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2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit Final Compliance Report

22 May 2023 to 15 May 2024

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5 June 2024

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13. Education: Inclusivity and Equity

“We commit to making progress for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.”

G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

Education has become a prominent commitment area within the member states as the solution to fight poverty, reach equality within various aspects and improve productivity worldwide. Most recently, member states have focused on making education more accessible and inclusive for everybody irrespective of any background, maintaining the firm belief that education is the main factor to solve many world issues. Education first became a topic of interest for G8 member countries during the 1989 Paris Summit, where leaders primarily discussed education in the context of improving economic efficiency.²⁹⁵⁹ While education was not a prominent topic during this summit, members highlighted the significance of providing education and vocational training to address social issues, establishing future discussion of education during these summits.

At the 1996 Lyon Summit, G7 leaders discussed social inclusion and employment, recognizing education’s role in promoting social cohesion and human capital investment.²⁹⁶⁰ They committed to addressing basic education and training and partnered with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to achieve concrete results in primary education.

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, G8 leaders underscored the challenges faced by developing countries in integrating into the global economy.²⁹⁶¹ For the first time, they committed to ensuring access to basic education for every child.

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, G8 leaders endorsed the Finance Ministers and Multilateral Development Banks’ increased focus on human investments like education.²⁹⁶² Although not the primary focus, the summit emphasized the importance of investing in social development goals.

²⁹⁵⁹ Economic Declaration: Paris, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 1989. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/1989paris/communique/index.html>

²⁹⁶⁰ Economic Communiqué: Making a Success of Globalization for the Benefit of All, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 1996. Access Date: 27 September 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/communique.html>

²⁹⁶¹ Communiqué: Birmingham, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>

²⁹⁶² G7 Statement: Genoa, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 July 2001. Access Date: 27 September 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/g7statement.html>

At the 2008 Hokkaido Summit, G8 leaders affirmed their commitment to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), supporting UNESCO and other ESD-focused organizations.²⁹⁶³ They recognized the importance of education, science, and technology as drivers of development, emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity of individuals, organizations, institutions, and societies. The leaders emphasized their commitment to education for all, working to improve access and quality, with a focus on marginalized populations and conflict-affected regions.

At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, G7 leaders engaged in discussions on education to address pressing global challenges, shifting future governance agendas to prioritize gender equality and inclusivity.²⁹⁶⁴ The leaders acknowledged the significance of acquiring relevant skills to attain decent work, highlighting the necessity of technical and vocational education.

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to achieve gender equality and identified education as playing a pivotal role in achieving such equality.²⁹⁶⁵ G7 leaders expressed their support for policies that reduce gender stereotypes in education and that support the inclusion of women in Science, Technology, and Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and other primarily male-dominated careers. G7 leaders noted addressing gender-based violence as key to removing barriers to quality education for women.

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 leaders emphasized the necessity to address barriers to women's access to education and to increase support for women in all schooling levels and in higher education.²⁹⁶⁶ They reaffirmed their commitment to the G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, aiming to enhance women's access to equal opportunities in education and all aspects of life. Leaders recognized the necessity of investing in social infrastructure, particularly quality education across all subjects and levels.

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 leaders focused on breaking down education barriers in developing countries.²⁹⁶⁷ They pledged to advance education for girls in STEM and ensure continuous access to education for all, leading to initiatives like the Charlevoix Education Initiative. Additionally, they committed to promoting gender equality through quality education and training, especially for girls and women in fragile and conflict-affected situations.

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, G7 leaders signed a declaration aimed at advancing laws that contribute to the empowerment of women through a strong emphasis on quality education.²⁹⁶⁸ They addressed barriers to learning, including gender-based discrimination, underscoring the vital role of quality education in achieving gender equality and fostering the active participation of both men and women in society.

At the 2022 Elmau Summit, the G7 leaders committed to advancing women's entrepreneurship and addressing the impacts of crises to gender equality.²⁹⁶⁹ They reaffirmed the G7 Principles on Women's Entrepreneurship

²⁹⁶³ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2023. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

²⁹⁶⁴ Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit Elmau, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

²⁹⁶⁵ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 January 2024.

²⁹⁶⁶ G7 Roadmap For A Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto), 27 May 2017. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

²⁹⁶⁷ Charlevoix declaration on quality education for girls, adolescent girls and women in developing countries, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/education-commitment.html>

²⁹⁶⁸ Declaration on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>

²⁹⁶⁹ Joint Statement of the G7 Gender Equality Ministers: Elmau, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 27 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/gender/2022-gender-declaration.html>

to highlight the role of vocational, sexuality and financial education to overcome obstacles in access to education and empowerment for women.

