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**G20 Research Group**  
at Trinity College at the Munk School of Global Affairs in the University of Toronto  
with the  
**International Organisation Research Institute**  
at the National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow  
present

## **2013 St. Petersburg G20 Summit Final Compliance Report**

7 September 2013 to 30 September 2014

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### 13. Employment: Education

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

*St. Petersburg G20 Leaders’ Declaration*

#### Assessment

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

#### Background

The commitment to invest in education as a measure to stimulate employment was made at the second G20 summit in London. The leaders committed to “support employment by stimulating growth, investing in education and training, and through active labour market policies, focusing on the most vulnerable.”<sup>2141</sup> 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.”<sup>2142</sup>

<sup>2141</sup> 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>.

<sup>2142</sup> 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.”<sup>2143</sup>

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.<sup>2144</sup>

## 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.

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<sup>2143</sup> Vulnerable Groups, World Bank. <http://go.worldbank.org/IHAHM1X3Q0>.

<sup>2144</sup> 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.<sup>2145</sup>

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.<sup>2146</sup>

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.<sup>2147</sup>
- 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.<sup>2148</sup>
- 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.<sup>2149</sup>

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<sup>2145</sup> La Presidenta lanzó el programa PROG.R.ES.AR 22 January 2014.

[http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/ampliado.asp?id\\_nvd=1744](http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/ampliado.asp?id_nvd=1744).

<sup>2146</sup> Se suman 24 universidades a la puesta en marcha del PROEMPLEAR. 19 September 2014

[http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/ampliado.asp?id\\_nvd=2071](http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/ampliado.asp?id_nvd=2071)

<sup>2147</sup> 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>

<sup>2148</sup> 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>

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.<sup>2150</sup>

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.<sup>2151</sup>

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.<sup>2152</sup>

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.<sup>2153</sup>

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.<sup>2154</sup>

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.<sup>2155</sup>

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.<sup>2156</sup>

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

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<sup>2149</sup> 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>

<sup>2150</sup> 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>

<sup>2151</sup> 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/>

<sup>2152</sup> 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>

<sup>2153</sup> 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>

<sup>2154</sup> 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>

<sup>2155</sup> \$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>

<sup>2156</sup> \$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>

prepare students from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly indigenous Australians, to attend university.<sup>2157</sup>

On 23 November 2013, the government announced additional AUD35.2 million to support students with disabilities through extra resources and teacher training opportunities.<sup>2158</sup>

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.<sup>2159</sup>

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.<sup>2160</sup> Pronatec includes several initiatives.<sup>2161</sup> 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.<sup>2162</sup>

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.<sup>2163</sup>

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

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<sup>2157</sup> \$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>

<sup>2158</sup> 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>

<sup>2159</sup> 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>

<sup>2160</sup> O que é o Pronatec?, Pronatec. Access Date: 30 June 2014. <http://pronatec.mec.gov.br/institucional-90037/o-que-e-o-pronatec>.

<sup>2161</sup> Objetivos e Iniciativas, Pronatec. Access Date: 30 June 2014. <http://pronatec.mec.gov.br/institucional-90037/objetivos-e-iniciativas>.

<sup>2162</sup> 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](http://portal.mec.gov.br/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12325&Itemid=663).

<sup>2163</sup> 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](http://www.oecd.org/els/emp/R_SZATMARTI-Quality%20Apprenticeships%20%E2%80%93%20OECD%20%E2%80%93%20Brazil.pdf).

investment was planned to be used to purchase equipment, medicines, health products, as well as renovations and expansions of hospitals.<sup>2164</sup>

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 and pre-schools hire additional part-time and full-time staff to take better care of and provide better education to children.<sup>2165</sup>

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

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on education.

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.<sup>2166</sup>

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.<sup>2167</sup>

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.<sup>2168</sup>

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

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<sup>2164</sup> 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>.

<sup>2165</sup> 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>.

