australian industry and small business, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 01 July 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/038-2014/>

⁶⁶⁵ A new era for Australian industry and small business, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 01 July 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/038-2014/>

On 14 July 2014 the Australian Government tabled the Productivity Commission's Final Inquiry Report into Public Infrastructure.⁶⁶⁶ The report shows that the current system needs to be reformed, identifying current issues including barriers to private sector investment, the need for more efficient project selection, developing more robust governance and institutional arrangements, improve mechanisms to fund and finance infrastructure projects, etc.⁶⁶⁷ New measures to fix and improve the delivery of infrastructure include the \$5 billion Asset Recycling initiative, concessional loan for West Connex, and seeking private contribution for roads project in western Australia.⁶⁶⁸

On 18 August 2014, the Minister for Small Business released a statement to strengthen assistance to small businesses by implementing the establishment of a new way for small businesses to interact with the Commonwealth.⁶⁶⁹ This initiative makes it easier for small businesses to access assistance.⁶⁷⁰ The new model is settled to have "real powers for the transition of the Small Business Commissioner into the Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman," and the Ombudsman will provide advice to small businesses.⁶⁷¹

On 08 September 2014, the Australian government announced its investment in two new innovative training programs to help young job seekers acquire jobs and provide employers, especially small businesses, with the employees they need to grow their business.⁶⁷² Small businesses will have access to government funded training tailored to their needs, and small to medium businesses who hire an unemployed in the age range of 18-24 is eligible for funding for up to 26 weeks of training.⁶⁷³

On 09 September 2014, the Australian Prime Minister stated that the Abbott Government will focus on growth and infrastructure, with initiatives like the Asset Recycling Initiative.⁶⁷⁴ The \$5 billion commitment from the Commonwealth is stated to deliver \$38 billion of new infrastructure in collaboration with the state and the private sector.⁶⁷⁵ The initiative is also a central part of the \$11.6 billion Infrastructure Growth Package aimed to create jobs and reduce congestion.⁶⁷⁶

⁶⁶⁶ Productivity Commission's Final Report on Public Infrastructure released, Australian Government-The Treasury (Canberra) 14 July 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://jhb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/032-2014/>

⁶⁶⁷ Productivity Commission's Final Report on Public Infrastructure released, Australian Government-The Treasury (Canberra) 14 July 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://jhb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/032-2014/>

⁶⁶⁸ Productivity Commission's Final Report on Public Infrastructure released, Australian Government-The Treasury (Canberra) 14 July 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://jhb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/032-2014/>

⁶⁶⁹ Small business assistance to be strengthened, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 18 August 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/045-2014/>

⁶⁷⁰ Small business assistance to be strengthened, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 18 August 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/045-2014/>

⁶⁷¹ Small business assistance to be strengthened, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 18 August 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://bfb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/045-2014/>

⁶⁷² Jobs and New Careers for young Australians to grow businesses, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 08 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-09-08/jobs-and-new-careers-young-australians-grow-businesses>

⁶⁷³ Jobs and New Careers for young Australians to grow businesses, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 08 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-09-08/jobs-and-new-careers-young-australians-grow-businesses>

⁶⁷⁴ Governments focus on growth and infrastructure, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 19 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://jhb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/051-2014/>

⁶⁷⁵ Governments focus on growth and infrastructure, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 19 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://jhb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/051-2014/>

⁶⁷⁶ Governments focus on growth and infrastructure, Australian Government - The Treasury (Canberra) 19 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://jhb.ministers.treasury.gov.au/media-release/051-2014/>

Australia has identified current barriers to investment and identified and implemented national plans to address these barriers. Australia also supported collective measures such as contributing to the PPP for the growing infrastructure needs in APEC economies. The strategies also directly support SMEs and the development of infrastructure. Therefore, Australia has been assigned a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Alissa (Xinbe) Wang

Brazil: +1

Brazil fully complied with their commitment to improve investment conditions with supporting SMEs and developing infrastructure as a direct goal. Both national and collective measures were identified and implemented by the Brazilian government.

On 16 June 2014, Brazil's finance minister Guido Mantega announced measures to stimulate the IPO of medium and small companies on the stock exchange.⁶⁷⁷ One measure is the exemption from income on capital gains from shares of companies that have market value lower than \$700 million and gross revenue lower than R \$500 million.⁶⁷⁸ The current tax of 15% is abolished. Another measure was the extension of the deadline for debentures with tax incentives until December 2020.⁶⁷⁹

On 1 July 2014, the board of the National Bank for Economic and Social Development approved the transformation of the Microcredit program so that it no longer has a budget cap.⁶⁸⁰ The maximum amount of funding of £15,000 was increased to £20 000. The final beneficiaries are micro-entrepreneurs.⁶⁸¹

On 15 July 2014, the Government of Brazil signed an agreement with the governments of Russia, India China and South Africa to establish the Development Bank of the BRICs.⁶⁸² The bank will finance infrastructure projects and development. The initial capital of the bank will be \$100 billion.⁶⁸³

On 16 July 2014, Brazil's Secretary for Economic Monitoring, Pablo Fonseca, announced that investments in infrastructure will reach £ 404.2 billion between 2014 and 2017.⁶⁸⁴

⁶⁷⁷ Government exempts gains with shares of smaller companies paying IR, Ministry of Finance (Brasilia) 16 June 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/2014-1/junho/governo-isenta-ganhos-com-aco-es-de-empresas-de-menor-porte-do-pagamento-de-ir>

⁶⁷⁸ Government exempts gains with shares of smaller companies paying IR, Ministry of Finance (Brasilia) 16 June 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/2014-1/junho/governo-isenta-ganhos-com-aco-es-de-empresas-de-menor-porte-do-pagamento-de-ir>

⁶⁷⁹ Government exempts gains with shares of smaller companies paying IR, Ministry of Finance (Brasilia) 16 June 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/2014-1/junho/governo-isenta-ganhos-com-aco-es-de-empresas-de-menor-porte-do-pagamento-de-ir>

⁶⁸⁰ Bank makes ongoing support to microcredit and limit increases, Brazil Portal (Brasilia) 1 July 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/economia-e-emprego/2014/07/banco-torna-permanente-apoio-ao-microcredito-e-aumenta-limite>

⁶⁸¹ Bank makes ongoing support to microcredit and limit increases, Brazil Portal (Brasilia) 1 July 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/economia-e-emprego/2014/07/banco-torna-permanente-apoio-ao-microcredito-e-aumenta-limite>

⁶⁸² BRICS create new development bank, Ministry of Finance (Brasilia) 15 July 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/2014-1/julho/brics-criam-novo-banco-de-desenvolvimento>

⁶⁸³ BRICS create new development bank, Ministry of Finance (Brasilia) 15 July 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/2014-1/julho/brics-criam-novo-banco-de-desenvolvimento>

⁶⁸⁴ Government estimates £ 400 billion of investments in transport and electricity, between 2014 and 2017, Ministry of Finance (Brasilia) 16 July 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/2014-1/julho/governo-estima-r-400-bilhoes-de-investimentos-em-transporte-e-eletricidade-entre-2014-e-2017>

On 25 August 2014, Brazil's Minister of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, Mauro Borges said that "investments in human and physical capital are essential" to adapt Brazil to the expanding world economy,⁶⁸⁵ recognizing the importance of investment in human capital and infrastructure in boosting the Brazilian economy.⁶⁸⁶

On 12 September 2014, the Brazilian government approved new incentives for industrial investment.⁶⁸⁷ 439 former tariffs were reduced to reduce the cost of oversea acquisition.⁶⁸⁸ The items with tax reduction is reported to be used in projects totaling \$1.7 billion in global investments, with the capital goods and automobile industry being the top benefiting sectors.⁶⁸⁹ The aim of this reduction is to encourage investments.⁶⁹⁰

On 15 September 2014, the Brazilian Agency for Export Promotion and Investment and the Brazilian Council of Importers and Exporters Business Enterprises signed an agreement with the objective of promoting exports of micro, small and medium enterprises through supporting trading companies.⁶⁹¹ The previous partnership between the two entities was stated to be an incubator for export projects, and the new agreement moves on to another stage of holding business meetings, training and actions to bring companies to foreign markets.⁶⁹²

Brazil identified and began to implement measures at improving current investment conditions, with specific focus on supporting SMEs and infrastructure development, with both national measures and collective measures. Therefore, Brazil has been assigned a score of +1 for full compliance.

Canada: +1

Canada fully complied with their commitment to improve the investment environment by taking both country-specific actions and contributing to the collective agenda setting effort. Policies were aimed specifically at helping SMEs and increasing infrastructure.

On 31 December 2013, Canada's Finance Minister Jim Flaherty outlined the Government's tax relief measures, which include the extended inclusion 50 per cent straight-line accelerated capital cost allowance rate for new investment in manufacturing or processing machinery and equipment to

⁶⁸⁵ Mauro Borges highlights need for investment in human capital and infrastructure, Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade (Brasilia) 25 August 2014. Date of accessed: 20 September 2014.

<http://www.desenvolvimento.gov.br/sitio/interna/noticia.php?area=1¬icia=13366>

⁶⁸⁶ Mauro Borges highlights need for investment in human capital and infrastructure, Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade (Brasilia) 25 August 2014. Date of accessed: 20 September 2014.

<http://www.desenvolvimento.gov.br/sitio/interna/noticia.php?area=1¬icia=13366>

⁶⁸⁷ Approved new incentives for industrial investment, Brazil Portal (Brasilia) 12 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.brasil.gov.br/economia-e-emprego/2014/09/aprovados-novos-incentivos-para-investimentos-industriais>

⁶⁸⁸ Approved new incentives for industrial investment, Brazil Portal (Brasilia) 12 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.brasil.gov.br/economia-e-emprego/2014/09/aprovados-novos-incentivos-para-investimentos-industriais>

⁶⁸⁹ Approved new incentives for industrial investment, Brazil Portal (Brasilia) 12 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.brasil.gov.br/economia-e-emprego/2014/09/aprovados-novos-incentivos-para-investimentos-industriais>

⁶⁹⁰ Approved new incentives for industrial investment, Brazil Portal (Brasilia) 12 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014 <http://www.brasil.gov.br/economia-e-emprego/2014/09/aprovados-novos-incentivos-para-investimentos-industriais>

⁶⁹¹ Agreement between Apex and CECIEx promote exports, Brazil Portal (Brasilia) 15 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/economia-e-emprego/2014/convenio-entre-apex-e-cecix-promovem-exportacoes>

⁶⁹² Agreement between Apex and CECIEx promote exports, Brazil Portal (Brasilia) 15 September 2014. Date accessed: 20 September 2014. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/economia-e-emprego/2014/convenio-entre-apex-e-cecix-promovem-exportacoes>

include investment undertaken in 2014 and 2015.⁶⁹³ This measure aims to aid businesses in the manufacturing and processing sector, boost investment and create jobs.⁶⁹⁴

On 21 January 2014, Canada's Minister of State for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario announced the establishment of Northleaf Venture Catalyst Fund.⁶⁹⁵ This fund will help increase private sector investment in risk capital.⁶⁹⁶

On 5 May 2014, the Canadian Government announced an investment of up to CAD 200 million in a public-private partnership (P3) to support the construction of the infrastructure plan, Regina Bypass, which will feature new roads, service roads and overpasses that will make travelling faster and safer.⁶⁹⁷

On 19 August 2014, Canada's Minister of State (Finance) Kevin Sorenson and Richmond Hill's Member of Parliament met with small business leaders to discuss the cooperation of the Canadian Government and businesses in building a strong economy.⁶⁹⁸ Canada's Minister of State consulted businesses on how to reduce red tape, enhance private sector growth, eliminate barriers and improve competitiveness.⁶⁹⁹

On 11 September 2014, Canada's Minister of Finance Joe Oliver announced actions of the Canadian Government to introduce the new Small Business Job Credit which is expected to save more than CAD 550 million for small businesses over the next two years.⁷⁰⁰ This Job Credit will lower small businesses' Employment Insurance premiums.⁷⁰¹

On 5 October 2014, the Canadian Government announced their support for infrastructure to the Union of New Brunswick through the New Building Canada Plan and the renewed federal Gas Tax Fund Agreement with New Brunswick.⁷⁰²

⁶⁹³ Government Keeping Taxes Low in 2014, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 31 December 2013. Date of access: 23 October 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n13/13-172-eng.asp>

⁶⁹⁴ Government Keeping Taxes Low in 2014, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 31 December 2013. Date of access: 23 October 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n13/13-172-eng.asp>

⁶⁹⁵ Governments of Canada and Ontario Help to Create Jobs and Growth with New Venture Capital Fund of Funds, Department of Finance Canada (Waterloo) 21 January 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-007-eng.asp>

⁶⁹⁶ Governments of Canada and Ontario Help to Create Jobs and Growth with New Venture Capital Fund of Funds, Department of Finance Canada (Waterloo) 21 January 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-007-eng.asp>

⁶⁹⁷ Government of Canada and Saskatchewan Contribute up to \$200 Million to the Completion of the Regina Bypass Project, Department of Finance Canada (White City) 5 May 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-069-eng.asp>

⁶⁹⁸ Harper Government Consulting With Small and Medium-Sized Businesses in Richmond Hill to Ensure Canada's Economy Remains Strong, Department of Finance Canada (Richmond Hill) 19 August 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-108-eng.asp>

⁶⁹⁹ Harper Government Consulting With Small and Medium-Sized Businesses in Richmond Hill to Ensure Canada's Economy Remains Strong, Department of Finance Canada (Richmond Hill) 19 August 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-108-eng.asp>

⁷⁰⁰ Harper Government Introduced Small Business Job Credit, Department of Finance Canada (Toronto) 11 September 2014. Date of access: 23 October 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-120-eng.asp>

⁷⁰¹ Harper Government Introduced Small Business Job Credit, Department of Finance Canada (Toronto) 11 September 2014. Date of access: 23 October 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-120-eng.asp>

⁷⁰² Minister Rob Moore Highlights Government of Canada's Support for Infrastructure to the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick, Government of Canada (St. Andrews) 5 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=10&crtr.mnthStrtVI=1&crtr.page=1&nid=889959&crtr.yrndVI=2014&crtr.kw=infrastructure&crtr.yrStrtVI=2002&crtr.dyStrtVI=1&crtr.dyndVI=23>

On 9 October 2014, Finance Minister Joe Oliver announced to attend the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group in Washington D.C.⁷⁰³ The meeting will discuss measures to support greater investment in infrastructure, particularly by the private sector, as a part of the discussion of deliverables ahead of the G20 Leaders Summit in Brisbane.⁷⁰⁴

On 10 October 2014, the Canadian Government tabled a Notice of Ways and Means Motion for the implementation of tax measures from the 2014 Economic Action plan.⁷⁰⁵ The Government's first priority is stated to be providing further tax relief.⁷⁰⁶

On 16 October 2014, the Canadian Government announced their support for Infrastructure Association of Manitoba Municipalities. The government announced to commit CAD 53 billion over the next decade through the New Building Canada Plan to support infrastructure that enhance economic growth, create jobs and productivity and create long-term prosperity.⁷⁰⁷

On 17 October 2014, the Canadian government announced that more than CAD 21.6 million will be invested in the Estrie Region for priority infrastructure.⁷⁰⁸

On 18 October 2014, Canada's Minister of State (Finance) Kevin Sorenson and Prince Albert's Member of Parliament, Randy Hoback, met with the Melfort & District Chamber of Commerce to discuss cooperation of the Government and businesses.⁷⁰⁹ The Canadian Government plans to further reduce red tape, break down internal trade barriers and increase competitiveness.⁷¹⁰

Canada took both country-specific and collective actions to improve investment climate with specific aims to increase infrastructure and help SMEs. Therefore, Canada has been assigned a score of +1 for full compliance.

China: +1

China fully complied with their commitment to identify and implement collective and country specific actions that improve the domestic investment environment. The actions undertaken by the

⁷⁰³ Minister Oliver Promotes Jobs and Growth at G-20, IMF and World Bank Group Meetings, Department of Finance Canada (Washington, D.C.) 9 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-134-eng.asp>

⁷⁰⁴ Minister Oliver Promotes Jobs and Growth at G-20, IMF and World Bank Group Meetings, Department of Finance Canada (Washington, D.C.) 9 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-134-eng.asp>

⁷⁰⁵ Government Tables Notice of Ways and Means Motion to Implement Tax Relief Measures, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 20 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-151-eng.asp>

⁷⁰⁶ Government Tables Notice of Ways and Means Motion to Implement Tax Relief Measures, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 20 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-151-eng.asp>

⁷⁰⁷ Member of Parliament James Bezan Highlights Harper Government's Support for Infrastructure to the Association of Manitoba, Government of Canada (Selkirk) 16 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=10&crtr.mnthStrtVI=1&crtr.page=1&nid=893679&crtr.yrndVI=2014&crtr.kw=infrastructure&crtr.yrStrtVI=2002&crtr.dyStrtVI=1&crtr.dyndVI=23>

⁷⁰⁸ Twenty municipalities in the Estrie Region to receive more than \$21.6 million for priority infrastructure projects, Government of Canada (Magog) 17 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=10&crtr.mnthStrtVI=1&crtr.page=1&nid=894229&crtr.yrndVI=2014&crtr.kw=infrastructure&crtr.yrStrtVI=2002&crtr.dyStrtVI=1&crtr.dyndVI=23>

⁷⁰⁹ Harper Government Consulting with Small and Medium-Sized Businesses in Melfort to Ensure Canada's Economy Remains Strong, Department of Finance Canada (Melfort) 18 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-149-eng.asp>

⁷¹⁰ Harper Government Consulting with Small and Medium-Sized Businesses in Melfort to Ensure Canada's Economy Remains Strong, Department of Finance Canada (Melfort) 18 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-149-eng.asp>

Chinese government targeted current barriers to investment, and encouraged long term investment financing with particular attention to the development of SMEs and infrastructure.