Commitment Features

At the 2023 Hiroshima Summit, leaders committed to “making progress for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.” This commitment can be interpreted as having two primary, and one secondary, targets. Firstly, members must ensure “inclusive” education. Equally importantly, this education must be of “equitable quality” to the standard of existing education systems. Secondly, this must also apply to “vocational education.”

Definitions and Concepts

“Commit” is understood to mean “to do or perform, to pledge or bind (a person or an organization) to a certain course or policy.”²⁹⁷⁰

“Making” is understood to mean “a process or means of advancement or success.”²⁹⁷¹ “Progress” is understood to mean “gradual betterment.”²⁹⁷² “Making Progress,” therefore, is understood to mean the advancement of gradual betterment by available means.

“Ensuring” is understood to mean making something certain to happen.²⁹⁷³

“Inclusive” is understood to mean that all parties are included in the discussion and decision-making process, taking into account relative capabilities.²⁹⁷⁴

“Equitable” is understood to mean “fair and just as indicated by law,”²⁹⁷⁵ and “quality” is understood to mean “the degree of excellence with which something can be credited.”²⁹⁷⁶ In this sense, “equitable quality” assures fair and just degrees of excellence across different settings.

“Education” is understood to mean “the action or process of educating or of being educated.”²⁹⁷⁷

“Vocational Education” is understood to mean “training for a specific occupation in agriculture, trade, or industry through a combination of theoretical teaching and practical experience provided by many high schools in their commercial and technical divisions, and by special institutions of collegiate standing (as a college of agriculture, a school of engineering, or a technical institute).”²⁹⁷⁸

²⁹⁷⁰ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 06 October 2023 http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²⁹⁷¹ Making, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 06 October 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/progress>

²⁹⁷² Progress, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/progress>

²⁹⁷³ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2023 http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²⁹⁷⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2023 http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²⁹⁷⁵ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2023 http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²⁹⁷⁶ Quality, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/quality>

²⁹⁷⁷ Education, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/education>

²⁹⁷⁸ Vocational Education, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vocational%20education>

General Interpretive Guidelines

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G7 members that demonstrate measurably strong progress towards all three of the outlined targets. Strong action towards “inclusivity” may take the form of curriculum and other structural reforms, such as extracurricular program offerings, in contexts where inclusivity can be more appropriately integrated into parts of the education system, or measures to promote educational leadership that is proportionally representative of student bodies. Strong action towards ensuring “equitable quality” of education may include, but is not limited to: direct financial support for demonstrably underprivileged individuals or groups, such as subsidies or scholarships; increased funding for geographic areas with relatively poorer educational infrastructure, personnel, or programs; training programs, either government-run or through publicly-funded private-sector partners. For full compliance, such measures must apply, on more than one occasion, to vocational education specifically, alongside the pursuit of improved inclusivity and equitable quality in education more broadly. These actions may be domestic or international, supporting populations within or outside the G7 member’s borders.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members in two scenarios. The first is when the G7 member exhibits strong compliance in one of the main target areas, pursuing “inclusive” and “equitable quality” education, and these measures have applied to at least one instance of vocational education; The second instance is when the G7 member exhibits weak compliance with both main targets but vocational education is included in these actions on at least one occasion. These actions may be domestic or international, supporting populations within or outside the G7 member’s borders.

Non-compliance, or a score of –1, will be assigned in the following situations: the G7 member does not exhibit compliance in either main target area; the G7 member exhibits weak compliance in just one main target area, regardless of the inclusion of vocational education in these actions.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has not taken any action towards inclusivity or equitable quality of education, or the G7 member has taken weak action on one of inclusivity or equitable quality of education but these actions are not applied to vocational training.
0	The G7 member has either taken strong action to improve inclusivity in education or equitable quality of education including vocational training or the G7 member has taken weak action towards both inclusivity and equitable quality in education including vocational training.
+1	The G7 member has taken strong action to improve inclusivity in education and equitable quality of education and these measures apply to vocational education on more than one occasion.

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Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with making progress toward ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.

On 1 June 2023, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Carla Qualtrough, announced that six Canadian organizations providing skills training and education will receive CAD16 million in funding through the Skills for Success program.²⁹⁷⁹ The aim of this initiative is to reduce workplace barriers by creating inclusive and relevant skills teachings, with projects serving persons with disabilities.