<sup>2166</sup> Economic Action Plan 2014: Supporting Jobs and Growth. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://actionplan.gc.ca>

<sup>2167</sup> Economic Action Plan 2014: Supporting Jobs and Growth. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://actionplan.gc.ca>

<sup>2168</sup> 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](http://english.agri.gov.cn/news/dqnf/201310/t20131029_20528.htm)

teaching materials, innovate in teaching methods for combat command and hone a performance-based reward and penalty mechanism for students.<sup>2169</sup>

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.<sup>2170</sup>

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.<sup>2171</sup>

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.<sup>2172</sup>

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.<sup>2173</sup>

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

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<sup>2169</sup> 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](http://eng.mod.gov.cn/DefenseNews/2013-11/21/content_4475814.htm)

<sup>2170</sup> 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>

<sup>2171</sup> 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](http://english.agri.gov.cn/news/dqnf/201312/t20131212_20842.htm)

<sup>2172</sup> 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>

<sup>2173</sup> Refonder l'éducation prioritaire. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid76427/refonder-education-prioritaire.html>

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.<sup>2174</sup>

In 2014 the Ministry of Education continues its “Future Jobs Teaching” engagement that improves teacher performance and motivation.<sup>2175</sup>

In 2014 France started a program to ensure the equal school teaching of girls and boys to respect human rights.<sup>2176</sup>

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.<sup>2177</sup>

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.<sup>2178</sup>

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.<sup>2179</sup>

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<sup>2174</sup> 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>

<sup>2175</sup> Emplois d'avenir professeur. Access Date: 20 September 2014. <http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid61330/les-emplois-d-avenir-professeur.html>

<sup>2176</sup> 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>

<sup>2177</sup> Integration through Education, Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Access Date: 19 April 2014.

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

<sup>2178</sup> 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>.

<sup>2179</sup> 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>.

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.<sup>2180</sup> In 2014 about EUR50 million will be allocated to “Education Alliances,” that is approximately 67 per cent more than in 2013.<sup>2181</sup>

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.<sup>2182</sup>

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.<sup>2183</sup>

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.<sup>2184</sup>

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.<sup>2185</sup>

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 Sbelepor*

## **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

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<sup>2180</sup> 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>.

<sup>2181</sup> 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>.

<sup>2182</sup> 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](http://www.bmbf.de/pub/bilanz_nationaler_integrationsplan.pdf).

<sup>2183</sup> 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/h5.xsl/search.htm?content-url=10728.htm](http://www.imove-germany.de/cps/rde/xchg/imove_projekt_international/h5.xsl/search.htm?content-url=10728.htm).

<sup>2184</sup> 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>.

<sup>2185</sup> 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>.

now. Education is no longer just the privilege of the elite, but a universal right. He said people must be open to all knowledge.<sup>2186</sup>

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.<sup>2187</sup>

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 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.<sup>2188</sup>

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.<sup>2189</sup>

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

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<sup>2186</sup> 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>

<sup>2187</sup> 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>

<sup>2188</sup> 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>

<sup>2189</sup> 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>

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.<sup>2190</sup>

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.<sup>2191</sup>

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 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.<sup>2192</sup>

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 Vanchhe 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.<sup>2193</sup>

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.

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<sup>2190</sup> 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>

<sup>2191</sup> 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](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-07-10/news/51300658_1_job-creation-job-market-lakh-job)

<sup>2192</sup> 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/53ATum6RaNZOw4ULO0ZiNN/Modi-calls-to-focus-on-skill-development-manufacturing-for.html?utm\\_source=copy](http://www.livemint.com/Industry/53ATum6RaNZOw4ULO0ZiNN/Modi-calls-to-focus-on-skill-development-manufacturing-for.html?utm_source=copy)

<sup>2193</sup> 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>

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.<sup>2194</sup>

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.<sup>2195</sup>

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.<sup>2196</sup>

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.<sup>2197</sup>

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.<sup>2198</sup>

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

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<sup>2194</sup> 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>.

<sup>2195</sup> 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>.

<sup>2196</sup> Indonesia. Annual Report 2013, UNICEF. . Access Date: 28 September 2014. [http://www.unicef.org/indonesia/Annualreport\\_v7\\_english\\_preview.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/indonesia/Annualreport_v7_english_preview.pdf).

<sup>2197</sup> 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>.

<sup>2198</sup> 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>.

schools should aim to promote students' access to the wireless networks in classes and provide for transformation of study space to accommodate the changes.<sup>2199</sup>

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.<sup>2200</sup>

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

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with the commitment on education.

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

On 15 December 2013, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology 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.<sup>2201</sup>

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.<sup>2202</sup>

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

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<sup>2199</sup> Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca 9 October 2013. Access Date: 5 May 2014.

[http://www.istruzione.it/allegati/dm804\\_13.pdf](http://www.istruzione.it/allegati/dm804_13.pdf).

<sup>2200</sup> 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>.

<sup>2201</sup> 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>.

<sup>2202</sup> 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](http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/26/05/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2014/05/12/1347737_02.pdf).