On 27 December 2013, the State Council of the Chinese Government published a set of recommendations on strengthening the protection of small and medium sized investors.⁷¹¹ The recommendations aim to improve the investment environment by implementing measures that protect the rights of small and medium investors.⁷¹² Recommendations include improving the investment rewards mechanism, improving the small and medium investors' compensation mechanism, and improving the investors' protection organization system.⁷¹³

On 26 June 2014, the State Council of the Chinese Government printed and distributed an official document titled "About Further Improving Business Fares Management and Lightening the Burden on Enterprises Notice."⁷¹⁴ The document points out detailed actions to be taken to achieve the stated task.⁷¹⁵ The government plans to deepen the business charges reform by taking actions that include establishing, implementing and publicizing the business charge directory system; making sure that departments do not execute business charges outside the directory; examining the current business administration charges and ensuring that all charges rest on stipulation of the relevant law and administrative rules; and managing administrative examination service charges and to cancel all charges that do not rest on legal premises.⁷¹⁶

On 16 July 2014, China's Ministry of Finance said that the development bank initiated by BRICS "will stimulate global economic recovery and drive up long-term growth" and "supplement current regional development banks in infrastructure investment and sustainable development and give a bigger say to BRICS and emerging economics in international economic fairs."⁷¹⁷ The plans for the bank were laid out during the BRICS summit and a contingent reserve arrangement was included at an initial size of 100 billion dollars to create a collective financial security network.⁷¹⁸ China's Ministry of Finance stated that the contingent reserve arrangement is an attempt at achieving collective financial security, improving market confidence, and facilitating global financial stability.⁷¹⁹

⁷¹¹ State Council General Office on further improving capital market small and medium investors' rights protection recommendations, Government of China (Beijing) 27 December 2013. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2013-12/27/content_7550.htm

⁷¹² State Council General Office on further improving capital market small and medium investors' rights protection recommendations, Government of China (Beijing) 27 December 2013. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2013-12/27/content_7550.htm

⁷¹³ State Council General Office on further improving capital market small and medium investors' rights protection recommendations, Government of China (Beijing) 27 December 2013. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2013-12/27/content_7550.htm

⁷¹⁴ The State Council General Office prints and distributes "About Further Improving Business Fares Management and Lightening the Burden on Enterprises Notice", Government of China (Beijing) 26 June 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2014-06/26/content_2708405.htm

⁷¹⁵ The State Council General Office prints and distributes "About Further Improving Business Fares Management and Lightening the Burden on Enterprises Notice", Government of China (Beijing) 26 June 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2014-06/26/content_2708405.htm

⁷¹⁶ The State Council General Office prints and distributes "About Further Improving Business Fares Management and Lightening the Burden on Enterprises Notice", Government of China (Beijing) 26 June 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2014-06/26/content_2708405.htm

⁷¹⁷ BRICS development bank good for global recovery. Xinhua Net (Beijing) 16 July 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-07/16/c_126761994.htm

⁷¹⁸ BRICS development bank good for global recovery. Xinhua Net (Beijing) 16 July 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-07/16/c_126761994.htm

⁷¹⁹ BRICS development bank good for global recovery. Xinhua Net (Beijing) 16 July 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-07/16/c_126761994.htm

On 28 July 2014, the Shanghai Free Trade Zone Law was passed.⁷²⁰ The law came into effect on August 1 and serves to ensure that “reforms and innovation in the zone can be carried out under a legal framework” and is “a significant step toward building a law-oriented market environment in the zone,” as Dai Haibo, executive vice director of the zone’s management committee said.⁷²¹ Premier Li Keqiang noted in the fall of 2014 that private businesses provided nearly 10.1 million jobs, emphasizing the importance of SMEs in China’s economy.⁷²² The launch of the Shanghai Free Trade Zone earlier in fall 2013 allowed for SMEs to enjoy a greater range of opportunities, and the legal reforms of August 2014 facilitated the set up and customs clearance procedures for businesses to boost financial liberalization.⁷²³

On 14 August 2014, the State Council General Office of the Chinese Government released the document, “About the guiding suggestions on multiple and focused measures on alleviating the high corporate financing costs issue.”⁷²⁴ Ten suggestions were made and distributed to the governing bodies of municipalities, autonomous regions, provinces and departments of the state council to target current barriers to investment.⁷²⁵ The document recognizes that solving the problem of the high financing costs faced by small enterprises is significantly important to the stability of China’s economic growth and reform.⁷²⁶ Specific suggestions were made to achieve the goal of lessening the burden of small enterprises including to continue implementing the stable monetary policy, suppress the unreasonable rise in funding costs of financial institutions, shortening the corporate financing chain, cleaning up unreasonable financial service charges, increasing the efficiency of loan examination and provision, speeding up the development of small and medium financial institutions, strongly develop direct financial, developing insurance related products that support private, small and micro enterprises, etc. ⁷²⁷

On 20 August 2014 the central government announced to reduce the number of administrative procedures and to streamline the approval process at all levels of government to remove government hindrances on enterprises.⁷²⁸ The released State Council document said that “strict standards must be used in setting new approval requirements for investments by enterprises, for products, and for qualification processes” and that authorities should not set approval requirements for industries that can properly govern itself, or if the issues can be solved through adjusting technical and industrial

⁷²⁰ Shanghai FTZ Law Passed, China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (Shanghai) 28 July 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. <http://en.china-shftz.gov.cn/News-Information/News-update/234.shtml>

⁷²¹ Shanghai FTZ Law Passed, China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (Shanghai) 28 July 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. <http://en.china-shftz.gov.cn/News-Information/News-update/234.shtml>

⁷²² Chinese SMEs Gaining Momentum, EconoMonitor (China) 19 August 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. <http://www.economonitor.com/blog/2014/08/chinese-smes-gaining-momentum/>

⁷²³ Shanghai FTZ Law Passed, China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone (Shanghai) 28 July 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. <http://en.china-shftz.gov.cn/News-Information/News-update/234.shtml>

⁷²⁴ The State Council General Office on the guiding suggestions on multiple and focused measures on alleviating the high corporate financing costs issue, Government of China (Beijing) 14 August 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2014-08/14/content_8983.htm

⁷²⁵ The State Council General Office on the guiding suggestions on multiple and focused measures on alleviating the high corporate financing costs issue, Government of China (Beijing) 14 August 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2014-08/14/content_8983.htm

⁷²⁶ The State Council General Office on the guiding suggestions on multiple and focused measures on alleviating the high corporate financing costs issue, Government of China (Beijing) 14 August 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2014-08/14/content_8983.htm

⁷²⁷ The State Council General Office on the guiding suggestions on multiple and focused measures on alleviating the high corporate financing costs issue, Government of China (Beijing) 14 August 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2014-08/14/content_8983.htm

⁷²⁸ State Council cuts approval procedures, China Daily (Beijing) 22 August 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2013-08/22/content_16912886.htm

policies.⁷²⁹ The statement also added that more access to previously tightly controlled or state owned sectors should be given to private capital.⁷³⁰

On 01 September 2014, the Fourth China-Eurasia Expo opened in Urumqi in China's Xinjiang autonomous region with the theme of "Building the Silk Road Economic Belt Through Opening-Up and Cooperation" with topics on economic development and cooperation.⁷³¹ The expo aims to draw together regional economies to discuss development strategies. Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang urged to streamline trade procedure, improve industrial levels, to build a vigorous economic belt.⁷³²

On 02 September 2014, Li Keqiang, China's premier, held talks with Romanian Prime Minister Victor-Viorel Ponta, to deepen bilateral cooperation between China and Romania in energy, infrastructure and agriculture and to maximize economic, trade and investment cooperation.⁷³³

Both country-specific and collective action efforts were taken by the Chinese government to improve investment conditions. China identified and started to implement country-specific measures to target barriers to investment with specific support to SMEs and infrastructure. In addition, China also showed support for collective action by participating in bilateral economic cooperation and taking part in the initiation and planning of the BRIC multilateral development bank. Therefore, China has been assigned a score of +1.

France: +1

France fully complied with its commitment to improve investment environment by identifying and implementing a national plan and collective actions to target current impediments to investment. Particular attention has been paid to supporting SMEs and developing infrastructure.

On 8 April 2014, the French Prime Minister Manuel Valls made a general policy statement to the National Assembly.⁷³⁴ Valls stated that the aim is to make France's SMEs, startups, self-employed traders, voluntary organizations and cooperatives entrepreneurial, take risks and recruit.⁷³⁵ He stated that supporting businesses means supporting investment, exports and employment.⁷³⁶ Valls stated that the French Government will encourage businesses by supporting research and innovation, improving the operation of the labour market, reduce costs, simplify procedures, and foster dialogue.⁷³⁷ The government will also act through taxation to increase investment, by reducing production taxes, for example, completely eliminating the "Contribution Sociale de Solidarité des Sociétés" paid by 300,000 companies in three years, eliminating the surtax on company profits by

⁷²⁹ State Council cuts approval procedures, China Daily (Beijing) 22 August 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2013-08/22/content_16912886.htm

⁷³⁰ State Council cuts approval procedures, China Daily (Beijing) 22 August 2014. Date accessed: 02 September 2014. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2013-08/22/content_16912886.htm

⁷³¹ Glimpse of the 4th China-Eurasia Expo, China Daily (Urumqi) 04 September 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2014-09/04/content_18543463.htm

⁷³² Glimpse of the 4th China-Eurasia Expo, China Daily (Urumqi) 04 September 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2014-09/04/content_18543463.htm

⁷³³ Chinese premier vows deepened cooperation with Romania, China Daily (Beijing) 02 September 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2014-09/02/content_18530210.htm

⁷³⁴ The Prime Minister's general policy statement, French Government Portal (Paris) 8 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/the-prime-minister-s-general-policy-statement>

⁷³⁵ The Prime Minister's general policy statement, French Government Portal (Paris) 8 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/the-prime-minister-s-general-policy-statement>

⁷³⁶ The Prime Minister's general policy statement, French Government Portal (Paris) 8 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/the-prime-minister-s-general-policy-statement>

⁷³⁷ The Prime Minister's general policy statement, French Government Portal (Paris) 8 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/the-prime-minister-s-general-policy-statement>

2016, and reducing the rate of company profit taxation to 28% in 2020, and eliminating complex and low yield taxes.⁷³⁸

On 14 April 2014, the Council of Simplification for Companies (conseil de la simplification pour les entreprises), established by Decree No. 2014-11 of 8 January 2014, announced a set of measures to simplify administrative procedures for companies.⁷³⁹

On 16 April 2014, the French Prime Minister made a statement to the press regarding details of France's Saving Plan.⁷⁴⁰ The aim of the plan is to implement the Responsibility and Solidarity Pact, restore employees' purchasing power and reduce government deficit.⁷⁴¹ In implementing the Responsibility and Solidarity Pact, the Prime Minister said that the Government will reduce the cost of labor and simplify administrative procedures to support companies.⁷⁴²

On 23 April 2014, the French Minister of Economy, Arnaud Montebourg gave details on the priorities of the National Reform Programme in his announcement to the Council of Ministers.⁷⁴³ Montebourg stated that the competitiveness of French companies depend on investment efforts, in particular for SMEs.⁷⁴⁴ He announced that after the 50 new simplification measures to save companies time, the Government will put forward 10 new simplification measures each month and arrange for an independent body to monitor implementation.⁷⁴⁵

On 24 April 2014, the French Government conformed to the European Union budgetary requirements and published a stability programme for 2014-2017.⁷⁴⁶ The programme aims to respect the European treaty requirements and reduce public deficit with a € 50 billion savings plan.⁷⁴⁷

On 10 July 2014, Arnaud Montebourg introduced legislation for growth and purchasing power.⁷⁴⁸ The law contains 30 measures that aim to end monopolies, support the activities of companies, and

⁷³⁸ The Prime Minister's general policy statement, French Government Portal (Paris) 8 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/the-prime-minister-s-general-policy-statement>

⁷³⁹ Tax Insights, "France: New Tax Measures to Simplify administrative procedures Proposed by the Council of Simplification" <http://taxinsights.ey.com/archive/archive-news/france-new-tax-measures-simplify-administrative-procedure-proposed-council-simplification-companies.aspx>

⁷⁴⁰ Savings plan: detailed measures, French Government Portal (Paris) 16 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/savings-plan-detailed-measures>

⁷⁴¹ Savings plan: detailed measures, French Government Portal (Paris) 16 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/savings-plan-detailed-measures>

⁷⁴² Savings plan: detailed measures, French Government Portal (Paris) 16 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/savings-plan-detailed-measures>

⁷⁴³ The main priorities of the National Reform Programme, French Government Portal (Paris) 23 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/the-main-priorities-of-the-national-reform-programme>

⁷⁴⁴ The main priorities of the National Reform Programme, French Government Portal (Paris) 23 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/the-main-priorities-of-the-national-reform-programme>

⁷⁴⁵ The main priorities of the National Reform Programme, French Government Portal (Paris) 23 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/the-main-priorities-of-the-national-reform-programme>

⁷⁴⁶ France conforms to EU budgetary requirements, EurActive (France) 24 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/euro-finance/france-conforms-eu-budgetary-requirements-301732>

⁷⁴⁷ France conforms to EU budgetary requirements, EurActive (France) 24 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/euro-finance/france-conforms-eu-budgetary-requirements-301732>

⁷⁴⁸ A law of growth and buying power to restore 6 billion euros to French, French Government Portal (Paris) 10 July 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/une-loi-de-croissance-et-de-pouvoir-d-achat-pour-restituer-6-milliards-d-euros-aux-fran>

restore Euro 6 billion in purchasing power to the French.⁷⁴⁹ Montebourg also stated that the main priorities of the plan for economic recovery are redistributing purchasing power, invest in infrastructure, and reinvent funding to replace public money.⁷⁵⁰

On 17 July 2014, the French Government launched a program of 200 measures to simplify procedure for businesses.⁷⁵¹ More than half of the measures are being tested.⁷⁵² For example, the “Tell us Once” program already had 17 simplified steps, with 7 steps deleted.⁷⁵³ An online service tool was also being developed to aid businesses.⁷⁵⁴

On 1 August 2014, the French Prime Minister stated that the government is fully mobilized for “employment, investment and purchasing power.”⁷⁵⁵ For investment, the government has launched negotiations on state-region contracts and encouraged investments in energy, infrastructure, public works and transportation.⁷⁵⁶ Manuel Valls also said that other reforms on the parliamentary agenda in September include completion of the simplification law for businesses.⁷⁵⁷

On 16 September 2014, the French Prime Minister Manuel Valls made a general policy statement to the National Assembly.⁷⁵⁸ Valls stated that the main weakness in the French economy is their companies’ loss of competitiveness.⁷⁵⁹ He stated that France’s SEMs, SMIs and small scale industries and traders are the creators of wealth and employment, and that the Government is committed to create a climate of confidence and translating it into investment, recruitment, training and apprenticeships.⁷⁶⁰ Further action include cutting labour costs and eliminating the social security contributions at minimum wage level.⁷⁶¹

⁷⁴⁹ A law of growth and buying power to restore 6 billion euros to French, French Government Portal (Paris) 10 July 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/une-loi-de-croissance-et-de-pouvoir-d-achat-pour-restituer-6-milliards-d-euros-aux-fran>

⁷⁵⁰ A law of growth and buying power to restore 6 billion euros to French, French Government Portal (Paris) 10 July 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/une-loi-de-croissance-et-de-pouvoir-d-achat-pour-restituer-6-milliards-d-euros-aux-fran>

⁷⁵¹ The Government launches 12 new evaluations of public policies, French Government Portal (Paris) 18 December 2013. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/le-gouvernement-lance-12-nouvelles-evaluations-de-politiques-publiques>

⁷⁵² The Government launches 12 new evaluations of public policies, French Government Portal (Paris) 18 December 2013. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/le-gouvernement-lance-12-nouvelles-evaluations-de-politiques-publiques>

⁷⁵³ The Government launches 12 new evaluations of public policies, French Government Portal (Paris) 18 December 2013. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/le-gouvernement-lance-12-nouvelles-evaluations-de-politiques-publiques>

⁷⁵⁴ The Government launches 12 new evaluations of public policies, French Government Portal (Paris) 18 December 2013. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/le-gouvernement-lance-12-nouvelles-evaluations-de-politiques-publiques>

⁷⁵⁵ We need to reform tirelessly, French Government Portal (Paris) 01 August 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/premier-ministre/nous-devons-reformer-inlassablement>

⁷⁵⁶ We need to reform tirelessly, French Government Portal (Paris) 01 August 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/premier-ministre/nous-devons-reformer-inlassablement>

⁷⁵⁷ We need to reform tirelessly, French Government Portal (Paris) 01 August 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/premier-ministre/nous-devons-reformer-inlassablement>

⁷⁵⁸ The Prime Minister’s General Policy Statement, French Government Portal (Paris) 16 September 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/prime-minister-s-general-policy-statement>

⁷⁵⁹ The Prime Minister’s General Policy Statement, French Government Portal (Paris) 16 September 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/prime-minister-s-general-policy-statement>

⁷⁶⁰ The Prime Minister’s General Policy Statement, French Government Portal (Paris) 16 September 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/prime-minister-s-general-policy-statement>

⁷⁶¹ The Prime Minister’s General Policy Statement, French Government Portal (Paris) 16 September 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/english/prime-minister-s-general-policy-statement>

On 16 September 2014, the French Government announced to act for SMEs to redirect savings and “mobilize all funding to boost investment.”⁷⁶² The Public Investment Bank of France will support enterprises with € 4 to 5 billion in 2015.⁷⁶³ A guarantee fund of cash loans will also be created by the Public Investment Bank supporting 10,000 Small businesses.⁷⁶⁴ Savings will be redirected as 5 billion will be redirected from pension funds to finance SMEs.⁷⁶⁵ The government will also create the “CAC 40 of the future,” a support program for 120 SEMs to be set up for ETI status.⁷⁶⁶

The French Government has identified current barriers to investment and implemented national measures and supported collective measures such as conforming with the EU budgetary guidelines. Supporting SMEs and infrastructure were direct goals. Therefore, France has been assigned a score of +1 for full compliance.

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to improve investment conditions with particular attention to SMEs and infrastructure. Both national and collective measures were taken.

On 19 February 2014, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel made a speech to the OECD Conference regarding global economic growth.⁷⁶⁷ She supported the OECD’s country specific and eurozone recommendations. She also supported collective action in the Eurozone by suggesting to “harmonize” the eurozone’s economic power and address the issue of competitiveness in a consistent manner.⁷⁶⁸

On 12 March 2014, the German government adopted the draft budget for 2015 along with the financial plan for the period up to 2018.⁷⁶⁹ The Government will step up investment within the

⁷⁶² Mobilize all funding to boost investment, French Government Portal (Paris) 16 September 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/mobiliser-tous-les-financements-pour-relancer-l-investissement>

⁷⁶³ Mobilize all funding to boost investment, French Government Portal (Paris) 16 September 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/mobiliser-tous-les-financements-pour-relancer-l-investissement>

⁷⁶⁴ Mobilize all funding to boost investment, French Government Portal (Paris) 16 September 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/mobiliser-tous-les-financements-pour-relancer-l-investissement>

⁷⁶⁵ Mobilize all funding to boost investment, French Government Portal (Paris) 16 September 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/mobiliser-tous-les-financements-pour-relancer-l-investissement>

⁷⁶⁶ Mobilize all funding to boost investment, French Government Portal (Paris) 16 September 2014. Date accessed: 22 September 2014 <http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/mobiliser-tous-les-financements-pour-relancer-l-investissement>

⁷⁶⁷ Speech by Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel to the OECD Conference, The Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2014. Date accessed: 25 September 2014 http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Reden/2014/2014-02-19-oecd-merkel-paris_en.html?nn=709674

⁷⁶⁸ Speech by Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel to the OECD Conference, The Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2014. Date accessed: 25 September 2014 http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Reden/2014/2014-02-19-oecd-merkel-paris_en.html?nn=709674

⁷⁶⁹ No more new borrowing as of 2015, The Federal Government (Berlin) 12 March 2014. Date accessed: 25 September 2014 <http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2014/03/2014-03-12-kabinett-haushalt-2014.html?nn=709674>

national budget, with traffic and transport infrastructure as one of the priorities.⁷⁷⁰ The government agreed on investing 5 billion euros in traffic and transport infrastructure.⁷⁷¹

On 27 March 2014, Germany's Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Sigmar Gabriel, met with the President of the Republic of Korea, Park Geun-hye, to discuss bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the context of the Central Innovation Programme for SMEs.⁷⁷² Gabriel stated that Germany wants to encourage SMEs to branch out into the Korean market for economic opportunities, and recognized the need for open markets, a level playing field and security of investment.⁷⁷³

On 20 May 2014, the German government made a press release announcing support to SMEs in Greece with €100 million in loans.⁷⁷⁴ The aim of the loans is to help SMEs overcome financing shortfalls and enable businesses to make long-delayed investments that can preserve and create jobs.⁷⁷⁵

On 22 May 2014, the German Partnership Agreement for the use of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) was adopted, stipulating the investment strategy with 27.5 billion euros worth of investments. The funding will be used to target major weakness in Germany and strengthen the competitiveness and innovative capacities of SMEs, targeting skills shortage and promoting energy efficiency.⁷⁷⁶

Germany took national and collective measures at improving investment conditions with specific support to SMEs and infrastructure. Therefore, Germany has been assigned a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Alissa Xinbe Wang

India: +1

India fully complied with their commitment to improve domestic investment conditions with specific focus on supporting SMEs and infrastructure. Both country-specific and collective measures were taken.

⁷⁷⁰ No more new borrowing as of 2015, The Federal Government (Berlin) 12 March 2014. Date accessed: 25 September 2014 <http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2014/03/2014-03-12-kabinett-haushalt-2014.html?nn=709674>

⁷⁷¹ No more new borrowing as of 2015, The Federal Government (Berlin) 12 March 2014. Date accessed: 25 September 2014 <http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2014/03/2014-03-12-kabinett-haushalt-2014.html?nn=709674>

⁷⁷² Gabriel encourages SMEs to branch out into Korean market, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 27 March 2014. Date accessed: 25 September 2014. <http://www.bmwi.de/EN/Press/press-releases,did=632424.html>

⁷⁷³ Gabriel encourages SMEs to branch out into Korean market, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 27 March 2014. Date accessed: 25 September 2014. <http://www.bmwi.de/EN/Press/press-releases,did=632424.html>

⁷⁷⁴ German government provides support to SMEs in Greece, Federal Ministry of Finance (20 May 2014) Date accessed: 25 September 2014. <http://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2014/2014-05-20-sme-greece.html>

⁷⁷⁵ German government provides support to SMEs in Greece, Federal Ministry of Finance (20 May 2014) Date accessed: 25 September 2014. <http://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2014/2014-05-20-sme-greece.html>

⁷⁷⁶ German Partnership Agreement to implement the European Structural and Investment Funds approved, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 22 May 2014. Date accessed: 25 September 2014 <http://www.bmwi.de/EN/Press/press-releases,did=640550.html>

On 18 September 2013, the Reserve Bank of India expanded its definition of “infrastructure sector” with regards to its External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) Policy.⁷⁷⁷ The expanded definition includes energy, communication, transport, water and sanitation, mining, exploration and reining, and social and commercial infrastructure.⁷⁷⁸

On 21 November 2013, the Securities and Exchange Board of India allowed SMEs to list securities on the new Institutional Trading Platform (ITP) without an IPO.⁷⁷⁹ The new platform aims to get SMEs easier access to capital and wider visibility and the ITP regulations are framed with the purpose of encouraging investments in SMEs by allowing easier exit options for investors who support SMEs.⁷⁸⁰

On 30 November 2013, India’s Corporation Bank opened a SME loan centre at New Delhi.⁷⁸¹ The bank aims at developing focused growth by adopting targeted marketing approach.⁷⁸²

On 4 March 2014, the Government of India’s press release reported the launch of three Public Private Partnership (PPP) infrastructure projects supported by the Pilot Projects Initiative of the Department of Economic Affairs.⁷⁸³ The infrastructure projects include the Mumbai Solid Waste Management Processing and Disposal Facility PPP Pilot Project, Lonavala 24X7 Water Supply PPP Pilot Project, and the Ichalkaranji Non Revenue Water Reduction and 100% Metering PPP Pilot Project, amounting to a total cost of around INR 390 cores.⁷⁸⁴ An estimated INR 250 cores of private funds are expected to follow.⁷⁸⁵ The project recognizes the importance of catalyzing private sector funding and the development of infrastructure.⁷⁸⁶

⁷⁷⁷ External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) Policy - Liberalization of definition of Infrastructure Sector, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai) 18 September 2013. Date accessed: 2 October 2014.