On 1 June 2023, Minister Qualtrough announced the CAD3 million in funding through the Government of Canada’s Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities for ETHOS’ Skills Quest 4 Success Project which

²⁹⁷⁹ Government of Canada invests in skills training and career advancements for persons with disabilities, Employment and Social Development Canada (Nanaimo) 1 June 2023. Access Date: 30 October 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/06/government-of-canada-invests-in-skills-training-and-career-advancements-for-persons-with-disabilities.html>

assists with workplace education for women and persons with disabilities.²⁹⁸⁰ The aim of this initiative is to create inclusive education for women with disabilities to reduce barriers to the workplace.

On 2 June 2023, Indigenous Services Canada, in partnership with the Assembly of First Nations, reaffirmed its commitment to working towards improved and inclusive educational infrastructure for schools in First Nations communities through the School Space Accommodation Standards policy.²⁹⁸¹ The aim of this initiative is to create well-funded and more inclusive schools based on Indigenous learning and teachings that will better accommodate students with different learning abilities.

On 29 June 2023, Minister of International Development Harjit S. Sajjan announced a CAD6 million grant for the Commonwealth of Learning for a new project called Empowering Women and Girls in the Commonwealth to support education and skills development for women and girls in Bangladesh, Malawi, Mozambique, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.²⁹⁸² The aim of this initiative is to promote inclusive and equitable quality education for women in disadvantaged areas.

On 14 July 2023, Minister Qualtrough announced a CAD27 million grant for Skills Canada to provide hands-on vocational education in skilled trades and technology for youth and marginalized groups including women, persons with disabilities, newcomers to Canada, individuals identifying as 2SLGBTQI+, Indigenous people and racialized individuals.²⁹⁸³ The aim of this initiative is to promote vocational education for groups and reduce barriers to entry into the skilled trades.

On 25 July 2023, Minister Sajjan announced a CAD212.75 million in funding to support access to educational and social development including vocational training colleges for youth in Tanzania.²⁹⁸⁴ The aim of this initiative is to promote equitable education and economic prosperity in Tanzania.

On 8 September 2023, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages Randy Boissonnault announced a cross-provincial awareness campaign to raise interest in vocational education and encourage youth to engage with skilled trades through grants, educational loans, and in-school training.²⁹⁸⁵ The aim of this initiative is to raise awareness about the quality prospects for Canadian youth through vocational education.

On 11 October 2023, Minister Boissonnault announced CAD16.5 million in funding to expand vocational education opportunities for persons with disabilities, racialized Canadians, Indigenous people, official language

²⁹⁸⁰ Government of Canada invests in skills training and career advancements for persons with disabilities, Employment and Social Development Canada (Nanaimo) 1 June 2023. Access Date: 30 October 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/06/government-of-canada-invests-in-skills-training-and-career-advancements-for-persons-with-disabilities.html>

²⁹⁸¹ The Assembly of First Nations and the Government of Canada announce updates to school design standards for schools on-reserve, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa) 2 June 2023. Access Date: 30 October 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2023/06/the-assembly-of-first-nations-and-the-government-of-canada-announce-updates-to-school-design-standards-for-schools-on-reserve0.html>

²⁹⁸² Minister Sajjan announces funding to empower women and girls in the Commonwealth, Global Affairs Canada (Vancouver) 29 June 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/06/minister-sajjan-announces-funding-to-empower-women-and-girls-in-the-commonwealth.html>

²⁹⁸³ Government of Canada invests in youth to build a stronger Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 14 July 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/07/government-of-canada-invests-in-youth-to-build-a-stronger-canada.html>

²⁹⁸⁴ Canada announces funding of over \$200 million to support food security, education, health and sexual and reproductive health and rights in Tanzania, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/07/canada-announces-funding-of-over-200-million-to-support-food-security-education-health-and-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-in-tanzania.html>

²⁹⁸⁵ Government of Canada encourages Canadians to explore careers in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 8 September 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/09/government-of-canada-encourages-canadians-to-explore-careers-in-the-skilled-trades.html>

minority communities and newcomers.²⁹⁸⁶ The aim of this initiative is to make vocational education more equitable for underrepresented groups and reduce barriers to entry to the workforce through education.

On 2 November 2023, Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities Kamal Khera announced CAD1.5 million in funding to the Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community, and Diaspora at York University.²⁹⁸⁷ The Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community, and Diaspora aims to reduce barriers and inequity in the Canadian education system, particularly for Black and racialized students by uplifting their educational ambitions. The aim of this initiative is to support Black communities and foster inclusive and equitable education.