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.<sup>2203</sup>

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.<sup>2204</sup>

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.<sup>2205</sup>

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

*Analyst: Anastasia Zburavleva*

## **Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment on education.

On 10 September 2013, three laws were published in the Official Journal of the Federation. The first one amends the education law, the second establishes the National Institute for the Evaluation of Education and the third creates the Professional Teaching Service.<sup>2206</sup>

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

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<sup>2203</sup> 4.37 million Students benefit from educational funding in 2013

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

<sup>2204</sup> Simpler College Admissions System.

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

<sup>2205</sup> Korea opens up to foreign providers <http://thepienews.com/news/korea-opens-up-to-foreign-providers/>

<sup>2206</sup> 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](http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5313841&fecha=11/09/2013).

security.<sup>2207</sup> 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.<sup>2208</sup>

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.<sup>2209</sup>

On 1 February 2014, SEP launched programs to improve higher education in Mexico. The Fund to Improve Higher Education Quality ensures the educational programs are relevant, and help students to develop their professional skills. The Program of Higher Education Support boosts strategic projects to consolidate higher education quality in various institutes, to promote their internationalisation, etc. The Program for Encouraging Teachers Performance is aimed to improve teaching in classrooms, to encourage full-time professors, etc. The Fund for Financial Restructuring and Addressing the Structural Problems of State Public Universities supports such universities in addressing their financial difficulties and in realization their programs of institutional development. The programs would be released in state public universities, technology and classical universities, technology institutes, etc.<sup>2210</sup>

On 4 February 2014, Peña announced the Plan Michoacán.<sup>2211</sup> 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.<sup>2212</sup>

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.<sup>2213</sup> A total sum of

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<sup>2207</sup> 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/>.

<sup>2208</sup> 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-colocar-lo-en-la-frontera-de-la-tecnologia-y-el-conocimiento-enrique-pena-nieto/>.

<sup>2209</sup> 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>.

<sup>2210</sup> 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>.

<sup>2211</sup> 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>.

<sup>2212</sup> 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/>.

<sup>2213</sup> 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\\_DOI.pdf](http://inifed.gob.mx/escuelas_dignas/pdf/LINEAMIENTOS_PUBLICADOS_DOI.pdf).

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.<sup>2214</sup>

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.<sup>2215</sup>

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

*Analyst: Elizaveta Safonkina*

### **Russia: +1**

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

On 13 November 2013, the Russian government adopted the Action Plan to increase the number of high-skilled workers by 2020. The plan provides for measures to assist students and workers achieve the skills to ensure a high professional level. It will modernize the education program to ensure flexibility and individual approach in education with use of modern technologies. By 2018 250 multifunctional centres of applied qualifications and a basic centre of professional training will be created.<sup>2216</sup>

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.<sup>2217</sup>

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.<sup>2218</sup>

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

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<sup>2214</sup> 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>.

<sup>2215</sup> 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>.

<sup>2216</sup> 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>.

<sup>2217</sup> 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>.

<sup>2218</sup> 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>.

developing in Russia a system of professional qualifications.<sup>2219</sup> 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.<sup>2220</sup>

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.<sup>2221</sup>

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.<sup>2222</sup>

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.<sup>2223</sup>

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.<sup>2224</sup>

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.<sup>2225</sup>

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<sup>2219</sup> Presidential National Council for Professional Qualifications created, President of Russia 16 April 2014.

<http://eng.kremlin.ru/acts/7032>.

<sup>2220</sup> Statute of the Presidential National Council for Professional Qualifications, President of Russia 16 April 2014.

<http://state.kremlin.ru/council/39/statute>.

<sup>2221</sup> On the training of women on leave for childcare purposes, Russian Government 11 May 2014.

<http://government.ru/orders/12269>.

<sup>2222</sup> 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>.

<sup>2223</sup> State to pay for kindergarten education, Arab News 21 January 2014. Access Date: 7 February 2014.

<http://www.arabnews.com/news/512571>.

<sup>2224</sup> 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>.

<sup>2225</sup> 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>.

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.<sup>2226</sup>

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.”<sup>2227</sup>

On 12 November 2013, the South African National Assembly adopted the Employment Services Bill. The bill provides for a legal basis for the reestablishment of Supported Employment Enterprises “to provide employment for people with disabilities who have long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.” It will also transform this service into a training resource for specific projects like the making of school furniture and other deliverables.<sup>2228</sup>

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.<sup>2229</sup>

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*

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<sup>2226</sup> 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>.

<sup>2227</sup> 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>.