<http://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/notification/PDFs/APR48180913F.pdf>

⁷⁷⁸ External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) Policy - Liberalization of definition of Infrastructure Sector, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai) 18 September 2013. Date accessed: 2 October 2014.

<http://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/notification/PDFs/APR48180913F.pdf>

⁷⁷⁹ India: Listing without an IPO for SME: SEBI Provides a Platform for exist by investors, Mondaq 21 November 2013. Date accessed: 2 October 2014. <http://www.mondaq.com/india/x/276438/>

[listing+rules+flotation/Listing+Without+An+IPO+For+SME+SEBI+Provides+A+Pla](http://www.mondaq.com/india/x/276438/listing+rules+flotation/Listing+Without+An+IPO+For+SME+SEBI+Provides+A+Pla)

⁷⁸⁰ India: Listing without an IPO for SME: SEBI Provides a Platform for exist by investors, Mondaq 21 November 2013. Date accessed: 2 October 2014. <http://www.mondaq.com/india/x/276438/>

[listing+rules+flotation/Listing+Without+An+IPO+For+SME+SEBI+Provides+A+Pla](http://www.mondaq.com/india/x/276438/listing+rules+flotation/Listing+Without+An+IPO+For+SME+SEBI+Provides+A+Pla)

⁷⁸¹ Corporation Bank opens SME loan centre at Delhi, Times of India (Mangalore) 30 November 2013. Date accessed: 2 October 2014 <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Corporation-Bank-opens-SME-loan-centre-at-Delhi/articleshow/26643839.cms>

⁷⁸² Corporation Bank opens SME loan centre at Delhi, Times of India (Mangalore) 30 November 2013. Date accessed: 2 October 2014 <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Corporation-Bank-opens-SME-loan-centre-at-Delhi/articleshow/26643839.cms>

⁷⁸³ Under the Pilot Projects Initiative, Three Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) - Supported projects worth Rs. 390 Crores launched in the market in last one week, Government of India (New Delhi) 4 March 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014. http://finmin.nic.in/press_room/2014/PilotPrjDEA04032014.pdf

⁷⁸⁴ Under the Pilot Projects Initiative, Three Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) - Supported projects worth Rs. 390 Crores launched in the market in last one week, Government of India (New Delhi) 4 March 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014. http://finmin.nic.in/press_room/2014/PilotPrjDEA04032014.pdf

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⁷⁸⁶ Under the Pilot Projects Initiative, Three Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) - Supported projects worth Rs. 390 Crores launched in the market in last one week, Government of India (New Delhi) 4 March 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014. http://finmin.nic.in/press_room/2014/PilotPrjDEA04032014.pdf

On 5 May 2014, India's Minister for Finance and Governor for India in the Asian Development Bank made a statement at the First Business Session.⁷⁸⁷ The Minister recognized the slowing growth in India, and the need to revive growth by increasing investments, particularly in infrastructure.⁷⁸⁸ The Minister stated that it is necessary to recourse to foreign savings for investment and for the Asian Development Bank to respond to these expectations by increasing the ADB's resources for lending, enhance the sustainable level of lending (SLL) and augment the capital of the bank.⁷⁸⁹ The Minister also informed that India decided to become a contributor to the Asian Development Fund and will contribute US \$30 million beginning October 2014.⁷⁹⁰

On 26 June 2014, the Government of India released the Report of the Committee to Review the Framework of Access to Domestic and Overseas Capital Markets.⁷⁹¹ The Committee suggested reforms of the laws and regulations relating to the Indian market and institutional investors to encourage investors, reduce their portfolio risk through international diversification including investments in IDRs.⁷⁹²

On 9 September 2014, India formally signed the Trade in Services & Trade in Investments Agreement with ASEAN.⁷⁹³ The agreement will open up investments between India and ASEAN countries.⁷⁹⁴ The articles of the agreement include increasing market access, improving domestic regulations and transparency, etc.⁷⁹⁵

India took both country specific and collective action at addressing impediments to investment. Specific support was given to SMEs and infrastructure. Therefore, India has been assigned a score of +1.

⁷⁸⁷ Statement by Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Governor for India in ADB in The First Business Session, Government of India (New Delhi) 5 May 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014.

http://finmin.nic.in/press_room/2014/FM_statement_ADB1stsession.pdf

⁷⁸⁸ Statement by Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Governor for India in ADB in The First Business Session, Government of India (New Delhi) 5 May 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014.

http://finmin.nic.in/press_room/2014/FM_statement_ADB1stsession.pdf

⁷⁸⁹ Statement by Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Governor for India in ADB in The First Business Session, Government of India (New Delhi) 5 May 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014.

http://finmin.nic.in/press_room/2014/FM_statement_ADB1stsession.pdf

⁷⁹⁰ Statement by Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Governor for India in ADB in The First Business Session, Government of India (New Delhi) 5 May 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014.

http://finmin.nic.in/press_room/2014/FM_statement_ADB1stsession.pdf

⁷⁹¹ Report of the Committee to Review the Framework of Access to Domestic and Overseas Capital Markets, Government of India (New Delhi) 26 June 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014.

http://finmin.nic.in/press_room/2014/Report_committee_framework_Capitalmarket.pdf

⁷⁹² Report of the Committee to Review the Framework of Access to Domestic and Overseas Capital Markets, Government of India (New Delhi) 26 June 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014.

http://finmin.nic.in/press_room/2014/Report_committee_framework_Capitalmarket.pdf

⁷⁹³ India formally signed Trade in Services and Trade in Investments Agreement with ASEAN, Government of India: Ministry of Commerce & Industry (New Delhi) 9 September 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014

http://commerce.nic.in/pressrelease/pressrelease_detail.asp?id=3116

⁷⁹⁴ India formally signed Trade in Services and Trade in Investments Agreement with ASEAN, Government of India: Ministry of Commerce & Industry (New Delhi) 9 September 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014

http://commerce.nic.in/pressrelease/pressrelease_detail.asp?id=3116

⁷⁹⁵ India formally signed Trade in Services and Trade in Investments Agreement with ASEAN, Government of India: Ministry of Commerce & Industry (New Delhi) 9 September 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014

http://commerce.nic.in/pressrelease/pressrelease_detail.asp?id=3116

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia fully complied with their commitment to improve domestic investment conditions with specific focus on supporting SMEs and infrastructure. Both country-specific and collective measures were taken.

On 23 September 2013, Indonesia initiated talks on empowering SMEs as one priority at the APEC 2013 Eighth High-Level Summit in Bali. Special Staff of the President for Economy and Development Professor Firmanzah, said that Indonesian government continues to encourage SMEs to improve human resource capacity, market dominance and technology. He announced that the Ministry for Cooperatives and Small and Medium-Sized Businesses continues to implement its Credit for the People (KUR) program to provide finance to micro enterprises. This initiative has been widely supported by all APEC members and they agreed to have a discussion on empowering SMEs at each annual APEC meeting.⁷⁹⁶

On 6 October 2013, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the APEC Summit mentioned that in order to achieve APEC's goals Indonesia would focus its efforts "economic empowerment, engagement of stake-holders and enhancement of SMEs' global competitiveness" through promoting innovation and engaging women in small businesses.⁷⁹⁷

On 12 October 2013, Indonesia establishes a three-year bilateral currency swap agreement with Korea in order to promote bilateral trade and further strengthen investment between the two countries. The size of the agreement is up to KRW 10.7 trillion/IDR 115 trillion (equivalent to USD 10 billion). The extension of the effective period of this facility will be subject to future agreement. This Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement (BCSA) aims.⁷⁹⁸

On 23 October 2013, I Wayan Dipta, Indonesian Minister for Cooperatives and SMEs, announced the launch of a practical business skills program, to provide training for young people in rural areas to stimulate their activity as entrepreneurs.⁷⁹⁹

On 6 November 2013, the Investment Coordinating Board announces major plans to attract foreign investment in various sectors. The government is planning to amend the "negative investment list"⁸⁰⁰ which limits foreign investment in areas deemed sensitive. Under the new plan, the country's transportation sectors will be opened up to foreign market. Foreign investors will be allowed to invest up to 49 per cent in airports and 95 per cent in seaports and toll roads.⁸⁰¹ At the same time, the

⁷⁹⁶ Indonesia Prakarsai Pembahasan Penguatan UKM di KTT APEC 2013, Portal Nasional Republik Indonesia 23 September 2013. Access Date: 25 September 2014. <http://indonesia.go.id/en/ministries/ministers/ministry-of-the-state-secretariat/2293-ekonomi/13389-indonesia-prakarsai-pembahasan-penguatan-ukm-di-ktt-apec-2013>

⁷⁹⁷ Keynote Speech at The APEC CEO 2013, President Republic of Indonesia 6 October 2013. Access Date: 25 September 2014. <http://www.presidentri.go.id/index.php/eng/pidato/2013/10/06/2190.html>

⁷⁹⁸ Indonesia dan Korea Tanda Tangan Kerja Sama Bilateral Currency Swap, Kementerian Keuangan Republik Indonesia 6 March 2014. Date of access: 25 September 2014. <http://www.kemenkeu.go.id/Berita/indonesia-dan-korea-tanda-tangani-kerja-sama-bilateral-currency-swap>

Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangements, Indonesia-Investments (Jakarta) 13 October 2013. Date of access: 21 February 2014. <http://www.indonesia-investments.com/finance/financial-columns/bilateral-currency-swap-arrangement-bcsa-indonesia-and-korea/item1209>

⁷⁹⁹ Pendirian Tempat Praktek Keterampilan Usaha Di Pedesaan Digenjot, Jejaring Lapangan Kerja Bagi Kaum Muda Indonesia, Bappenas 24 October 2013. Access Date: 25 September 2014. <http://jejakmu.bappenas.go.id/berita/oktober-2013-pendirian-tempat-praktek-keterampilan-usaha-di-pedesaan-digenjot>

⁸⁰⁰ Indonesia Ease Curbs Foreign Investment. Industry Week (Jakarta) 24 December 2013. Date of access: 25 September 2014. <http://www.industryweek.com/global-economy/indonesia-ease-curbs-foreign-investment>

⁸⁰¹ Indonesia Pushes Pro-Investment Reform, Oxford Business Group (Oxford) 19 December 2013. Date of access: 25 September 2014. http://www.oxfordbusinessgroup.com/economic_updates/indonesia-pushes-pro-investment-reform

government also plans to ease restrictions in the telecommunication and pharmaceutical sectors. The maximum shareholding for foreign investment will be increased from 75 per cent to 85 per cent and in advertising agencies from 49 per cent to 51 per cent. In the energy sector, foreign investors will be allowed an investment up to 100 per cent in power plants built under public-private partnerships.

On 14 November 2013, Deputy Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs in Commerce Edi Putra announced the directorate general of tax imposing 1 per cent tax on SMEs. He said that this measure would improve SME access to the financial market, as entrepreneurs would have an opportunity to get a tax identification number necessary for getting a loan.⁸⁰²

On 18 December 2013, the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released the jointly prepared Tenth Report on G20 Investment Measures, where they reported on investment policy and investment related measures taken between 16 May 2013 and 15 November 2013 by the G20 members. In relation to Indonesia, the report noted no investment policy measure or investment measure relating to national was taken during the reporting period.⁸⁰³

On 10 January 2014, Danial, the Director of the Cooperative Revolving Fund Management Agency under the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs, announced the budget increase for business loans for the country's small and medium enterprises to IDR2.63 trillion in a move to boost the growth of the small and medium business in the country.⁸⁰⁴

On 18 February 2014, Indonesia and Taiwan agreed to establish a special economic zone agreement at Indonesia's island, Morotai, as part of the joint bilateral development project. The agreement is set to promote Taiwanese investment in Morotai's fisheries and tourism industries.⁸⁰⁵

On 10 March 2014, the UNCTAD Secretariat released its periodic report, the Investment Policy Monitor, reporting on investment policy measures taken by the UNCTAD member countries — including Indonesia — in the period between November 2013 and February 2014. No measures were reported for Indonesia.⁸⁰⁶

On 8 April 2014, the Bank of Indonesia issued regulation No. 16/8/PBI/2014 in order to align its provisions with the provisions of electronic money transfer funds to harmonize provisions on electronic money with provisions on fund transfer, increase technology security and efficiency of electronic money services, and expand the coverage of electronic money services to support National Strategy for Financial Inclusion through implementation of Digital Financial Service increase the efficiency of security technology and electronic money. This initiative is a significant improvement on

⁸⁰² Tax Imposition on SMEs for Easy Financial Access, Ministry of Republic of Finance Republic of Indonesia 14 November 2014. Access Date: 25 September 2014. <http://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/Berita/smes-tax-easy-financial-access>

⁸⁰³ UNCTAD-OECD Tenth Report on G20 Investment Measures, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Geneva) 18 December 2013. Access Date: 25 September 2014. <http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DIAE/G-20/UNCTAD-OECD-reports.aspx>

⁸⁰⁴ LPDB-KUMKM Anggarkan Rp2,63 Triliun Tahun Ini, Kementerian Kooperasi dan Usaha Kecil dan Menengah Republik Indonesia 10 January 2014. Access Date: 25 September 2014. http://www.depkop.go.id/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1377:lpdb-kumkm-anggarkan-rp263-triliun-tahun-ini&catid=50:bind-berita&Itemid=97

⁸⁰⁵ Indonesia to set up Morotai economic zone: envoy, China Post (Taiwan) 20 February 2014. Date of access: 25 September 2014. <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/taiwan/foreign-affairs/2014/02/20/401018/Indonesia-to.htm>

⁸⁰⁶ Investment Policy Monitor No12, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Geneva) 10 March 2014. Access Date: 25 September 2014. http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/webdiaepcb2014d1_en.pdf

the existing financial infrastructure and it enables customers to easily access financial services and payment systems via technological means, such as mobile-based devices or web-based tools.⁸⁰⁷

On 8 April 2014, the Indonesian Financial Services Authority (OJK) issued Regulation No.5/POJK.05/2014 as a prudential regulation in credit risk mitigation by establishing a credit guarantee company. The company serves as a key policy tool for rapidly developing as a mechanism to expand credit markets and to improve financial inclusion, particularly in regional areas. Indonesia now has 16 regional credit guarantee companies, which have provided incentives to increase financial intermediation in regional areas.⁸⁰⁸

During the compliance period, Indonesia has taken clear macroeconomic and regulatory actions to improve investment conditions, give targeted support for SMEs, as well as take part in the collective action through its role in APEC. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Maria Monica Layarda

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with their commitment to improve investment conditions by country-specific and collective measures. Specific attention has been paid to supporting SMEs and infrastructure.

On 20 February 2014, Italy published the Destination Italy Decree⁸⁰⁹, a coherent policy to attract foreign investment and improve the competitiveness of Italian firms. Destination Italy aims to resolve these needs by giving each investor a tutor who will act as their unique contact point, and by providing a “certainty package.”⁸¹⁰ This will include Regulatory certainty, Timescale certainty, Fiscal certainty.⁸¹¹

On 24 April 2014, Italy’s Ministry of Economic Development approved additions to the eligibility conditions and general provisions of the administration of the Guarantee Fund for SEMs regarding the granting of loans.⁸¹² The purpose of the loan is to facilitate access to the financing for SMEs.⁸¹³

⁸⁰⁷ Peraturan Bank Indonesia Nomor 16/8/PBI/2014 tentang Perubahan Atas Peraturan Bank Indonesia Nomor 11/12/PBI/2009 tentang Uang Elektronik (Electronic Money), Bank Indonesia 8 April 2014. Date of Access: 25 September 2014. http://www.bi.go.id/id/peraturan/sistem-pembayaran/Pages/PBI_16814.aspx

⁸⁰⁸ Peraturan Otoritas Jasa Keuangan tentang Perizinan Usaha dan Kelembagaan Lembaga Penjaminan, Otoritas Jasa Keuangan 8 April 2014. Date of Access: 25 September 2014. http://www.google.ca/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CB8QFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ojk.go.id%2Fdl.php%3Ffi%3D2840&ei=HIMkVlfoF420yASO7YDADA&usg=AFQjCNH6i8Wao-A3uw8gGsvPc0-27O9Dog&sig2=v25iWeDQ9q_ObMB9Do8c6w&bvm=bv.76247554,d.aWw

⁸⁰⁹ Destination Italy Decree, the final version released in journal, LeggiOggi (Rome) 24 February 2014. Date accessed: 3 November 2014. <http://www.leggioggi.it/2014/02/24/decreto-destinazione-italia-il-testo-definitivo-uscito-gazzetta/>

⁸¹⁰ International Voices, Government of Italy (Rome) 19 September 2013. Date accessed: 3 November 2014. <http://destinazioneitalia.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/destinazioneitaliaEnglishVersion.pdf>

⁸¹¹ International Voices, Government of Italy (Rome) 21 February 2014. Date accessed: 3 November 2014. <http://destinazioneitalia.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/destinazioneitaliaEnglishVersion.pdf>

⁸¹² Ministerial Decree of April 24, 2014 - Approval of the eligibility conditions and general provisions for the granting of the guarantee of the fund on portfolios of loans granted to small and medium-sized enterprises, Ministry of Economic development (Rome) 24 April 2014 http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&idmenu=888&idarea1=540&andor=AND&idarea2=548§ionid=3,20&andorcat=AND&idarea3=0&showMenu=1&showCat=1&partebassaType=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&idarea4=0&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&directionidUser=0&id=2030664&viewType=0

On 4 June 2014, Italy's Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Economy and Finance and the European Investment Bank signed agreements for investments in infrastructure and human capital.⁸¹⁴ 500 million were provided as funds for the development of SMEs to support infrastructure and promote employment.⁸¹⁵ The initiatives will identify infrastructure projects and study appropriate ways of financing the projects, identify the projects supported by the European Structural Funds and provide assistance to those who plan to use the European Structural Funds.⁸¹⁶

On 17 June 2014, the Italian government supported innovative investments in Convergence regions with a further 89 million euros, on top of the previous 250 million euros.⁸¹⁷

On 18 June 2014, the Italian government took measures amounting to 3 billion euros in support of businesses and families to cut bills for families and businesses and implement tax incentives for investment.⁸¹⁸ The measures will lead to reduced electricity spendings of SMEs and families and will allow businesses to have greater access to credit.⁸¹⁹

⁸¹³ Ministerial Decree of April 24, 2014 - Approval of the eligibility conditions and general provisions for the granting of the guarantee of the fund on portfolios of loans granted to small and medium-sized enterprises, Ministry of Economic development (Rome) 24 April 2014

http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&idmenu=888&idarea1=540&andor=AND&idarea2=548§ionid=3,20&andorcat=AND&idarea3=0&showMenu=1&showCat=1&partebassaType=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&idarea4=0&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&directionidUser=0&id=2030664&viewType=0

⁸¹⁴ MEF MISE EIB signed agreements for investments in infrastructure and human capital, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 4 June 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014.

http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&viewType=1&idarea1=593&idarea2=0&idarea3=0&idarea4=0&andor=AND§ionid=0&andorcat=AND&partebassaType=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&showMenu=1&showCat=1&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&idmenu=2263&id=2030814

⁸¹⁵ MEF MISE EIB signed agreements for investments in infrastructure and human capital, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 4 June 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014.

http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&viewType=1&idarea1=593&idarea2=0&idarea3=0&idarea4=0&andor=AND§ionid=0&andorcat=AND&partebassaType=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&showMenu=1&showCat=1&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&idmenu=2263&id=2030814

⁸¹⁶ At agreements via MEF-MISE-EIB to finance investments in infrastructure and human capital, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 4 June 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014.

http://www.mise.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&idmenu=1999&idarea1=0&andor=AND&idarea2=0§ionid=0&andorcat=AND&idarea3=0&cattitle1=Comunicati%20Stampa&partebassaType=1&showMenu=1&showCat=1&idarea4=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&id=2030815&viewType=0

⁸¹⁷ Notice innovative investment (machinery): Increased resources for additional 89 million, Ministry of economic development (Rome) 17 June 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014.

http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&viewType=1&idarea1=593&idarea2=0&idarea3=0&idarea4=0&andor=AND§ionid=0&andorcat=AND&partebassaType=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&showMenu=1&showCat=1&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&idmenu=2263&id=2030923

⁸¹⁸ Electricity bill lighter, more competitive enterprises: a package for \$3 billion, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 18 June 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014.

http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&viewType=1&idarea1=593&idarea2=0&idarea3=0&idarea4=0&andor=AND§ionid=0&andorcat=AND&partebassaType=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&showMenu=1&showCat=1&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&idmenu=2263&id=2030900

⁸¹⁹ Electricity bill lighter, more competitive enterprises: a package for \$3 billion, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 18 June 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014.

http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&viewType=1&idarea1=593&idarea2=0&idarea3=0&idarea4=0&andor=AND§ionid=0&andorcat=AND&partebassaType=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&showMenu=1&showCat=1&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&idmenu=2263&id=2030900

On 4 June 2014, the Italian Ministry of Economic Development announced measures to support access to credit for SMEs and self-employed women.⁸²⁰ Bank credit will be activated for new investments and start-up businesses.⁸²¹

On 17 June 2014, the Italian government announced new measures to facilitate the access to credit, to increase the capitalization of companies.⁸²²

On 23 July 2014, the Italian government published the fifth edition of the monitoring report of the implementation of the Small Business Act, in support of the measures regarding Small Businesses outlined by the European Commission.⁸²³ The report outlines the government's main actions in support of SMEs and policy-oriented revival of private investment.⁸²⁴

On 8 September 2014, the Bank of Italy announced to broaden the range of assets for Italian banks to use as collateral to borrow from the European Central Bank (ECB).⁸²⁵ This measure allows more funds to be channeled to small businesses and families.⁸²⁶

On 9 September 2014, Italy's minister for economic development, Guidi, presented the OECD report on "Policies for SEMs and Entrepreneurship in Italy."⁸²⁷ The report identifies that the SEMs

⁸²⁰ Credit: Start-up funding for SMEs in pink and freelancers, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 4 June 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014.

http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&viewType=1&idarea1=593&idarea2=0&idarea3=0&idarea4=0&andor=AND§ionid=0&andorcat=AND&partebassaType=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&showMenu=1&showCat=1&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&idmenu=2263&id=2030825

⁸²¹ Credit: Start-up funding for SMEs in pink and freelancers, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 4 June 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014.

http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&viewType=1&idarea1=593&idarea2=0&idarea3=0&idarea4=0&andor=AND§ionid=0&andorcat=AND&partebassaType=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&showMenu=1&showCat=1&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&idmenu=2263&id=2030825

⁸²² Drive to Conferenti: Access to credit easier, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 17 June 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014

http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&viewType=1&idarea1=593&idarea2=0&idarea3=0&idarea4=0&andor=AND§ionid=0&andorcat=AND&partebassaType=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&showMenu=1&showCat=1&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&idmenu=2263&id=2030881

⁸²³ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises published the fifth monitoring report, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 23 July 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014

http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&viewType=1&idarea1=593&idarea2=0&idarea3=0&idarea4=0&andor=AND§ionid=0&andorcat=AND&partebassaType=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&showMenu=1&showCat=1&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&idmenu=2263&id=2031086

⁸²⁴ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises published the fifth monitoring report, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 23 July 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014

http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&viewType=1&idarea1=593&idarea2=0&idarea3=0&idarea4=0&andor=AND§ionid=0&andorcat=AND&partebassaType=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&showMenu=1&showCat=1&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&idmenu=2263&id=2031086

⁸²⁵ Bank Italy widens collateral to channel more ECB funds to SEMs, Reuters (Milan) 8 September 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/08/bank-of-italy-ecb-collateral-idUSI6NOQH01720140908>

⁸²⁶ Bank Italy widens collateral to channel more ECB funds to SEMs, Reuters (Milan) 8 September 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/08/bank-of-italy-ecb-collateral-idUSI6NOQH01720140908>

⁸²⁷ SMEs: Guidi, Tailor-made policies to support growth, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 9 September 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014

http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&idmenu=1999&idarea1=0&andor=AND&idarea2=0§ionid=0&andorcat=AND&idarea3=0&cattitle1=Comunicati%20Stampa&partebassaType=1&showMenu=1&showCat=1&idarea4=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&id=2031294&viewType=0

sector is too fragmented with difficulty to grow in size, and calls for reforms of simplifying administrative processes, encourage investment in venture capital, reduce taxes and support innovation.⁸²⁸ Guidi showed support of the measures of the OECD and stated that the government will “implement interventions that enhance the strengths related to the small size,” and tackle barriers to growth.⁸²⁹

On 12 September 2014, the Italian government published a decree that lifted the maximum stake a single investor can hold in a real estate investment trust from 51% to 60%.⁸³⁰ It also reduced the the amount of rental income that must be distributed to investors by the company from 85% to 70%.⁸³¹ These measures were taken to boost Italy’s real estate investment trust industry.⁸³²

Italy has identified and began to implement country-specific and collective measures to improve investment conditions. Specific support has been given to SMEs and to developing infrastructure. Therefore, Italy has been assigned a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Alissa (Xinbe) Wang

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with their commitment to identify and start to implement country-specific and collective actions to improve domestic investment environment with the goal to invest in infrastructure and for SMEs. Japan identified and implemented country-specific and collective measures to remove current barriers to investment, with investment in infrastructure and supporting SMEs as a direct goal.

On 25 March 2014, the Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet published the document “GPIF Launches Infrastructure Investment Program.”⁸³³ The document outlines that the Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF) in agreement with the Development Bank of Japan and the Ontario Municipal Employee Retirement System (OMERS) decided to co-invest in infrastructure assets of up to 2.7 billion dollars.⁸³⁴ This policy aims to improve the earnings rate by investing in

⁸²⁸ SMEs: Guidi, Tailor-made policies to support growth, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 9 September 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014

http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&idmenu=1999&idarea1=0&andor=AND&idarea2=0§ionid=0&andorcat=AND&idarea3=0&cattitle1=Comunicati%20Stampa&partebassaType=1&showMenu=1&showCat=1&idarea4=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&id=2031294&viewType=0

⁸²⁹ SMEs: Guidi, Tailor-made policies to support growth, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 9 September 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014

http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&idmenu=1999&idarea1=0&andor=AND&idarea2=0§ionid=0&andorcat=AND&idarea3=0&cattitle1=Comunicati%20Stampa&partebassaType=1&showMenu=1&showCat=1&idarea4=0&idareaCalendario1=0&MvediT=1&showArchiveNewsBotton=0&id=2031294&viewType=0

⁸³⁰ Italy Makes Property Investment Changes That Helped Spain, Bloomberg (Madrid) 16 September 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-16/italy-makes-property-investment-changes-that-helped-spain.html>

⁸³¹ Italy Makes Property Investment Changes That Helped Spain, Bloomberg (Madrid) 16 September 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-16/italy-makes-property-investment-changes-that-helped-spain.html>

⁸³² Italy Makes Property Investment Changes That Helped Spain, Bloomberg (Madrid) 16 September 2014. Date accessed: 26 September 2014. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-16/italy-makes-property-investment-changes-that-helped-spain.html>

⁸³³ GPIF Launches Infrastructure Investment Program, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 March 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/pdf/2014/140324_gpif.pdf

⁸³⁴ GPIF Launches Infrastructure Investment Program, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 March 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/pdf/2014/140324_gpif.pdf

infrastructure and diversifying the GPIF by cooperating with foreign investors and funds like OMERS in Ontario, Canada.⁸³⁵

On 25 March 2014, the Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet published a document on “Reform of Public and Quasi-Public Fund Investment.”⁸³⁶ The document outlines the new policy to revise the current investment portfolios which invest heavily in domestic bonds.⁸³⁷ The document identifies that investment portfolios in should be diversified to invest in new types of assets like infrastructure, venture capitals, private equities, real estate and commodities.⁸³⁸

On 24 June 2014, the Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet published a revised version of the “Japan Revitalization Strategy.”⁸³⁹ The key policy measures in the revised strategy include restoring Japan’s earning power, cultivating human resources, nurturing industries to become the new growth engines and revitalizing SMEs.⁸⁴⁰ The policies regarding SMEs aim to achieve regional revitalization by creating employment opportunities especially for youth.⁸⁴¹ The policy recognizes the need to dramatically expand PFI and PPP initiatives as it stated that “private finance initiatives in which private entities are given infrastructure concessions and public-private partnerships can contribute to creating private sector business opportunities and improving the public sector’s efficiency in each region.”⁸⁴²

On 24 June 2014, the Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet published a document on the 10 key reforms in the revised “Japan Revitalization Strategy.”⁸⁴³ One of the key reforms is to promote venture business by creating an entrepreneur-friendly environment, leading to competitive companies.⁸⁴⁴ The government will adopt a new measure to establish the “Venture Business Creation Council” expected to launch in Autumn 2014, and functions to encourage connections between start-ups and larger firms.⁸⁴⁵ Another new measure to be adopted is the acceleration of government procurement from start-up firms which includes reviewing current government procurement laws and providing unemployment insurance provisions for entrepreneurs who are not employed.⁸⁴⁶ In the same document, another key reform is the Corporate Tax reform aimed at strengthening the

⁸³⁵ GPIF Launches Infrastructure Investment Program, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 March 2014.

Date accessed: 09 September 2014. http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/pdf/2014/140324_gpif.pdf

⁸³⁶ Reform of Public and Quasi-Public Fund Investment, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 March 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/pdf/2014/140324_Refom.pdf

⁸³⁷ Reform of Public and Quasi-Public Fund Investment, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 March 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/pdf/2014/140324_Refom.pdf

⁸³⁸ Reform of Public and Quasi-Public Fund Investment, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 March 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/pdf/2014/140324_Refom.pdf

⁸³⁹ Japan Revitalization Strategy: Revised in 2014, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 24 June 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. <http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/keizaisaisei/pdf/honbunEN.pdf>

⁸⁴⁰ Japan Revitalization Strategy: Revised in 2014, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 24 June 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. <http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/keizaisaisei/pdf/honbunEN.pdf>

⁸⁴¹ Japan Revitalization Strategy: Revised in 2014, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 24 June 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. <http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/keizaisaisei/pdf/honbunEN.pdf>

⁸⁴² Japan Revitalization Strategy: Revised in 2014, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 24 June 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. <http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/keizaisaisei/pdf/honbunEN.pdf>

⁸⁴³ Revision of Japan Revitalization Strategy: 10 Key Reforms, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet 24 June 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. <http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/keizaisaisei/pdf/10challenge02shousaiEN.pdf>

⁸⁴⁴ Revision of Japan Revitalization Strategy: 10 Key Reforms, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet 24 June 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. <http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/keizaisaisei/pdf/10challenge02shousaiEN.pdf>

⁸⁴⁵ Revision of Japan Revitalization Strategy: 10 Key Reforms, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet 24 June 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. <http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/keizaisaisei/pdf/10challenge02shousaiEN.pdf>

⁸⁴⁶ Revision of Japan Revitalization Strategy: 10 Key Reforms, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet 24 June 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. <http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/keizaisaisei/pdf/10challenge02shousaiEN.pdf>

business environment by reforming the corporate tax rate to a globally competitive level.⁸⁴⁷ The government will adopt a pro-growth corporate tax reform, aiming to reduce the percentage level of the effective corporate tax rate down to the twenties in several years, with the first phase of reductions to start from FY2015.⁸⁴⁸

On 6 August 2014, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) published a final report on the "Competitiveness and Incentives for Sustainable Growth: Building Favourable Relationships between Companies and Investors."⁸⁴⁹ Key recommendations of the final report include creating sustainable value through "collaborative creation" by companies and investors, seeking to generate an ROE that exceeds the cost of capital, reforming and optimizing the "Investment Chain," promoting dialogue between companies and investors, and establishing a management investor forum (MIF).⁸⁵⁰ These recommendations identify the need to increase corporate value and attempts to achieve its aims of generating growth via investor and company interaction.⁸⁵¹

Japan identified and implemented national and collective measures to improve its domestic investment climate. The measures specifically aim to develop infrastructure and support SMEs, addressing and improving current barriers to investment. Therefore, Japan has been assigned a score of +1.

Analyst: Alissa (Xinbe) Wang

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to improve domestic investment climate by identifying and implementing measures to remove barriers to investment with specific attention to SMEs and infrastructure. Both collective and country-specific actions were taken.

On 07 October 2013, Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs Yun Byung-se attended the 25th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting (AMM),⁸⁵² and contributed to the process of collective agenda setting for improving investment conditions. Common ground was found on the need to lay foundation for economic growth, and a specific agreement was made to boost private investment in infrastructure development.⁸⁵³ Korean foreign suggested to jointly build infrastructure and increase economic and cultural connections.⁸⁵⁴

⁸⁴⁷ Revision of Japan Revitalization Strategy: 10 Key Reforms, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet 24 June 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. <http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/keizaisaisei/pdf/10challenge02shousaiEN.pdf>

⁸⁴⁸ Revision of Japan Revitalization Strategy: 10 Key Reforms, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet 24 June 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. <http://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/keizaisaisei/pdf/10challenge02shousaiEN.pdf>

⁸⁴⁹ Final Report of the Ito Review "Competitiveness and Incentives for Sustainable Growth: Building Favorable Relationships between Companies and Investors" Project, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 27 August 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2014/0806_04.html

⁸⁵⁰ Final Report of the Ito Review "Competitiveness and Incentives for Sustainable Growth: Building Favorable Relationships between Companies and Investors" Project, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 27 August 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2014/0806_04.html

⁸⁵¹ Final Report of the Ito Review "Competitiveness and Incentives for Sustainable Growth: Building Favorable Relationships between Companies and Investors" Project, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 27 August 2014. Date accessed: 09 September 2014. http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2014/0806_04.html

⁸⁵² APEC members discuss Asia-Pacific Economic integration, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 07 October 2014. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=113213&pageIndex=34>

⁸⁵³ APEC members discuss Asia-Pacific Economic integration, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 07 October 2014. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=113213&pageIndex=34>

⁸⁵⁴ APEC members discuss Asia-Pacific Economic integration, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 07 October 2014. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=113213&pageIndex=34>

On 08 October 2013, Korean president Park Geun-hye delivered a speech in the 25th APEC Leader's Meeting, stressing the importance of boosting private sector infrastructure investment.⁸⁵⁵ Park recognized the need for long-term investment to build infrastructure, and identified the necessity to promote the private sector's involvement in infrastructure investment.⁸⁵⁶ Park also noted that "multilateral development banks including the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank need to cooperate so as to eliminate barriers faced by private sector investment."⁸⁵⁷

On 07 October 2013, Korean President Park Geun-hye attended the business dialogue at APEC and outlined the Korean government's efforts to improve the domestic Korean investment environment at the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC).⁸⁵⁸ Ways to improve regulations to promote investment and policies to support small and medium-sized firms were discussed by the Korean President with a small group of 12 leaders.⁸⁵⁹ She stressed that her administration intends to improve investor services, reform foreign direct investment rules, push toward deregulation, and aid business people across the Asia-Pacific region.⁸⁶⁰ Park said that she plans to implement a "negative regulatory system" to encourage domestic and foreign investment in Korea and remove unnecessary regulations.⁸⁶¹

On 06 January 2014, Korean President Park Geun-hye held a press conference and introduced her "three-year economic innovation plan."⁸⁶² In regard to domestic investment conditions, Park said that the Korean government will support SMEs so they can invest more into the economy and invigorate the domestic market.⁸⁶³ To help SMEs grow and gain more competitiveness, Park said that the government will provide "customized support" that include not only financial support but also access to information and networks of larger companies.⁸⁶⁴

On 25 February 2014, Korean President Park announced her Three Year Plan for Economic Innovation and stressed that the country needs to focus on innovation for economic growth.⁸⁶⁵ The government will increase startup funds for young entrepreneurs and increase investment funds to KRW 760 billion, and put KRW 200 billion to help Korean startups. Korean President Park spoke of

⁸⁵⁵ President Park calls for more private infrastructure investment, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 08 October 2013. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=113312&pageIndex=33>

⁸⁵⁶ President Park calls for more private infrastructure investment, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 08 October 2013. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=113312&pageIndex=33>

⁸⁵⁷ President Park calls for more private infrastructure investment, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 08 October 2013. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=113312&pageIndex=33>

⁸⁵⁸ President Park attends business dialogue at APEC, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 08 October 2013. Date accessed: 12 September 2014 <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=113270&pageIndex=33>

⁸⁵⁹ President Park attends business dialogue at APEC, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 08 October 2013. Date accessed: 12 September 2014 <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=113270&pageIndex=33>

⁸⁶⁰ President Park attends business dialogue at APEC, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 08 October 2013. Date accessed: 12 September 2014 <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=113270&pageIndex=33>

⁸⁶¹ President Park attends business dialogue at APEC, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 08 October 2013. Date accessed: 12 September 2014 <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=113270&pageIndex=33>

⁸⁶² President emphasizes economy, unification at press conference, Gateway to Korean 9Seou) 07 January 2014. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=116885&pageIndex=20>

⁸⁶³ President emphasizes economy, unification at press conference, Gateway to Korean 9Seou) 07 January 2014. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=116885&pageIndex=20>

⁸⁶⁴ President emphasizes economy, unification at press conference, Gateway to Korean 9Seou) 07 January 2014. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=116885&pageIndex=20>

⁸⁶⁵ President Park announces three-year plan for economic innovation, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 27 February 2014. Date accessed: 14 September 2014 <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=117839&pageIndex=16>

deregulation as a solution to improve investment conditions.⁸⁶⁶ The Korean government will reduce the number of regulations, which Park said are the biggest barrier to investment.⁸⁶⁷

On 29 July 2014, Korea and five other countries along the Mekong River agreed to increase economic and developmental cooperation.⁸⁶⁸ The foreign minister of Korea attended the Fourth Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting hosted in Seoul with the foreign ministers of Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar.⁸⁶⁹ A three-year action plan was adopted at the meeting which expands cooperation across different areas including setting up a transport infrastructure development strategy for roads, railroads, airports, and ports across the region. Korea also agreed to supporting the establishment of an infrastructure oversight body.⁸⁷⁰

On 01 August 2014, the Korean Government reported to invest KRW 41 trillion to boost the domestic economy.⁸⁷¹ New fiscal policies and financial and foreign exchange policies were announced, with KRW 11.7 trillion and KRW 29 trillion investments respectively.⁸⁷² One of the actions that the government plans to take with this investment is to establish a new fund to support small businesses to help them from the beginning stage, and throughout their development stage.⁸⁷³

On 11 August 2014, Korea's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yun Byung-se expressed Korea's will to boost its cooperation with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).⁸⁷⁴ Minister Yun focused on ASEAN's potential to become "one of the locomotives of the world economy," and engaged in dialogue on ways to boost Korea's relationship with ASEAN in terms of liberalizing trade and investment.⁸⁷⁵

Korea has identified and began to implement a set of country specific measures to improve the domestic investment condition. In addition, Korea has shown support of collective action by contributing to collective efforts towards economic growth and improving investment condition. Support of SMEs and investment in infrastructure was specifically targeted in the government's economic measures. Therefore, Korea has been assigned a score of +1.

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to improve investment conditions with specific reference to supporting SMEs and infrastructure. Both national and collective measures were taken.