<sup>2228</sup> 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>.

<sup>2229</sup> 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>.

## 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.<sup>2230</sup>

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.<sup>2231</sup>

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.<sup>2232</sup>

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.<sup>2233</sup>

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

In 2013, the Turkish Ministry of National Education continued to supply school books free of charge and provide transported education and conditional educational assistance “within the framework of improving access to education and providing equal opportunities.” In order to provide gender equality in education the Ministry of Education agreed on the joint Turkey-European Union project to be launched in 2014.<sup>2234</sup> The project titled Promoting Gender Equality in Education is co-financed by Turkey.<sup>2235</sup>

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

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<sup>2230</sup> Millî Eğitim Bakanlığı'ndan İl Müdürlüklerine 100 Minibüs Gönderiliyor, .

<sup>2231</sup> 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>.

<sup>2232</sup> 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-torenle-baslandi/haber/6665>.

<sup>2233</sup> 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>

<sup>2234</sup> 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](http://www.abgs.gov.tr/files/AB_Iliskileri/AdaylikSureci/IlerlemeRaporlari/2013_tr_progress_report.pdf).

<sup>2235</sup> 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](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/turkey/ipa/2010/125_tr2010013604_gender_equality_in_education.pdf).

access to computers easier for disabled people.<sup>2236</sup> 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.<sup>2237</sup>

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.<sup>2238</sup>

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.<sup>2239</sup>

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.<sup>2240</sup>

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

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<sup>2236</sup> 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-egitim-guclendirilmesi-projesi-kapanis-konferansina-katildi/haber/7164>.

<sup>2237</sup> ‘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-egitim-guclendirilmesi-projesi-kapanis-toplantisi-milli-egitim-bakani-sayin-nabi-avcinin-katilimiyla-gerceklestirildi/icerik/423>.

<sup>2238</sup> 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>

<sup>2239</sup> 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>

<sup>2240</sup> 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>

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.<sup>2241</sup>

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.<sup>2242</sup>

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.<sup>2243</sup>

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.<sup>2244</sup>

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.<sup>2245</sup>

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.<sup>2246</sup>

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

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<sup>2241</sup> £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>

<sup>2242</sup> 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>

<sup>2243</sup> £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>

<sup>2244</sup> £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>

<sup>2245</sup> 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>

<sup>2246</sup> 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>

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.<sup>2247</sup>

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.<sup>2248</sup>

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.<sup>2249,2250,2251,2252,2253</sup>

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.<sup>2254</sup>

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<sup>2247</sup> £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>

<sup>2248</sup> 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>

<sup>2249</sup> 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-around>.

<sup>2250</sup> 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>.

<sup>2251</sup> 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>.

<sup>2252</sup> 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-around>.

<sup>2253</sup> 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->

<sup>2254</sup> 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>.

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.<sup>2255</sup>

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.<sup>2256</sup>

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.<sup>2257</sup>

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.<sup>2258</sup>

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.<sup>2259</sup>

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.<sup>2260</sup>

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<sup>2255</sup> 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->

<sup>2256</sup> 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->

<sup>2257</sup> 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>.

<sup>2258</sup> 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>.

<sup>2259</sup> 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>.

<sup>2260</sup> U.S. Education Department Announces First-of-Its Kind Resolution of Virtual Charter School Civil Rights Investigation, U.S. Department of Education 6 November 2013. Access Date: 22 February 2014. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-education-department-announces-first-its-kind-resolution-virtual-charter-scho>.

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.<sup>2261</sup>

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.<sup>2262</sup>

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.<sup>2263</sup>

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.<sup>2264</sup>

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.<sup>2265</sup>

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

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<sup>2261</sup> 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>.

<sup>2262</sup> 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>.

<sup>2263</sup> 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>.

<sup>2264</sup> 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>.

<sup>2265</sup> 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>.

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.<sup>2266</sup>

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.<sup>2267</sup>

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.<sup>2268</sup>

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.<sup>2269</sup>

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.<sup>2270</sup>

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. It will help policy makers to better manage the European higher education system as a whole, allow universities to

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<sup>2266</sup> 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->

<sup>2267</sup> 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](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-125_en.htm)

<sup>2268</sup> 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](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-859_en.htm)

<sup>2269</sup> 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](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-84_en.htm)

<sup>2270</sup> 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](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-480_en.htm)

compare themselves with others, and to identify opportunities for research collaboration or specialisation.<sup>2271</sup>

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*

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<sup>2271</sup> 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](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-747_en.htm)