⁸⁶⁶ President Park announces three-year plan for economic innovation, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 27 February 2014. Date accessed: 14 September 2014 <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=117839&pageIndex=16>

⁸⁶⁷ President Park announces three-year plan for economic innovation, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 27 February 2014. Date accessed: 14 September 2014 <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=117839&pageIndex=16>

⁸⁶⁸ Korea, Mekong region to boost cooperation, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 31 July 2014. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=120867&pageIndex=3>

⁸⁶⁹ Korea, Mekong region to boost cooperation, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 31 July 2014. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=120867&pageIndex=3>

⁸⁷⁰ Korea, Mekong region to boost cooperation, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 31 July 2014. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=120867&pageIndex=3>

⁸⁷¹ ⁸⁷¹ Gov't invests KRW 41 trillion to boost economy, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 01 August 2014. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=120889&pageIndex=3>

⁸⁷² ⁸⁷² Gov't invests KRW 41 trillion to boost economy, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 01 August 2014. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=120889&pageIndex=3>

⁸⁷³ Gov't invests KRW 41 trillion to boost economy, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 01 August 2014. Date accessed: 12 September 2014. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=120889&pageIndex=3>

⁸⁷⁴ Korea, ASEAN bolster cooperation, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 11 August 2014. Date accessed: 12 September 2014 <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=120990&pageIndex=2>

⁸⁷⁵ Korea, ASEAN bolster cooperation, Gateway to Korea (Seoul) 11 August 2014. Date accessed: 12 September 2014 <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=120990&pageIndex=2>

On 26 November 2013, the Government of Mexico announced a program to support SMEs.⁸⁷⁶ The program will ensure greater incentives to SMEs and reduce applicable requirements of SMEs, and support bonds for a total of 2 billion pesos for the benefit of 1000 companies who can access up to 30 million pesos worth of bonds.⁸⁷⁷

On 16 December 2013, Mexico and Italy signed an agreement to promote collaboration for SMEs.⁸⁷⁸ This agreement aims to strengthen multilateral relations between Italy, Latin America and the Caribbean through the exchange of SME experiences and to boost the momentum of the SME sector.⁸⁷⁹ The importance of SMEs was recognized as they represent a high proportion of jobs in both Italy and Mexico.⁸⁸⁰

On 20 December 2013, the Mexican Congress approved changes to the Mexican Constitution which reformed the energy sector by lifting a restriction on private capital in the oil industry.⁸⁸¹ This allows for profit sharing, production sharing and services.⁸⁸²

On 7 January 2014, Mexico's Secretary of Economy, the Secretary General of the OECD, the President of the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Local Development of the OECD signed two agreements to strengthen policies that support SMEs.⁸⁸³ The first agreement establishes strategic objectives and goals for the development of SMEs consistent with the National Development Plan which include areas of innovation, access to finance, internationalization, development of global supply chains and support for clusters.⁸⁸⁴ The second agreement introduces an ombudsman for SMEs in Mexico.⁸⁸⁵

⁸⁷⁶ The Government of the Republic Announces Program Surety Guarantees for SMEs, Secretariat of the economy (New Mexico) 26 November 2013. Date accessed: 2 October 2013. <http://www.economia.gob.mx/eventos-noticias/informacion-relevante/9983-boletin168-13>

⁸⁷⁷ The Government of the Republic Announces Program Surety Guarantees for SMEs, Secretariat of the economy (New Mexico) 26 November 2013. Date accessed: 2 October 2013. <http://www.economia.gob.mx/eventos-noticias/informacion-relevante/9983-boletin168-13>

⁸⁷⁸ Mexico and Italy sign agreement to promote collaboration for small and medium-sized enterprises, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico City) 16 December 2013. Date accessed: 2 October 2014. <http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10036-boletin-conjunto-161213-en>

⁸⁷⁹ Mexico and Italy sign agreement to promote collaboration for small and medium-sized enterprises, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico City) 16 December 2013. Date accessed: 2 October 2014. <http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10036-boletin-conjunto-161213-en>

⁸⁸⁰ Mexico and Italy sign agreement to promote collaboration for small and medium-sized enterprises, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico City) 16 December 2013. Date accessed: 2 October 2014. <http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10036-boletin-conjunto-161213-en>

⁸⁸¹ Investment Policy Monitor No 12, UNCTAD (Geneva) 10 March 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014 http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/webdiaepcb2014d1_en.pdf

⁸⁸² Investment Policy Monitor No 12, UNCTAD (Geneva) 10 March 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014 http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/webdiaepcb2014d1_en.pdf

⁸⁸³ INADEM and OECD signed cooperation agreements for Micro, Small and Medium-sized enterprises in Mexico, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico City) 7 January 2014 Date accessed: 2 October 2014. <http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10057-boletin14-002-en>

⁸⁸⁴ INADEM and OECD signed cooperation agreements for Micro, Small and Medium-sized enterprises in Mexico, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico City) 7 January 2014 Date accessed: 2 October 2014. <http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10057-boletin14-002-en>

⁸⁸⁵ INADEM and OECD signed cooperation agreements for Micro, Small and Medium-sized enterprises in Mexico, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico City) 7 January 2014 Date accessed: 2 October 2014. <http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10057-boletin14-002-en>

On 11 January 2014, the Mexican Senate passed legislation to overhaul the banking sector.⁸⁸⁶ A court system was established to speed up collection of unpaid debt, encourage competition, facilitate the growth of small banks, call for an establishment of a universal credit bureau, among others.⁸⁸⁷

On 18 February 2014, the Second Meeting of the Sub-Working Group on Trade and Investment Mexico-European Union was held at Mexico's Secretariat of the Economy.⁸⁸⁸ Topics discussed at the meeting include rules of trade facilitation, competition, investment, trade defence, government procurements, intellectual property, etc.⁸⁸⁹ Mexico and the EU proposed joint recommendations in order to deepen the current Free Trade Agreement.⁸⁹⁰

On 4 April 2014, the World Economic Forum for Latin America concluded. During the session called "Strategic Investments," Mexico's Secretary of Economy emphasized Mexico's opportunities for trade and investment and stated the need to strengthen the infrastructure with an approach of logistical capabilities.⁸⁹¹ In this context, he pointed to the importance of the Pacific Alliance in providing a framework for integration of economies based on free market, democracy and freedom.⁸⁹² The meeting allowed government leaders from 50 countries to exchange points of view on boosting the economy in the region.⁸⁹³

On 16 April 2014, Mexico's National Institute of Entrepreneurship (INADEM) and US Agency for International Development (USAID) participated in the multilateral meeting "First High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Development" which aims to strengthen strategic alliance with the primary objective of supporting entrepreneurs and innovation and accelerate economy and competitiveness in the region.⁸⁹⁴ Currently, USAID and INADEM are working closely on various projects such as designing mechanisms that increase access to private capital for SMEs.⁸⁹⁵

⁸⁸⁶ Investment Policy Monitor No 12, UNCTAD (Geneva) 10 March 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014
http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/webdiaepcb2014d1_en.pdf

⁸⁸⁷ Investment Policy Monitor No 12, UNCTAD (Geneva) 10 March 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014
http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/webdiaepcb2014d1_en.pdf

⁸⁸⁸ Second Meeting of the Sub-Working Group on Trade and Investment Mexico-European Union, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico City) 18 February 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014. <http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10135-boletin14-019-en>

⁸⁸⁹ Second Meeting of the Sub-Working Group on Trade and Investment Mexico-European Union, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico City) 18 February 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014. <http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10135-boletin14-019-en>

⁸⁹⁰ Second Meeting of the Sub-Working Group on Trade and Investment Mexico-European Union, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico City) 18 February 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014. <http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10135-boletin14-019-en>

⁸⁹¹ The World Economic Forum for Latin America 2014 has concluded, Secretariat of the Economy (Mexico City) 4 April 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014. <http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10235-boletin14-039-en>

⁸⁹² The World Economic Forum for Latin America 2014 has concluded, Secretariat of the Economy (Mexico City) 4 April 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014. <http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10235-boletin14-039-en>

⁸⁹³ The World Economic Forum for Latin America 2014 has concluded, Secretariat of the Economy (Mexico City) 4 April 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014. <http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10235-boletin14-039-en>

⁸⁹⁴ INADEM and USAID strengthen their strategy to promote worldwide entrepreneurship and sport for innovation, Secretariat of Economy Mexico City) 16 April 2014. Date accessed; 2 October 2014.

<http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10265-boletin-conjunto14-0416-en>

⁸⁹⁵ INADEM and USAID strengthen their strategy to promote worldwide entrepreneurship and sport for innovation, Secretariat of Economy Mexico City) 16 April 2014. Date accessed; 2 October 2014.

<http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10265-boletin-conjunto14-0416-en>

On 1 May 2014, Mexico announced to be the co-host of the 11th China International SME Fair (CISMEF) in October 2014 as a result of the recent meeting between the Mexican President and President of the Chairman of the People's Republic of China.⁸⁹⁶ The fair will promote the internationalization of small and medium-sized businesses, and Mexico's National Institute of Entrepreneurship will provide participating companies with logistics, consulting, and training at no cost.⁸⁹⁷

On 14 May 2014, Mexico announced to participate in the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Trade of the APEC meeting.⁸⁹⁸ The discussion will focus on three priority areas which include regional integration, economic reform and growth, and strengthen connectivity and development of infrastructure.⁸⁹⁹

On 12 June 2014, Mexico's President of the National Institute of the Entrepreneur (INADEM), Enrique Jacob Rocha participated in the Latin Seminar of Small and Medium Enterprises which presents measures taken by the countries of the region to encourage development of SMEs.⁹⁰⁰ Enrique Jacob said that the INADEM coordinates national policy to support entrepreneurs for example the recent National Award of the Entrepreneur and the Support Network for Entrepreneur.⁹⁰¹

Mexico identified and began to implement national and collective measures to improve investment climate with specific reference to SMEs and infrastructure. Therefore, Mexico has been assigned a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Alissa (Xinbe) Wang

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with their commitment to identify and implement collective and country specific actions to improve Russia's domestic investment environment. The Russian government made legislative changes, budget allocations, and federal programmes to address barriers to investment. Particular efforts have been made to developing infrastructure and supporting SMEs.

On 5 December 2013, the draft law that helps reduce the time and costs spent by small businesses or startups was discussed and approved by the Russian Government.⁹⁰² The law proposed to eliminate

⁸⁹⁶ Mexico, co-host at the 11th China International SME Fair, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico Cit) 1 May 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014.

<http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10314-boletin-conjunto14-0501-en>

⁸⁹⁷ Mexico, co-host at the 11th China International SME Fair, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico Cit) 1 May 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014.

<http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10314-boletin-conjunto14-0501-en>

⁸⁹⁸ Mexico will participate in the meeting of ministers responsible for trade (MRT) of APEC, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico City) 14 May 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014.

<http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10347-boletin14-061-en>

⁸⁹⁹ Mexico will participate in the meeting of ministers responsible for trade (MRT) of APEC, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico City) 14 May 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014.

<http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10347-boletin14-061-en>

⁹⁰⁰ The National Institute of the Entrepreneur Participates in the Latin Seminar of Small and Medium Enterprises, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico City) 12 June 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014.

<http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10431-boletin-conjunto14-0611-en>

⁹⁰¹ The National Institute of the Entrepreneur Participates in the Latin Seminar of Small and Medium Enterprises, Secretariat of Economy (Mexico City) 12 June 2014. Date accessed: 2 October 2014.

<http://www.economia.gob.mx/news-and-events/press-room/headlines/10431-boletin-conjunto14-0611-en>

⁹⁰² On presenting a draft law to the State Duma on streamlining registration precedes for legal entities and sole proprietors which was drawn up by the Ministry of Economic Development, The Russian Government (Moscow) 18 December 2013. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. http://government.ru/en/dep_news/9043

notarial certification of the authenticity of applicant signature on state registration applications under certain circumstances.⁹⁰³

On 18 December 2013, the Ministry of Economic Development, under compliance with the Russian Government, drafted a resolution on increasing allocations for infrastructure construction in the Titanium Valley Special Economic Zone in the Sverdlovsk Region.⁹⁰⁴ The resolution removes the previous limitation of financing the economic zone exclusively from the Sverdlovsk Region budget, adds an additional allocation of at least 4.7 billion roubles, and allocates up to 4.8 billion roubles for the Titanium Valley development when drafting the federal budget for 2015.⁹⁰⁵

On 27 December 2013, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a list of instructions on implementing the Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly.⁹⁰⁶ Instructions include drafting and approving measures to increase the investment appeal of single-industry towns and amending the Russian legislation with the aim of supporting small businesses.⁹⁰⁷

On 05 February 2014, the Russian Government announced changes to the Russian legislation that aim to support businesses by reducing the time needed to start up a new business.⁹⁰⁸ The Federal Law On Limited Liability Companies and the Civil Code were amended to terminate the requirement to open of a temporary accumulation account for the payment of share capital and provisions on the prior payment of share capital of limited liability companies.⁹⁰⁹

On 30 July 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin held a meeting with Government members.⁹¹⁰ The meeting outlined that the legislative work includes drafting up a federal law on the zones of advanced economic growth with the two key provisions of deregulation and tax incentives.⁹¹¹ For deregulation, the law aims to use the one window system for investors to simplify and reduce the amount of administrative formalities involved, offering free customs zones and reducing the time investors spend.⁹¹² For tax breaks, investors will benefit from an insurance deduction rate of 7.6

⁹⁰³ On presenting a draft law to the State Duma on streamlining registration precedes for legal entities and sole proprietors which was drawn up by the Ministry of Economic Development, The Russian Government (Moscow) 18 December 2013. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. http://government.ru/en/dep_news/9043

⁹⁰⁴ On increasing allocations for infrastructure construction in the Titanium Valley Special Economic Zone in the Sverdlovsk Region, The Russian Government (Moscow) 18 December 2013. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. http://government.ru/en/dep_news/9072

⁹⁰⁵ On increasing allocations for infrastructure construction in the Titanium Valley Special Economic Zone in the Sverdlovsk Region, The Russian Government (Moscow) 18 December 2013. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. http://government.ru/en/dep_news/9072

⁹⁰⁶ Instructions on implementing Address to Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 27 December 2013. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. <http://eng.kremlin.ru/misc/6529#sel=>

⁹⁰⁷ Instructions on implementing Address to Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 27 December 2013. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. <http://eng.kremlin.ru/misc/6529#sel=>

⁹⁰⁸ A bill submitted to the State Duma by the Ministry of Economic Development on changing the procedure for the payment of share capital during the establishment of a limited liability company, The Russian Government (Moscow) 05 February 2014. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. http://government.ru/en/dep_news/10247/

⁹⁰⁹ A bill submitted to the State Duma by the Ministry of Economic Development on changing the procedure for the payment of share capital during the establishment of a limited liability company, The Russian Government (Moscow) 05 February 2014. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. http://government.ru/en/dep_news/10247/

⁹¹⁰ Meeting with Government members, President of Russia (Moscow) 30 July 2014. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. <http://eng.kremlin.ru/transcripts/22750>

⁹¹¹ Meeting with Government members, President of Russia (Moscow) 30 July 2014. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. <http://eng.kremlin.ru/transcripts/22750>

⁹¹² Meeting with Government members, President of Russia (Moscow) 30 July 2014. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. <http://eng.kremlin.ru/transcripts/22750>

percent for the first ten years.⁹¹³ Various government ministries, Presidential State-Legal Directorate and Presidential Experts' Directorate have already approved the draft law.⁹¹⁴

On 02 September 2014, Russia's Ministry of Industry and Trade devised an initiative on the industry development fund, which establishes a development institution that focuses on providing loans to industrial enterprises before they turn to banks for financing.⁹¹⁵ This initiative aims to reduce borrowing costs of project financing.⁹¹⁶ The fund will follow the structure of a federal institution for efficiency and consistency with the goals of industrial development.⁹¹⁷ 1 billion roubles will be allocated to finance the fund in 2014, and 18.5 billion roubles is planned to be allocated in 2015-2017.⁹¹⁸

Russia identified and implemented country specific measures to improve investment climate. Barriers to domestic investment have been addressed and the development of infrastructure and supporting SMEs were direct goals. However, Russia did not contribute to collective action on improving investment climate. Therefore, Russia has been assigned a score of 0.

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with their commitment to improve investment conditions. The Saudi Arabian Government identified and began to implement national measures to improve investment conditions with specific reference to supporting SMEs. However, the government did not contribute to the collective process of agenda setting.

On 7 December 2013, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Agriculture and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization organized courses under the sustainable rural development program, which aims to help women develop skills such as in wall rural businesses, sustainable development, rural enterprises, modern technology, and how to start a small business.⁹¹⁹ The project will also organize additional courses to strengthen the capacity of women and improve the investment environment for women in agricultural production.⁹²⁰

On 16 February 2014, the Saudi Arabian Government announced the Ministry of Finance and Saudi banks' launch of the "Sponsorship" program for financing SME, which aims to boost SME activity in the least developed cities and regions.⁹²¹

⁹¹³ Meeting with Government members, President of Russia (Moscow) 30 July 2014. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. <http://eng.kremlin.ru/transcripts/22750>

⁹¹⁴ Meeting with Government members, President of Russia (Moscow) 30 July 2014. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. <http://eng.kremlin.ru/transcripts/22750>

⁹¹⁵ On industry development fund, The Russian Government (Moscow) 02 September 2014. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. <http://government.ru/en/docs/14586/>

⁹¹⁶ On industry development fund, The Russian Government (Moscow) 02 September 2014. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. <http://government.ru/en/docs/14586/>

⁹¹⁷ On industry development fund, The Russian Government (Moscow) 02 September 2014. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. <http://government.ru/en/docs/14586/>

⁹¹⁸ On industry development fund, The Russian Government (Moscow) 02 September 2014. Date accessed: 06 September 2014. <http://government.ru/en/docs/14586/>

⁹¹⁹ Training for women in small businesses, Arab news 7 December 2013. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/488821>

⁹²⁰ Training for women in small businesses, Arab news 7 December 2013. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/488821>

⁹²¹ Boosting small and medium size enterprises, Saudi Arabia Government (Riyadh) 16 February 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://bit.ly/1zKPa4d>

On 25 February 2014, Saudi Arabia's Centennial Fund and Microsoft signed a memorandum of understanding to support micro enterprises, and the Fund will provide entrepreneurs with skills training and capacity building.⁹²²

On 23 April 2014, the Executive Director of Saudi Arabia's National Entrepreneurship Institute recognized the current difficulties faced by SMEs like marketing problems, lack of management and technical skills, licensing complications and financing problems, and announced that the Entrepreneurship Institute will support 10,000 entrepreneurs with their SMEs.⁹²³

On 18 May 2014, the Saudi Arabian Government announced loans worth more than SR 15 million for small and emerging enterprises with the goal of nurturing entrepreneurship among young Saudis by conducting training and providing advice to prospective entrepreneurs.⁹²⁴

On 28 May 2014, the Saudi Arabian Government announced that the Centennial Fund and Credit Bank agreed to fund 16 small entrepreneurship enterprises worth more than SR 3 million.⁹²⁵

On 13 July 2014, Saudi Arabia's Riyadh Chamber of Commerce held a meeting that discussed IT investments and how to boost businesswomen investments in the IT industry.⁹²⁶

Saudi Arabia identified and began to implement national strategies for improving investment environment with specific reference to SMEs but did not contribute to collective processes. Thus, Saudi Arabia has been assigned a score of 0 for partial compliance.

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with their commitment to improve investment conditions by identifying and beginning to implement national and collective measures. Measures were taken at a national level, and South Africa also contributed to collective agenda setting.

On 21 October 2013, the Minister of Economic Development, Ebrahim Patel introduced the youth entrepreneurship programmes of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA), which already approved loans to 44 youth owned enterprises.⁹²⁷ The program seeks to introduce more youths to the business world, support youth owned business with lending and financial support to a value of R37.4 million, and reduce small business failure rate.⁹²⁸

⁹²² Centennial Fund and Microsoft support small size enterprises, Saudi Arabia Government (Riyadh) 26 February 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://bit.ly/1pOIPsq>

⁹²³ Entrepreneurship Institute targets support of 10,000 entrepreneurs, Saudi Arabia Government (Riyadh) 23 April 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://bit.ly/1tExJtZ>

⁹²⁴ Loans worth more than SR 15 million for young entrepreneurs, Saudi Arabia Government (Riyadh) 18 May 2014. Date accessed; 3 October 2014 <http://bit.ly/1tExNKe>

⁹²⁵ The Centennial Fund and Credit Bank support 16 entrepreneurs, Saudi Arabia Government (Riyadh) 28 May 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://bit.ly/1Er58OY>

⁹²⁶ Boosting businesswomen IT investments, Saudi Arabia Government (Riyadh) 13 July 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://bit.ly/1tZFmi6>

⁹²⁷ Minister Patel welcomes effort to fast-track youth entry into business, Economic Development Department (Pretoria) 21 October 2013. Date accessed: 3 October 2014.

<http://www.economic.gov.za/communications/media/press-releases-2013/361-minister->

⁹²⁸ Minister Patel welcomes effort to fast-track youth entry into business, Economic Development Department (Pretoria) 21 October 2013. Date accessed: 3 October 2014.

<http://www.economic.gov.za/communications/media/press-releases-2013/361-minister->

On 30 October 2013, South Africa's Minister of Economic Development announced to introduce the Infrastructure Development Bill into Parliament.⁹²⁹ The bill's content is to "provide for the facilitation and co-ordination of public infrastructure development which is of significant economic or social importance to the Republic."⁹³⁰

On 21 February 2014, South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation spoke at the press briefing with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.⁹³¹ The minister recognized the wide scope of mutually beneficial development between the two countries in trade and investment.⁹³²

On 26 February 2014, South Africa's Minister of Finance, Pravin Gordhan made the 2014 Budget Speech.⁹³³ The key features of the 2014 budget include increased support and tax relief for entrepreneurs and small businesses, financial support for nearly 500,000 subsistence and small-holder farmers, and accelerated public infrastructure investment.⁹³⁴ Public infrastructure investment is said to amount to R847 billion over the next three years, and R40 billion in infrastructure grants will be transferred to local governments for their water, sanitation, energy and environmental functions in 2014/15.⁹³⁵ Two recommendations of the Judge Davis Tax Committee, to amend and further reduce tax burden on micro-enterprises and consideration of replacing the graduated tax structure for small business corporations with a refundable tax compliance credit, are accepted.⁹³⁶ Over the medium term, the government will increase investment in economic infrastructure, provide business support programmes and promote investment.⁹³⁷

On 15 July 2014, the Government of South Africa participated in the Fortaleza Declaration of the Sixth BRICS Summit.⁹³⁸ The declaration committed the participating countries to closer economic partnership with trade and investment cooperation, afford the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's mandate, co-generating appropriate funding and investment instruments, and established the BRICS Information Sharing and Exchange Platform which aims to facilitate trade and

⁹²⁹ Gazette 36980, Economic Development Department (Pretoria) 30 October 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.economic.gov.za/communications/government-gazettes>

⁹³⁰ Gazette 36980, Economic Development Department (Pretoria) 30 October 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.economic.gov.za/communications/government-gazettes>

⁹³¹ Remarks by the Minister of International relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, on the occasion of the joint press briefing with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 21 February 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.dfa.gov.za/docs/speeches/2014/mash0221.html>

⁹³² Remarks by the Minister of International relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, on the occasion of the joint press briefing with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 21 February 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.dfa.gov.za/docs/speeches/2014/mash0221.html>

⁹³³ 2014 Budget Speech, South African Treasury (Pretoria) 26 February 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2014/speech/speech.pdf>

⁹³⁴ 2014 Budget Speech, South African Treasury (Pretoria) 26 February 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2014/speech/speech.pdf>

⁹³⁵ 2014 Budget Speech, South African Treasury (Pretoria) 26 February 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2014/speech/speech.pdf>

⁹³⁶ 2014 Budget Speech, South African Treasury (Pretoria) 26 February 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2014/speech/speech.pdf>

⁹³⁷ 2014 Budget Speech, South African Treasury (Pretoria) 26 February 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2014/speech/speech.pdf>

⁹³⁸ Sixth BRICS Summit - Fortaleza Declaration, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 15 July 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2014/brics0716a.html>

investment cooperation.⁹³⁹ The declaration acknowledged the importance of SMEs, and committed to enhance cooperation in infrastructure connectivity and development.⁹⁴⁰

On 4 September 2014, South Africa's Minister of Economic Development, Ebrahim Patel made remarks at the opening of the Conference on Competition Law, Economics and Policy.⁹⁴¹ The National Development Plan was presented and the six key pillars were identified to be industrialization, infrastructure rollout, investment, innovation, integration and inclusion.⁹⁴² The plan aims to support inclusive growth by opening opportunities and resources for small businesses, and R90 million will be provided to support small-scale farmers over the coming three years.⁹⁴³ The government is also committing to step up efforts in the next five years toward economic transformation by speeding up the growth of small businesses, bringing young entrepreneurs in to the economy and strengthening overall competitiveness.⁹⁴⁴ The government will give effect to legal provision, simplify processes and identify gaps in the law and practice of the commission that lead to unnecessary litigation, amend the law to more clearly empower competition authorities, etc.⁹⁴⁵

South Africa identified and began to implement national measures and contributed to collective agenda setting to improve investment environment with specific reference to SMEs and infrastructure. Thus, South Africa has been assigned a score of +1 for full compliance.

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to improve investment conditions with specific support to SMEs and infrastructure. Both national and collective measures were taken.

On 1 November 2013, multinational companies attended the eighth meeting of the Investment Advisory Council of Turkey, and discussed ways to improve the country's investment climate.⁹⁴⁶

⁹³⁹ Sixth BRICS Summit - Fortaleza Declaration, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 15 July 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2014/brics0716a.html>

⁹⁴⁰ Sixth BRICS Summit - Fortaleza Declaration, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 15 July 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2014/brics0716a.html>

⁹⁴¹ Remarks at the opening of the Conference on Competition Law, Economics and Policy, by the Minister of Economic Development, Mr Ebrahim Patel, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 4 September 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.economic.gov.za/communications/speeches/minister/2014/517-competition-law-conference--4-sept-2014>

⁹⁴² Remarks at the opening of the Conference on Competition Law, Economics and Policy, by the Minister of Economic Development, Mr Ebrahim Patel, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 4 September 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.economic.gov.za/communications/speeches/minister/2014/517-competition-law-conference--4-sept-2014>

⁹⁴³ Remarks at the opening of the Conference on Competition Law, Economics and Policy, by the Minister of Economic Development, Mr Ebrahim Patel, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 4 September 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.economic.gov.za/communications/speeches/minister/2014/517-competition-law-conference--4-sept-2014>

⁹⁴⁴ Remarks at the opening of the Conference on Competition Law, Economics and Policy, by the Minister of Economic Development, Mr Ebrahim Patel, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 4 September 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.economic.gov.za/communications/speeches/minister/2014/517-competition-law-conference--4-sept-2014>

⁹⁴⁵ Remarks at the opening of the Conference on Competition Law, Economics and Policy, by the Minister of Economic Development, Mr Ebrahim Patel, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 4 September 2014. Date accessed: 3 October 2014. <http://www.economic.gov.za/communications/speeches/minister/2014/517-competition-law-conference--4-sept-2014>

⁹⁴⁶ Multinationals Meet in Istanbul for Investment, Ministry of Economy (Ankara) 1 November 2013. Date accessed: 4 October 2014. <http://www.economy.gov.tr/index.cfm?sayfa=ulusticgundem&icerik=62B97815-AE40-4A3F-323B21D07281F96F>

Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Deputy PM Ali Babacan and heads of Turkey's leading business organizations attended the meeting.⁹⁴⁷

On 4 November 2013, the Turkish-Saudi Arabian Joint Economic Commission started its 11th session to discuss bilateral relations in fields including economy, trade, and joint investment.⁹⁴⁸

On 19 December 2013, the Development bank of Turkey and Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) signed a new loan agreement regarding the financial support of SME investments in Turkey.⁹⁴⁹ The loan amount is 80 million Euro, and will be used for productive investment projects in SMEs in Turkey for the promotion and preservation of jobs.⁹⁵⁰ The loan is expected to benefit more than 150 SMEs and contribute to the creating and/or preserving more than 8000 jobs.⁹⁵¹

In January 2014, the Ministry of Finance of Turkey published the Pre-Accession Economic Programme 2014-2016.⁹⁵² The tenth development plan, outlined in this document, places improving entrepreneurship, supporting SMEs and improving the logistics and transport infrastructure as priority areas.⁹⁵³ Under the section for improvement of the investment environment, the law that shortens the time elapsed between granting work permit and starting employees to work is said to be put into practice on April 2014.⁹⁵⁴ The preparatory work for the Action Plan for the Transformation Program on Improvement of Business and Investment Environment has started.⁹⁵⁵

On 15 and 16 January 2015, Turkey hosted the 6th session of the Vietnam—Turkey Joint Commission on Economic and Trade Cooperation.⁹⁵⁶ The two countries signed an Agreement on Investment Protection and Encouragement, and signed a cooperation Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation to support SMEs in improving competitiveness and cooperation in trade and investment.⁹⁵⁷

⁹⁴⁷ Multinationals Meet in Istanbul for Investment, Ministry of Economy (Ankara) 1 November 2013. Date accessed: 4 October 2014. <http://www.economy.gov.tr/index.cfm?sayfa=ulusticgundem&icerik=62B97815-AE40-4A3F-323B21D07281F96F>

⁹⁴⁸ Turkish-Saudi Economic Commission Meets Tuesday, Ministry of Economy (Ankara) 4 November 2013. Date accessed: 4 October 2014. <http://www.economy.gov.tr/index.cfm?sayfa=ulusticgundem&icerik=62758E7F-0E4F-8631-796B4B4F1A0D3D47>

⁹⁴⁹ Development Bank of Turkey will allocate 80 million Euros to support SMEs, Kalkinma Development Bank of Turkey (Ankara) 19 December 2013. Date accessed: 4 October 2014. <http://english.kalkinma.com.tr/development-bank-of-turkey-will-allocate-80-million-euros-to-support-smes.aspx>

⁹⁵⁰ Development Bank of Turkey will allocate 80 million Euros to support SMEs, Kalkinma Development Bank of Turkey (Ankara) 19 December 2013. Date accessed: 4 October 2014. <http://english.kalkinma.com.tr/development-bank-of-turkey-will-allocate-80-million-euros-to-support-smes.aspx>

⁹⁵¹ Development Bank of Turkey will allocate 80 million Euros to support SMEs, Kalkinma Development Bank of Turkey (Ankara) 19 December 2013. Date accessed: 4 October 2014. <http://english.kalkinma.com.tr/development-bank-of-turkey-will-allocate-80-million-euros-to-support-smes.aspx>

⁹⁵² Pre-Accession Economic Programme 2014-2016, Ministry of Finance (Ankara) January 2014. Date accessed: 4 October 2014. <http://www.maliye.gov.tr/Documents/Pre-Accession%20Economic%20Programme%202014-2016.pdf>

⁹⁵³ Pre-Accession Economic Programme 2014-2016, Ministry of Finance (Ankara) January 2014. Date accessed: 4 October 2014. <http://www.maliye.gov.tr/Documents/Pre-Accession%20Economic%20Programme%202014-2016.pdf>

⁹⁵⁴ Pre-Accession Economic Programme 2014-2016, Ministry of Finance (Ankara) January 2014. Date accessed: 4 October 2014. <http://www.maliye.gov.tr/Documents/Pre-Accession%20Economic%20Programme%202014-2016.pdf>

⁹⁵⁵ Pre-Accession Economic Programme 2014-2016, Ministry of Finance (Ankara) January 2014. Date accessed: 4 October 2014. <http://www.maliye.gov.tr/Documents/Pre-Accession%20Economic%20Programme%202014-2016.pdf>

⁹⁵⁶ 6th session of Vietnam-Turkey Joint Commission chaired by Minister Vu Huy Hoang, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Hanoi) 20 January 2014. <http://www.moit.gov.vn/en/News/506/6th-session-of-vietnam->

⁹⁵⁷ 6th session of Vietnam-Turkey Joint Commission chaired by Minister Vu Huy Hoang, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Hanoi) 20 January 2014. <http://www.moit.gov.vn/en/News/506/6th-session-of-vietnam->

Pm 17 January 2014, Turkey's Ministry of Economy announced to invest more than 5.5 billion in its transportation infrastructure, according to the country's 2014 budget.⁹⁵⁸

On 5 February 2014, Turkey's Ministry of Economy announced that Bosnia and Turkey will increase bilateral cooperation, especially in the investment sector.⁹⁵⁹

In August 2014, the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme published the Final Draft of the Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020.⁹⁶⁰ Under the section titled "Competitiveness, business environment and SME development, trade and investment," the document recognizes that current challenges include SMEs lack of competitiveness, and the need to improve the access of SME's to the European market, improve competitiveness and productivity of SMEs and create better conditions for sustainable economic development.⁹⁶¹

Turkey identified and started to implement national and collective measures to improve investment climate with supporting SMEs and infrastructure as a direct goal. Thus, it has been assigned a score of +1 for full compliance.

United Kingdom: 0

The UK has partially complied with its commitment to identify and implement collective and country-specific actions that improve the domestic investment environment. The UK adopted measures that aim to make the investment environment more favourable and particular attention has been paid to SMEs and the development of infrastructure. However, no measures were taken that demonstrate contribution to collective action.

On 11 September 2013, the UK announced a policy of "Using Industrial Strategy to help the UK economy and business compete and grow."⁹⁶² This policy targets the issue of the increasing competition and opportunities that come from the changes in the international economy. The policy aims to develop an industrial strategy to support businesses in the UK and boost investment and growth.⁹⁶³ The policy states that the UK will pursue five plans of action which include developing strategic partnerships with the industry, supporting emerging technologies, improving access to finance for businesses, working with businesses to help them develop the skills they need, and publishing government contracts for confidence on business investment.⁹⁶⁴

⁹⁵⁸ Turkey to boost railway investments, Ministry of Economy (Ankara) 17 January 2014. Date accessed: 4 October 2014. <http://www.economy.gov.tr/index.cfm?sayfa=ulusticgundem&icerik=4893AF3D-0D2E-420B-ACECCFB87E8D3664>

⁹⁵⁹ Bosnia and Turkey to increase Bilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Economy (Ankara) 5 February 2014. Date accessed: 4 October 2014. <http://www.economy.gov.tr/index.cfm?sayfa=ulusticgundem&icerik=1C32F481-F712-64AC-10A3F24E22FF8CC8>

⁹⁶⁰ Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2010, Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme 12 August 2014. Date accessed: 4 October 2014. http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/upload/docs/2014-08/IPA_OP_CBC_BG_TR_Final_Draft.pdf

⁹⁶¹ Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2010, Bulgaria-Turkey IPA Cross-Border Programme 12 August 2014. Date accessed: 4 October 2014. http://www.ipacbc-bgtr.eu/upload/docs/2014-08/IPA_OP_CBC_BG_TR_Final_Draft.pdf

⁹⁶² Using Industrial Strategy to help the UK economy and business compete and grow, gov.uk (London) 11 September 2013. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/using-industrial-strategy-to-help-the-uk-economy-and-business-compete-and-grow>

⁹⁶³ Using Industrial Strategy to help the UK economy and business compete and grow, gov.uk (London) 11 September 2013. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/using-industrial-strategy-to-help-the-uk-economy-and-business-compete-and-grow>

⁹⁶⁴ Using Industrial Strategy to help the UK economy and business compete and grow, gov.uk (London) 11 September 2013. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/using-industrial-strategy-to-help-the-uk-economy-and-business-compete-and-grow>

On 06 November 2013, Business Secretary Vince Cable launched a campaign to help small firms.⁹⁶⁵ £45 million of funding is committed to provide debt finance and it is expected that the funds will start to lend to small business in early 2014.⁹⁶⁶ Other measures launched to support Small businesses include a £1 million Sector Mentoring Challenge Fund for firms to gain support and advice from experienced business people, a £10 million fund to help entrepreneurial scientists in the synthetic biology field, and the Growth Accelerator scheme aimed at coaching small businesses.⁹⁶⁷

On 4 December 2013, the UK's HM Treasury published the "National Infrastructure Plan 2013."⁹⁶⁸ This plan sets out the long term investment actions that the UK will undertake for the improvement and growth of its infrastructure. This is the first time the UK has brought together an analysis of the UK's infrastructure needs across different sectors.⁹⁶⁹ The plan outlines the government's approach to infrastructure development sector by sector, and selected 40 top priority investments. Innovations include a "hot desk" in Infrastructure UK for Top 40 project owners to raise issues and concerns, and the set-up of a new "Major Infrastructure Tracking unit" in Infrastructure UK.⁹⁷⁰

On 3 February 2014, the UK's Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, The RT Hon Matthew Hancock MP and HM Treasury announced a policy to facilitate the setting up and growing of a business.⁹⁷¹ The policy update recognizes the issue that there are barriers and difficulties encountered by SMEs in the UK such as the "lack of access to finance," "not being able to recruit people and lacking the right skills in new and existing staff" and "day to day cash flow."⁹⁷² The new policy aims to make the UK an "easier place to do business" by providing funding and programmes available to more small businesses, encouraging private sector investment in small businesses, and funding initiatives that encourage young people to set up their own business.⁹⁷³

On 28 March 2014, the UK Chancellor launched a consultation on measures to help small business lending to make it easier to set up and grow a business.⁹⁷⁴ The consultation proposed that lenders release information on SMEs that they rejected for finance, so that alternative credit providers can be identified. The aim is to create online platforms for SMEs that have been rejected for finance the

⁹⁶⁵ Investment and campaign to help small firms grow, gov.uk (London) 06 November 2013. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/investment-and-campaign-to-help-small-firms-grow>

⁹⁶⁶ Investment and campaign to help small firms grow, gov.uk (London) 06 November 2013. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/investment-and-campaign-to-help-small-firms-grow>

⁹⁶⁷ Investment and campaign to help small firms grow, gov.uk (London) 06 November 2013. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/investment-and-campaign-to-help-small-firms-grow>

⁹⁶⁸ National Infrastructure Plan 2013, gov.uk (London) 04 December 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/263159/national_infrastructure_plan_2013.pdf

⁹⁶⁹ National Infrastructure Plan 2013, gov.uk (London) 04 December 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/263159/national_infrastructure_plan_2013.pdf

⁹⁷⁰ National Infrastructure Plan 2013, gov.uk (London) 04 December 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/263159/national_infrastructure_plan_2013.pdf

⁹⁷¹ Making it easier to set up and grow a business, gov.uk (London) 03 February 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/making-it-easier-to-set-up-and-grow-a-business--6>

⁹⁷² Making it easier to set up and grow a business, gov.uk (London) 03 February 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/making-it-easier-to-set-up-and-grow-a-business--6>

⁹⁷³ Making it easier to set up and grow a business, gov.uk (London) 03 February 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/making-it-easier-to-set-up-and-grow-a-business--6>

⁹⁷⁴ Chancellor launches consultation on measures to help small business lending, gov.uk (London) 28 March 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-launches-consultation-on-measures-to-help-small-business-lending>

first time around can still find lenders.⁹⁷⁵ This consultation recognizes, as Chancellor George Osborne said, that “the success of small and medium sized business is key to the government’s long term economic plan.”⁹⁷⁶

On 06 April 2014, reforms to cut red tape came into effect.⁹⁷⁷ The reduction of government meddling aims to create a better business environment by reducing the weight of regulation on business.⁹⁷⁸ The reforms simplify the regulations faced by businesses and are already saving businesses around £1.2 billion to date.⁹⁷⁹

On 22 April 2014, the UK’s Prime Minister David Cameron and Chancellor George Osborne announced that the UK will invest £36 billion in transport and energy projects.⁹⁸⁰ As part of this investment, more than 200 infrastructure projects in rail, road, local transport, flood defences, broadband, airport infrastructure and waste management will start in 2014 to 2015.⁹⁸¹ These projects will also help to create more than 150,000 jobs.⁹⁸²

On 22 April 2014, The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, the Department for Communities and Local Government and Infrastructure UK published a press release that announced major infrastructure investment plans for local enterprise zone, Sheffield.⁹⁸³ A £120 million infrastructure investment will be brought to Sheffield to improve businesses and jobs.⁹⁸⁴

On 6 August 2014, the UK’s HM Treasury and Department for Business and Innovation & Skills published the outcome to the Consultation from 28 March 2014 about helping to match SMEs rejected for finance with alternative lenders.⁹⁸⁵ The outcome was that the government welcomes the proposal outlined by the consultation.⁹⁸⁶ The government proceeded with legislation through the

⁹⁷⁵ Chancellor launches consultation on measures to help small business lending, gov.uk (London) 28 March 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-launches-consultation-on-measures-to-help-small-business-lending>

⁹⁷⁶ Chancellor launches consultation on measures to help small business lending, gov.uk (London) 28 March 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-launches-consultation-on-measures-to-help-small-business-lending>

⁹⁷⁷ New cuts to red tape come into force, gov.uk (London) 06 April 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-cuts-to-red-tape-come-into-force>

⁹⁷⁸ New cuts to red tape come into force, gov.uk (London) 06 April 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-cuts-to-red-tape-come-into-force>

⁹⁷⁹ New cuts to red tape come into force, gov.uk (London) 06 April 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-cuts-to-red-tape-come-into-force>

⁹⁸⁰ £36 billion planned investment into infrastructure for 2014 to 2015, RICS (London) 22 April 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <http://www.rics.org/uk/knowledge/news-insight/comment/36-billion-planned-investment-into-infrastructure-for-2014-to-2015/>

⁹⁸¹ £36 billion planned investment into infrastructure for 2014 to 2015, RICS (London) 22 April 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <http://www.rics.org/uk/knowledge/news-insight/comment/36-billion-planned-investment-into-infrastructure-for-2014-to-2015/>

⁹⁸² PM and Chancellor welcome £36 billion infrastructure projects, gov.uk (London) 22 April 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-and-chancellor-welcome-36-billion-infrastructure-projects>

⁹⁸³ £120 million boost for local business infrastructure, gov.uk (London) 22 April 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/120-million-boost-for-local-business-infrastructure>

⁹⁸⁴ £120 million boost for local business infrastructure, gov.uk (London) 22 April 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/120-million-boost-for-local-business-infrastructure>

⁹⁸⁵ SME finance: help to match SMEs rejected for finance with alternative lenders, gov.uk (London) 07 August 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sme-finance-help-to-match-smes-rejected-for-finance-with-alternative-lenders>

⁹⁸⁶ SME finance: help to match SMEs rejected for finance with alternative lenders, gov.uk (London) 07 August 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sme-finance-help-to-match-smes-rejected-for-finance-with-alternative-lenders>

“Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill,” which requires lenders to share details of the SMEs that they rejected so that alternative lenders can approach the businesses that were rejected first round.⁹⁸⁷ This helps to ensure that SMEs are in control and protected.⁹⁸⁸

The UK has identified and implemented national policies that boost the domestic investment environment. Also, developing infrastructure and supporting SMEs were direct goals of these policies. However, the UK did not support any collective actions or multilateral processes of agenda setting towards improving investment climate. Therefore, the UK has been assigned a score of 0.

United States: +1

The U.S. Government fully complied with its commitment to improve investment environment with particular effects in increasing of projects in infrastructure and for SMEs. Both collective and country-specific actions were taken.

On 31 October 2013, US Secretary Jacob J. Lew made remarks at the Select USA 2013 Investment Summit.⁹⁸⁹ He stated that it is crucial to close tax loopholes, eliminate costs and use freed up resources to invest in key areas like infrastructure.⁹⁹⁰ He also stated that the President is committed to business tax reform to create and retain jobs in the US.⁹⁹¹

On 4 March 2014, the US Department of the Treasury released the FY2015 Greenbook.⁹⁹² The document includes policies to close loopholes to aid businesses, and proposed to designate 20 “Promise Zones” to promote job creation and investment in economically distressed areas and increase the amount of deductible new business expenditures for small businesses.⁹⁹³

On 6 March 2014, the US Department of the Treasury’s Small Business Credit Initiative released the quarterly report which shows that the program disbursed more than US 1 billion to support small

⁹⁸⁷ SME finance: help to match SMEs rejected for finance with alternative lenders, gov.uk (London) 07 August 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sme-finance-help-to-match-smes-rejected-for-finance-with-alternative-lenders>

⁹⁸⁸ SME finance: help to match SMEs rejected for finance with alternative lenders, gov.uk (London) 07 August 2014. Date accessed: 04 September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sme-finance-help-to-match-smes-rejected-for-finance-with-alternative-lenders>

⁹⁸⁹ Remarks of Secretary Jacob J. Lew at the SelectUSA 2013 Investment Summit, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 31 October 2013. Date accessed: 21 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2199.aspx>

⁹⁹⁰ Remarks of Secretary Jacob J. Lew at the SelectUSA 2013 Investment Summit, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 31 October 2013. Date accessed: 21 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2199.aspx>

⁹⁹¹ Remarks of Secretary Jacob J. Lew at the SelectUSA 2013 Investment Summit, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 31 October 2013. Date accessed: 21 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2199.aspx>

⁹⁹² Administration’s FY2015 Budget Tax Proposals Will Support the Middle class, boost growth, create jobs here at home, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 3 March 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/2304.aspx>

⁹⁹³ Administration’s FY2015 Budget Tax Proposals Will Support the Middle class, boost growth, create jobs here at home, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 3 March 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/2304.aspx>

business lending and investment.⁹⁹⁴ The report supports the proposal to extend the program with an additional US 1.5 billion in funding.⁹⁹⁵

On 10 March 2014, US Secretary Lew made a statement at the International Monetary Financial Committee (IMFC) Meeting and contributed to discussions about the global agenda for promoting growth and creating jobs.⁹⁹⁶ Lew recognized that the US needs to make investments that will improve their growth trajectory.⁹⁹⁷

On 11 April 2014, US Secretary Lew made a statement at the IMF-World Bank Spring Meeting.⁹⁹⁸ Lew stated that the US President is committed to the global agenda of fostering growth, increasing jobs and expanding opportunity as shown in his recent policies to make investments in infrastructure, reforming the business tax system and expanding manufacturing.⁹⁹⁹

On 12 June 2014, US Treasury announced to award more than US 4.3 million to Wyoming Communities to support the Small Business Lending Programs.¹⁰⁰⁰ The funds will be used to help businesses access the capital they need to expand, grow and hire.¹⁰⁰¹

On 8 July 2014, the US participated in a dialogue with the EU in a meeting of their Financial Markets Regulatory Dialogue.¹⁰⁰² They exchanged information regarding the G20 financial regulatory agenda.¹⁰⁰³ The participants agreed to continue cooperation on the regulation of algorithmic trading.¹⁰⁰⁴

⁹⁹⁴ Treasury's State Small Business Credit Initiative has Disbursed more than \$1 Billion to Spur Small Business Lending, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 6 March 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014.

<http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2314.aspx>

⁹⁹⁵ Treasury's State Small Business Credit Initiative has Disbursed more than \$1 Billion to Spur Small Business Lending, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 6 March 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014.

<http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2314.aspx>

⁹⁹⁶ Statement of Secretary Lew at the International Monetary Financial Committee (MFC) Meeting, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 11 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014 <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2354.aspx>

⁹⁹⁷ Statement of Secretary Lew at the International Monetary Financial Committee (MFC) Meeting, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 11 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014 <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2354.aspx>

⁹⁹⁸ Remarks of Secretary Lew at the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 11 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2356.aspx>

⁹⁹⁹ Remarks of Secretary Lew at the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 11 April 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2356.aspx>

¹⁰⁰⁰ US Treasury awards more than \$4.3 million to Wyoming Communities to support small business lending programs, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 12 June 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014.

<http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2423.aspx>

¹⁰⁰¹ US Treasury awards more than \$4.3 million to Wyoming Communities to support small business lending programs, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 12 June 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014.

<http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2423.aspx>

¹⁰⁰² US-EU Financial Markets Regulatory Dialogue Joint Statement, US Department of the Treasury (Brussels) 8 July 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2564.aspx>

¹⁰⁰³ US-EU Financial Markets Regulatory Dialogue Joint Statement, US Department of the Treasury (Brussels) 8 July 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2564.aspx>

¹⁰⁰⁴ US-EU Financial Markets Regulatory Dialogue Joint Statement, US Department of the Treasury (Brussels) 8 July 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2564.aspx>

On 24 July 2014, US Secretary Jacob J. Lew spoke at the Rural Opportunity Investment Conference and introduced the “Made in Rural America” initiative.¹⁰⁰⁵ The US Government will expand exports, encourage investment and modernize infrastructure.¹⁰⁰⁶

On 20 August 2014, the US Treasury Department announced that it guaranteed US 325 million in bonds to help support investment in underserved communities in rural areas.¹⁰⁰⁷

On 9 September 2014, the US Department of the Treasury and Department of Transportation hosted the Infrastructure Investment Summit.¹⁰⁰⁸ The summit brought together global investment firms, construction companies, infrastructure investors, etc., which together represent more than US 50 billion of projected private investment in US infrastructure.¹⁰⁰⁹

On 1 October 2014, the US Treasury Department’s State Small Business Credit Initiative released new details about how the program will continue to help small businesses.¹⁰¹⁰ The US Treasury announced to award up to US 1.5 billion to fund state programs that support small businesses.¹⁰¹¹ State programs include loan participation programs, venture capital programs, loan guarantee programs, collateral support programs, and capital access programs.¹⁰¹²

From 19 — 21 October 2014, the US contributed to agenda setting and discussion on steps to increase infrastructure development, boosting private investments, and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises with their APEC partners.¹⁰¹³

The US identified and began to implement country specific action and contributed to the collective process of agenda setting to improve investment environment particularly for infrastructure and SMEs. Therefore, the US has been awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

Analyst: Alissa (Xinbe) Wang

¹⁰⁰⁵ Remarks from Secretary Jacob J. Lew at the Rural Opportunity Investment, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 24 July 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2580.aspx>

¹⁰⁰⁶ Remarks from Secretary Jacob J. Lew at the Rural Opportunity Investment, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 24 July 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2580.aspx>

¹⁰⁰⁷ Treasury Provides \$325 Million in Bond Guarantees for Investment in underserved communities, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 20 August 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2610.aspx>

¹⁰⁰⁸ Treasury and Transportation Host Infrastructure Investment Summit, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 9 September 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2623.aspx>

¹⁰⁰⁹ Treasury and Transportation Host Infrastructure Investment Summit, US Department of the Treasury (Washington) 9 September 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2623.aspx>

¹⁰¹⁰ REPORT: Nearly 100,000 Jobs Supported by US Treasury’s State Small Business Credit Initiative, US Department of Treasury (Washington) 1 October 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2654.aspx>

¹⁰¹¹ REPORT: Nearly 100,000 Jobs Supported by US Treasury’s State Small Business Credit Initiative, US Department of Treasury (Washington) 1 October 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2654.aspx>

¹⁰¹² REPORT: Nearly 100,000 Jobs Supported by US Treasury’s State Small Business Credit Initiative, US Department of Treasury (Washington) 1 October 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2654.aspx>

¹⁰¹³ Statement of Treasury Deputy Secretary Sarah Bloom Raskin on the Conclusion of the 2014 APEC Finance Ministers’ Meeting, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 22 October 2014. Date accessed: 22 October 2014. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2670.aspx>

European Union: +1

The EU has fully complied with its commitment to improve investment environment. Actions were aimed specifically at supporting SMEs and infrastructure. Country-specific and collective actions were taken.

On 9 September 2013, the EIB assisted France's Centre Region with a EUR 350 million finance contract to improve vocational and apprentice training infrastructure.¹⁰¹⁴

On 25 September 2013, the EIB signed a finance contract with Bpifrance to mobilize resources to support SMEs in France.¹⁰¹⁵

On 26 September 2013, the EIB provided a loan of EUR 50 million to CIBANK to finance SMEs in Bulgaria.¹⁰¹⁶

On 8 October 2013 the EIB and the Municipality of Sofia signed a EUR 50 million agreement to support infrastructure in Bulgaria.¹⁰¹⁷

On 24 October 2013, the EIB granted a EUR 200 million loan to Banco Santander Totta to finance SMEs and midcaps in Portugal.¹⁰¹⁸

On 4 November 2013 the EIB signed three finance contracts with Santander totalling EUR 528 million to finance infrastructure investment and facilitate access to credit for SMEs.¹⁰¹⁹

On 8 November 2013, the EIB provided SEK 350 million loan to Sparbanken Öresund to finance SMEs in Sweden.¹⁰²⁰

On 14 November 2013 the EIB and ProCredit Bank signed a EUR 10 million credit line to support SMEs in Kosovo.¹⁰²¹

¹⁰¹⁴ France: Centre Region: EUR 350m loan for the modernisation of lycées and vocational and apprentice training infrastructure, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 9 September 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-133-350-meur-pour-les-lycees-et-etablissements-de-formation-de-la-region-centre.htm>

¹⁰¹⁵ EIB and Bpifrance: unprecedented mobilisation of resources to support innovative SMEs in France, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 25 September 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-148-bei-et-bpifrance-une-mobilisation-sans-precedent-de-ressources-pour-soutenir-les-pme-innovantes-en-france.htm>

¹⁰¹⁶ EIB increases its support for industrial and agricultural SMEs in Bulgaria European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 26 September 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-149-eib-increases-its-support-for-industrial-and-agricultural-smes-in-bulgaria.htm>

¹⁰¹⁷ EIB continues to support the upgrading of Sofia's municipal infrastructure, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 8 October 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-158-eib-continues-to-support-the-upgrading-of-sofias-municipal-infrastructure.htm>

¹⁰¹⁸ Portugal: EIB and Banco Santander Totta sign an agreement in support of SMEs and midcaps, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 24 October 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-167-eib-and-banco-santander-totta-sign-an-agreement-in-support-of-smes-and-midcaps.htm>

¹⁰¹⁹ Spain: EIB and Santander sign three agreements to facilitate access to credit for SMEs and young people and to finance infrastructure investment, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 4 November 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-172-el-bei-y-santander-firman-tres-acuerdos-para-facilitar-el-acceso-al-credito-a-pymes-y-jovenes-y-realizar-inversiones-en-infraestructura.htm>

¹⁰²⁰ Sweden: SMEs receive further support from the EIB, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 8 November 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-174-swedish-smes-receive-further-support-from-the-eib.htm>

On 18 November 2013 the EIB provided a EUR 20 million loan to CB Mobiasbanca-Group Société Générale SA to finance SMEs in the Republic of Moldova.¹⁰²²

On 19 November 2013 the EIB and Banco Santander signed a EUR 234.5 million agreement to set up a SME asset securitization fund.¹⁰²³

On 21 November 2013, the EIB provided two loans to Russian subsidiary banks to support SMEs and midcaps in the Russian Federation.¹⁰²⁴

On 22 November 2013 the EIB provided a EUR 200 million loan to VTB Bank to support SMEs and midcaps in Russia.¹⁰²⁵

On 28 November 2013 the EIB provided EUR 350 million worth of credit lines made available for financing SMEs and midcaps in Italy.¹⁰²⁶

On 29 November 2013, the EIB provided a EUR 200 million loan to Banco Sabadell for financing SMEs' investment.¹⁰²⁷

On 4 December 2013, the EIB provided EUR 100 million loan to Austria to finance SMEs investment projects.¹⁰²⁸

On 5 December 2013 the EIB granted two loans to the Slovene Export and Development Bank to support SMEs and midcaps.¹⁰²⁹

On 9 December 2013, the EIB and Crédit Mutuel Arkéa announced a EUR 300 million financial commitment to support SMEs and midcaps.¹⁰³⁰

¹⁰²¹ EIB and ProCredit Bank agree EUR 10 million credit line to support SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 14 November 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-180-eib-and-procredit-bank-agree-eur-10-m-credit-line-to-support-smes.htm>

¹⁰²² Moldova: EIB continues to support projects of SMEs and midcaps, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 18 November 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-184-eib-continues-to-support-projects-of-smes-and-mid-caps-in-moldova.htm>

¹⁰²³ Spain: EIB – Santander: new agreement for financing SMEs and midcaps, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 19 November 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-187-bei-santander-nuevo-acuerdo-para-financiar-a-pymes-autonomos-y-empresas-de-mediana-capitalizacion.htm>

¹⁰²⁴ EIB continues to support projects of SMEs and mid-caps in Russia, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 21 November 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-190-eib-continues-to-support-projects-of-smes-and-mid-caps-in-russia.htm>

¹⁰²⁵ Russia: EIB increases support for SMEs and mid-caps by EUR 200 million, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 22 November 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-191-russia-eib-increases-support-for-smes-and-mid-caps-by-eur-200-million.htm>

¹⁰²⁶ Italy: EIB and BNL BNP Paribas Group provide EUR 350 million for SMEs and midcaps, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 28 November 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-197-da-bei-e-bnl-gruppo-bnp-paribas-350-milioni-di-euro-per-pmi-e-mid-cap.htm>

¹⁰²⁷ EIB lends EUR 200 million to Banco Sabadell for financing SMEs and midcaps, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 29 November 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-201-el-bei-otorga-200-millones-de-euros-a-banco-sabadell-para-financiacion-de-pymes-y-empresas-midcaps.htm>

¹⁰²⁸ Austria: EUR 100m for small and medium-sized enterprises in Styria, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 4 December 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-211-100-mio-euro-fur-kleine-und-mittelbetriebe-in-der-steiermark.htm>

¹⁰²⁹ Slovenia: EIB provides EUR 350 million for SME and mid-cap projects, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 5 December 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-214-eib-provides-eur-350-million-for-sme-and-mid-cap-projects-in-slovenia.htm>

On 13 December 2013 the EIB provided two loans in Hungary which include a EUR 100 million loan to support undertakings of SMEs and Midcap sector.¹⁰³¹

On 13 December 2013 the EIB placed instruments in support of SMEs in Cyprus including a EUR 50 million contract to support foreign trade activities of SMEs and midcaps in Cyprus.¹⁰³²

On 14 December 2014, the EIB and Banco Popular Portugal signed an agreement of a EUR 100 million loan from the EIB in support of SMEs and midcaps in Portugal.¹⁰³³

On 17 December 2014, the EIB signed a EUR 200 million loan agreement with Belfius Bank to increase credit available to SMEs and midcaps in Belgium.¹⁰³⁴

On 8 January 2014, the EIB provided EUR 250 million to finance the implementation of railway infrastructure rehabilitation in Hungary.¹⁰³⁵

On 9 January 2014, the EIB made EUR 50 million loan available to SMEs and midcaps in Tyrol.¹⁰³⁶

On 16 January 2014, the EIB started a lending program of EUR 350 million for SMEs in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.¹⁰³⁷

On 17 January 2014, the EIB and Bankinter signed a EUR 200 million agreement to finance SMEs' investment projects in Spain.¹⁰³⁸

¹⁰³⁰ EIB and Crédit Mutuel Arkéa step up their financing of SMEs and midcaps (€300 million), European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 9 December 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-220-300-millions-deuros-pour-soutenir-les-entreprises-francaises.htm>

¹⁰³¹ EIB supports modernisation of state administration and SME and Mid-Cap projects in Hungary, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 13 December 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-230-eib-supports-modernisation-of-state-administration-and-sme-and-mid-cap-projects-in-hungary.htm>

¹⁰³² Innovative support to SMEs in Cyprus: signatures of EUR 150m under the Trade Finance Facility and Cyprus Entrepreneurship Scheme, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 13 December 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-229-innovative-support-to-smes-in-cyprus-signatures-of-eur-150m-under-the-trade-finance-facility-and-cyprus-entrepreneurship-scheme.htm>

¹⁰³³ EIB and Banco Popular Portugal sign an agreement in support of SMEs and midcaps in Portugal, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 14 December 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-234-eib-and-banco-popular-portugal-sign-an-agreement-in-support-of-smes-and-midcaps-in-portugal.htm>

¹⁰³⁴ EIB and Belfius to provide EUR 400 million for Belgian SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 17 December 2013. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2013/2013-236-eib-and-belfius-to-provide-eur-400-million-for-belgian-smes.htm>

¹⁰³⁵ EIB supports the rehabilitation of railway infrastructure in Hungary with EUR 250 million loan, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 08 January 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-001-eib-supports-the-rehabilitation-of-railway-infrastructure-in-hungary-with-eur-250-million-loan.htm>

¹⁰³⁶ EIB lends EUR 50 million to Raiffeisen-Landesbank Tirol AG for Tyrol's SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 9 January 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-002-50-mio-euro-fur-tirols-kleine-und-mittelbetriebe-eib-gelder-werden-uber-raiffeisen-landesbank-tirol-ag-bereitgestellt.htm>

¹⁰³⁷ New EIB lending programme of 350 million with ING for SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 16 January 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-008-nouveau-programme-bei-de-350-millions-pour-les-pme-dans-le-benelux.htm>

¹⁰³⁸ Spain: EIB-Bankinter: EUR 400 million for SMEs and midcaps, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 17 January 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-009-bei-bankinter-400-millones-de-eur-para-pymes-y-midcaps.htm>

On 20 January 2014, the EIB and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia signed a EUR 150 million loan to finance SMEs and infrastructure projects.¹⁰³⁹

On 30 January 2014, the EIB provided a EUR 50 million loan to Europejski Fundusz Leasingowy S.A. (EFL) for financing SMEs investments in Poland as part of the “Jobs for Youth” initiative.¹⁰⁴⁰

On 3 February 2014, the EIB and the UBI Banca Group provided EUR 350 million for SMEs, midcaps, start-ups and youth employment.¹⁰⁴¹

On 27 February 2014, the EIB granted a EUR 200 million loan to Creval to finance SMEs.¹⁰⁴²

On 4 March 2014, the EIB and Entreprise Tunisienne d’Activités Pétrolières (ETAP) signed a EUR 150 million financing agreement to develop energy infrastructure and supply in Tunisia.¹⁰⁴³

On 12 March 2014, the EIB and Banco Popular signed a EUR 200 million agreement to increase flow of finance to SMEs mainly in Spain.¹⁰⁴⁴

On 14 March 2014, the EIB and BNP Paribas Group signed an agreement of a EUR 400 million credit line to support French SMEs.¹⁰⁴⁵

On 19 March 2014, the EIB signed a new lending programme with Moza Banco that will support investment by SMEs across Mozambique.¹⁰⁴⁶

On 21 March 2014, the EIB extended a EUR 50 million credit line to UniCredi Bulbank AD to finance SMEs’ projects in Bulgaria.¹⁰⁴⁷

¹⁰³⁹ Serbia: EUR 150 million for SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 20 January 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-010-serbia-eur-150-million-for-smes.htm>

¹⁰⁴⁰ First ever “Jobs for Youth” financing for SMEs in Poland, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 30 January 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-017-first-ever-jobs-for-youth-financing-for-smes-in-poland.htm>

¹⁰⁴¹ EIB and UBI Banca Group provide €350 million for SMEs, midcaps, start-ups and youth employment, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 3 February 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-021-eib-and-ubi-banca-group-provide-eur350-million-for-smes-midcaps-start-ups-and-youth-employment.htm>

¹⁰⁴² EUR 200 million securitization facility to increase lending to SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 27 February 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-040-eur-200-million-securitization-facility-to-increase-lending-to-smes.htm>

¹⁰⁴³ Tunisia: EUR 150m (TND 325m) loan for ETAP for development of energy infrastructure and supply, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 4 February 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-047-tunisie-150-millions-d-euros-pour-le-secteur-de-l-energie.htm>

¹⁰⁴⁴ Spain: EIB-Banco Popular: agreement to finance SMEs and midcaps, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 12 March 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-051-eib-banco-popular-agreement-to-finance-smes-and-midcaps.htm>

¹⁰⁴⁵ The EU and BNP Paribas provide EUR 400m for French SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 14 March 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-055-bei-et-bnp-paribas-400-meur-en-faveur-des-pme-francaises.htm>

¹⁰⁴⁶ EIB agrees EUR 5 million SME lending programme with Moza Banco, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 19 March 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-063-eib-agrees-eur-5-million-sme-lending-programme-with-moza-banco.htm>

¹⁰⁴⁷ EIB extends EUR 50 million to UniCredit Bulbank to finance SME and midcap companies’ projects, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 21 March 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-064-eib-extends-eur-50-million-to-unicredit-bulbank-to-finance-sme-and-midcap-companies-projects.htm>

On 24 March 2014, the EIB provided two loans to the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development including a EUR 250 million loan to co-finance SMEs' projects.¹⁰⁴⁸

On 25 March 2014, the EIB and Banca Popolare committed EUR 350 million in support of SMEs and midcaps in Italy.¹⁰⁴⁹

On 8 April 2014, the EIB granted a EUR 100 million loan to UniCredit Leasing GmbH to support SME financing operations.¹⁰⁵⁰

On 15 April 2014, the EIB approved loans worth up to EUR 2.3 billion for support of SMEs and midcaps in Spain and Poland.¹⁰⁵¹

On 29 April 2014, the EIB signed an agreement with Hellenic Republic to support SMEs funding and small infrastructure projects in Greece.¹⁰⁵²

On 7 May 2014, the EIB granted two loans to finance SMEs including EUR 20 million loan through Société Generale Banka Montenegro and EUR 25 million loan through IDF.¹⁰⁵³

On 8 May 2014, the EIB granted a new EUR 1 billion loan to Instituto de Crédito Oficial to facilitate SMEs' access to bank credit.¹⁰⁵⁴

On 9 May 2014, the EIB signed a EUR 400 million loan agreement with BBVA to finance investment projects of SMEs and midcaps in the industrial and eerie sectors located mainly in Spain and to a lesser degree in other EU countries.¹⁰⁵⁵

On 9 May 2014, the EIB and Bankinter signed a EUR 200 million loan to finance investment projects of SMEs and midcaps.¹⁰⁵⁶

¹⁰⁴⁸ EIB continues to support SME and MidCap projects in Croatia with EUR 400m, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 24 March 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-067-eib-continues-to-support-sme-and-midcap-projects-in-croatia-with-eur-400m.htm>

¹⁰⁴⁹ EIB and Banca Popolare: EUR 350 million for SMEs, midcaps and youth employment, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 25 March 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-069-eib-and-banca-popolare-eur-350-million-for-smes-midcaps-and-youth-employment.htm>

¹⁰⁵⁰ UniCredit Leasing receives EUR 100m from EIB for SME financing operations, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 8 April 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-080-unicredit-leasing-erhalt-von-der-eib-100-mio-euro-zur-kmu-finanzierung.htm>

¹⁰⁵¹ EIB continues support for European SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 15 April 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-082-eib-continues-support-for-european-smes.htm>

¹⁰⁵² EIB Group and Hellenic Republic join forces in further support of SME funding, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 29 April 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-091-eib-group-and-hellenic-republic-join-forces-in-further-support-of-sme-funding.htm>

¹⁰⁵³ Montenegro: EUR 45 million for SMEs and other projects, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 4 May 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-096-montenegro-eur-45-million-for-smes-and-other-projects.htm>

¹⁰⁵⁴ EIB-ICO: new EUR 1 billion credit line for SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 8 May 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-098-bei-ico-una-nueva-linea-de-credito-de-1-000-millones-de-eur-para-pymes.htm>

¹⁰⁵⁵ EIB-BBVA: EUR 400 million for SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 9 May 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-100-bei-bbva-400-millones-de-eur-para-pymes.htm>

On 13 May 2014, the EIB and Cassa deposit e prestiti have a new EUR 500 million agreement to support investment in Italy through projects promoted by SMEs.¹⁰⁵⁷

On 15 May 2014, the EIB and the Crédit Coopératif Group concluded a new financing agreement which opened a credit line providing an additional EUR 100 million to support SMEs and micro-enterprises.¹⁰⁵⁸

On 15 May 2014, the EIB provided EUR 350 million in funding for the ABN AMRO to support Dutch SMEs.¹⁰⁵⁹

On 15 May 2014, the EIB agreed with the Dutch Prime Minister to provide more than EUR 1 billion for new investments in the Netherlands.¹⁰⁶⁰

On 19 May 2014, the EIB granted a EUR 150 million loan to Institut Català de Finances (ICF) to boost funding to SMEs.¹⁰⁶¹

On 21 May 2014, the EIB granted a EUR 500 million loan to Banco Santander to finance SMEs investment.¹⁰⁶²

On 4 June 2014, the President and Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) met with Italy's Finance Minister to discuss priorities for the upcoming Italian EU Presidency. Both emphasized the need to focus on infrastructure. The EIB also stated to continue its strong support for SMEs and mid-caps across the EU to boost growth and employment. Up to EUR 700 million were approved for SME and mid-cap investments in the Netherlands, EUR4 50 million for Portugal and EUR 383 for Italy were approved.¹⁰⁶³

On 10 June 2014 the EIB announced to provide with Greek partner banks EUR 200 million worth of SME support in Greece. EUR 150 is going to the National Bank of Greece and EUR 50 million is

¹⁰⁵⁶ EIB-Bankinter: EUR 200 million for SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 9 May 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-099-bei-bankinter-200-millones-de-eur-para-pymes.htm>

¹⁰⁵⁷ EIB and CDP provide EUR 500 million for SMEs and enterprise networks, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 13 May 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-103-italia-da-bei-cdp-mezzo-miliardo-per-pmi-e-reti-di-imprese.htm>

¹⁰⁵⁸ EIB increases support for SMEs and micro-enterprises: new EUR 100m SME loan signed with Crédit Coopératif Group, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 15 May 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-110-bei-et-groupe-credit-cooperatif-100-meur-au-service-des-petites-et-tres-petites-entreprises.htm>

¹⁰⁵⁹ EIB and ABN AMRO agree on new financial support for Dutch SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 15 May 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-108-eib-and-abn-amro-agree-on-new-financial-support-for-dutch-smes.htm>

¹⁰⁶⁰ New European Investment Bank office to strengthen support for investment in the Netherlands, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 15 May 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-111-new-european-investment-bank-office-to-strengthen-support-for-investment-in-the-netherlands.htm>

¹⁰⁶¹ EIB and ICF support SME and midcap projects in Catalonia, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 19 May 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-116-el-bei-e-icf-apoyan-proyectos-de-pymes-y-midcaps-en-cataluna.htm>

¹⁰⁶² EIB – Banco Santander: EUR 500 million for SMEs European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 21 May 2014. European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 21 May 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-119-eib-banco-santander-eur-500-million-for-smes.htm>

¹⁰⁶³ Close cooperation with upcoming Italian Presidency - EIB continues to focus on Infrastructure, SMEs and Innovation, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 4 June 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014 <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-125-close-cooperation-with-upcoming-italian-presidency.htm>

going to the Alpha Bank, and the funds are intended to finance projects promoted by SMEs in the fields of industry, tourism and services in Greece.¹⁰⁶⁴

On 12 June 2014, the EIB announced to increase support for SMEs and midcap companies in Romania by lending EUR 50 million to UniCredit Leasing Corporation in Romania, to finance projects promoted by SMEs and midcap companies in agriculture, industry and services.¹⁰⁶⁵

On 13 June 2014, the EIB announced to support the upgrade of Georgia's water infrastructure with EUR 40 million loan. The loan will help maintain the continuity of water supply, dredge water leakages and improve water quality across 28 cities in Georgia.¹⁰⁶⁶

On 12 June 2014, the EIB pledged to support the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) agreement between the EU and Moldova. Vice President of the EIB outlined a package of DCFTA support measures that the EIB will implement to improve access to finance Moldovan businesses and improve infrastructure.¹⁰⁶⁷

On 19 June 2014, the EIB signed a loan of AZK 650 with Western Bohemian city Plzeň to finance infrastructure.¹⁰⁶⁸

On 20 June 2014, the EIB provided a loan of CZK 800 million to the Region of Zlín in Czech Republic to finance priority projects including those related to transport and public infrastructure.¹⁰⁶⁹

On 22 July 2014, the EIB Board of Director approved EUR 1.1 billion loans for SMEs and mid-cap firms in the EU. Also, EUR 3.4 billion worth of loans were approved for investment in strategic infrastructure in projects in Poland, France and Spain.¹⁰⁷⁰

On 25 July 2014, the EIB signed an agreement with four rural banks for EUR 90 million to finance investment and projects of SMEs and mid-caps in Spain. The EIB loan will help Spain finance up to

¹⁰⁶⁴ Further EUR 200 million SME support for growth and employment in Greece, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 10 June 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-128-further-eur-200-million-sme-support-for-growth-and-employment-in-greece.htm>

¹⁰⁶⁵ EIB increases support for SMEs and midcap companies in Romania by EUR 50 million, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 12 June 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-133-eib-increases-support-for-smes-and-midcap-companies-in-romania-by-eur-50-million.htm>

¹⁰⁶⁶ EIB continues to support the upgrade of Georgia's water infrastructure, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 13 June 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-135-eib-continues-to-support-the-upgrade-of-georgias-water-infrastructure.htm>

¹⁰⁶⁷ EIB pledges DCFTA support measures at EU-Moldova Investment Conference, European European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 12 June 2014. Date accessed: 23 June 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-132-eib-pledges-dcfta-support-measures-at-eu-moldova-investment-conference.htm>

¹⁰⁶⁸ EIB supports urban infrastructure in Plzeň, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 19 June 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-141-eib-supports-urban-infrastructure-in-plzen.htm>

¹⁰⁶⁹ Czech Republic: EIB provides further support for Regional Infrastructure in Zlín, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 20 June 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-145-czech-republic-eib-provides-further-support-for-regional-infrastructure-in-zlin.htm>

¹⁰⁷⁰ EIB continues support for infrastructure and SMEs in Europe, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 22 July 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-170-eib-continues-support-for-infrastructure-and-smes-in-europe.htm>

EUR 25 million of investment projects for SMEs primarily in the agri-food, industry and services sectors.¹⁰⁷¹

On 28 July 2014, the EIB and CaixaBank signed a EUR 300 million loan to finance investment and capital projects promoted by SMEs and mid-caps.¹⁰⁷²

On 12 September 2014, the EIB provided a CZK 1 billion loan to finance municipal infrastructure in Ostrava, Czech Republic. The loan will support investments in the city's Strategic Development Plan of the 2014-2019 period.¹⁰⁷³

On 15 September 2014, the Board of Directors of the European Investment Fund approved 8 new operations to reinforce support for SMEs. The approvals represent EIF commitments of EUR 240.31 million and are expected to leverage EUR 1.8 billion of capital.¹⁰⁷⁴

On 16 September 2014, the EIB's Board of Directors approved loans worth EUR 1.5 billion for SMEs and mic-cap firms in the EU. The loans will go to projects in Greece and Portugal. The Board of Directors also approved EUR 2.2 billion of investments in strategic infrastructure in Austria, Spain and Germany.¹⁰⁷⁵

On 17 September 2014, the EIB provided a credit line of EUR 200 million to Eximbank to support SMEs and midcaps in Hungary. 70% of the EIB loan will be directed towards SMEs and the remaining 30% to mid-caps.¹⁰⁷⁶

On 19 September 2014, the EIB and Banco Popular signed a EUR 250 million loan for financing SMEs and midcaps. As outlined under agreement, Banco Popular will match the loan, which means that a total of EUR 500 million are directed towards financing SMEs.¹⁰⁷⁷

On 19 September 2014, the EIB renewed the cooperation with the Bank of Cyprus and the Hellenic Bank and authorizes new lines of credit, totalling up to EUR 125 million for SMEs. These loans will

¹⁰⁷¹ EIB lends EUR 90 million to four rural banks to finance SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 25 July 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-175-el-bei-otorga-un-credito-de-90-millones-de-eur-a-cuatro-cajas-rurales-para-la-financiacion-a-pymes.htm>

¹⁰⁷² EIB-CaixaBank: EUR 300 million financing agreement for SMEs and midcaps, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 28 July 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-176-acuerdo-de-financiacion-bei-caixabank-por-300m-de-eur-para-pymes-y-midcaps.htm>

¹⁰⁷³ EIB Continues to Support Urban Infrastructure Development in Ostrava, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 12 September 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-176-acuerdo-de-financiacion-bei-caixabank-por-300m-de-eur-para-pymes-y-midcaps.htm>

¹⁰⁷⁴ More EIB support for infrastructure, innovation and SMEs in Europe, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 16 September 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-193-more-eib-support-for-infrastructure-innovation-and-smes-in-europe.htm>

¹⁰⁷⁵ More EIB support for infrastructure, innovation and SMEs in Europe, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 16 September 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-193-more-eib-support-for-infrastructure-innovation-and-smes-in-europe.htm>

¹⁰⁷⁶ EIB continues to support Hungarian SMEs and midcaps through expanded cooperation with the Magyar Export-Import Bank Zrt. (Eximbank), European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 17 September 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-194-eib-continues-to-support-hungarian-smes-and-midcaps-through-expanded-cooperation-with-the-magyar-export-import-bank-zrt-eximbank.htm>

¹⁰⁷⁷ EIB-Bank Popular: EUR 500 million for SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 19 September 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-199-bei-banco-popular-500-millones-de-eur-para-pymes.htm>

be used to finance the “Jobs for Youth” Programme which offer favourable financial terms to eligible SMEs.¹⁰⁷⁸

On 26 September 2014, the EIB grants a EUR 250 million loan to Banco de Sabadell to facilitate access to finance for SMEs and midcaps. The EIB loan will be matched by Banco Sabadell, totalling EUR 500 million to finance small businesses and to fund investments in a wide range of productive sectors.¹⁰⁷⁹

On 13 October 2014, the EIB, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reaffirmed their commitment to promoting an economic environment conducive to long-term investment financing for infrastructure.¹⁰⁸⁰

On 15 October 2014, the EIB granted two credit lines to Banque de Tahiti including a aEUR 8 million for the implementation of environment projects, and a EUR 6 million credit line for project financing for SMEs.¹⁰⁸¹

On 21 October 2014, the EIB announced to provide a EUR 29 million loan over a period of 27 years to support the central infrastructure project in Lower Austria to reduce congestion and noise caused by traffic.¹⁰⁸²

On 22 October 2014, the EIB approved new lending to a range of investments in SMEs, research and strategic infrastructure. The EIB’s Board of Directors approved loans worth EUR 8.4 billion including EUR 2.9 billion that will benefit SMEs and mic-caps in the EU, EUR 3.4 billion for investment in strategic infrastructure in France, Spain, Greece and Malta.¹⁰⁸³

¹⁰⁷⁸ EIB renews cooperation with major Cypriot banks in support fo SMEs and youth employment, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 19 September 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014.

<http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-198-eib-renews-cooperation-with-major-cypriot-banks-in-support-of-smes-and-youth-employment.htm>

¹⁰⁷⁹ EIB and Banco Sabadell: EUR 500 million fo SMEs, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 26 September 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-206-bei-y-banco-sabadell-500-millones-para-pymes.htm>

¹⁰⁸⁰ EIB President Hoyer: “MDBs and IMG will promote economic environment conducive to long-term investment financing for infrastructure”, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 13 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-217-eib-president-hoyer-mdbs-and-imf-will-promote-economic-environment-conducive-to-long-term-investment-financing-for-infrastructure.htm>

¹⁰⁸¹ The European Investment Bank and Banque de Tahiti continue their partnership and combine forces in support of SMEs in French Polynesia, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 15 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-221-la-banque-europeenne-dinvestissement-et-la-banque-de-tahiti-poursuivent-leur-partenariat-et-continuent-dunir-leurs-forces-pour-soutenir-les-pme-en-polynesie-francaise.htm>

¹⁰⁸² City By-pass Zwettl: Financial close reached for central infrastructure project in Lower Austira, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 21 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014.

<http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-226-umfahrun-g-zwettl-finanzierung-fur-zentrales-verkehrsvorhaben-in-niederosterreich-steht.htm>

¹⁰⁸³ EIB board approves significant new SME, research and strategic infrastructure investment across Europe, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 22 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014.

<http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-227-eib-board-approves-significant-new-sme-research-and-strategic-infrastructure-investment-across-europe.htm>

On 22 October 2014, the EIB extended a loan of EUR 150 million to Banca Transylvania S.A. in support of projects promoted by SMEs, micas and public entities in the sectors of industry, services, agriculture and infrastructure in Romania.¹⁰⁸⁴

On 23 October 2014, the EIB announced a EUR 300 million loan to Banco BPR for financing SMEs and midcaps.¹⁰⁸⁵

On 23 October 2014, the EIB and Banco Santander Totta signed a EUR 200 million loan to finance SMEs and midcaps. Banco Santander Totta will match the IRB loan, making a total of EUR 400 million made available to SMEs and midcaps in Portugal.¹⁰⁸⁶

The EU fully complied with its commitment to improve investment climate with actions directed specifically at SMEs and infrastructure. Both collective and country-specific action were taken. Thus, the EU has been assigned a score of +1 for full compliance.

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¹⁰⁸⁴ EIB extends credit line to Banca Transylvania S.A. for SMEs, midcaps and municipalities in Romania, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 22 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-229-eib-extends-credit-line-to-banca-transilvania-s-a-for-smes-midcaps-and-municipalities-in-romania.htm>

¹⁰⁸⁵ EIB and Banco BPI sign SME and midcap financing agreement, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 23 October 2014. Date accessed: 23 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-230-eib-and-banco-bpi-sign-sme-and-midcap-financing-agreement.htm>

¹⁰⁸⁶ EIB-Banco Santander Totta: EUR 400 million for SMEs and midcaps, European Investment Bank (Adenauer) 23 October 2014. Date accessed: 24 October 2014. <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2014/2014-231-eib-banco-santander-totta-eur-400-million-for-smes-and-midcaps.htm>