On 22 February 2024, Minister of International Development Ahmed Hussen announced CAD95 million for development assistance in Jordan, of which CAD71.8 million will be directed for educational improvement projects.²⁹⁸⁸ This action includes funding for inclusive vocational education for women and funding for educational improvement for children in the region.

On 23 February 2024, the Government of Canada announced CAD1 million to support the Imhotep Legacy Academy with their STEM programs for Black, Indigenous, and Latin youth.²⁹⁸⁹ Minister Marci Ien described this initiative as a recognition of Black Canadians and a step to break down barriers for educational equity.

On 8 April 2024, Minister Hussen reaffirmed Canada's commitment to promoting equitable education in Benin, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda, after attending a vocational center supported by My Training, My Job, My Future, implemented by Canadian Partner Education Internationale.²⁹⁹⁰ This affirmation emphasizes Canada's commitment to ensuring all students receive high quality education.

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to making progress for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education. Canada has taken strong action to improve both inclusivity and equitable quality in education by funding initiatives such as Skills for Success, which aims to reduce workplace barriers for persons with disabilities. Other examples include supporting vocational education on more than one occasion for marginalized groups through grants and awareness campaigns, funding projects for women's education in disadvantaged areas, and investing in STEM programs for underrepresented youth like Black, Indigenous, and Latin communities.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Rejaa Khalid

²⁹⁸⁶ Government of Canada creating more skills training opportunities for Canadians, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 11 October 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/10/government-of-canada-creating-more-skills-training-opportunities-for-canadians0.html>

²⁹⁸⁷ Minister Khera to Make a Funding Announcement, Canadian Heritage (Toronto) 02 November 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2023/11/minister-khera-to-make-a-funding-announcement.html>

²⁹⁸⁸ Canada announces \$95 million in funding for development projects in Jordan (Amman) 22 February 2024. Access Date: 27 February 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2024/02/canada-announces-95-million-in-funding-for-development-projects-in-jordan.html>

²⁹⁸⁹ Government of Canada announces funding for Black communities in Nova Scotia (Halifax) 23 February 2024. Access Date: 3 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-black-communities-in-nova-scotia.html>

²⁹⁹⁰ Minister Hussen highlights Canada's strong engagement in Africa during visit to Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 8 April 2024. Access Date: 21 April 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2024/04/minister-hussen-highlights-canadas-strong-engagement-in-africa-during-visit-to-benin-democratic-republic-of-congo-and-rwanda.html>

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to making progress for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.

On 1 September 2023, President Emmanuel Macron met with students from vocational school l'Argensol d'Orange and discussed his plans for vocational education going forward.²⁹⁹¹ President Macron aims for a zero per cent dropout rate and total employability for students.

On 27 September 2023, Senate adopted a bill titled “Securing and Regulating Digital Space.”²⁹⁹² The goal of this bill is to stop student cyber harassment, with the aim to make school environments more inclusive.²⁹⁹³

On September 27 2023, France announced a budget increase in education of 13.6 per cent between 2022 and 2024.²⁹⁹⁴ Specific initiatives include improved accessibility; support for students with handicaps, their families, and students with special learning needs, for whom 100 specifically-trained teachers will be hired before the school year beginning in 2024 at a cost of EUR3.8 million; providing “equitable access to culture” through increased artistic and cultural education; and recalibrating resource distribution to promote equality. This large investment will, therefore, address equitable quality and inclusivity across the French education system.

On 1 October 2023, the France National Recovery and Resilience Plan granted all teachers and education staff access to a self-positioning course.²⁹⁹⁵ By encouraging critical thinking and bolstering media and information literacy, this approach seeks to improve student proficiency with digital citizenship while also fostering national and local collaboration among education stakeholders.²⁹⁹⁶

On 20 October 2023, Minister Delegate in charge of Vocational Education and Training, Carole Grandjean, travelled to Gien following the implementation of the reformation of vocational high schools to emphasize the importance of training in craftsmanship.²⁹⁹⁷ This tour aims to increase the possibility to build plans and have conversations with apprentices and trainers about the difficulties of providing training in this field.²⁹⁹⁸

²⁹⁹¹ Déplacement du Président au Lycée professionnel de l'Argensol d'Orange pour la pré-rentree, Presidency of the Republic (Paris) 1 September 2023. Translation provided by: Compliance Director. Access Date: 15 November, 2023.

<https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2023/09/01/deplacement-du-president-au-lycee-professionnel-de-largensol-dorange-pour-la-pre-rentree>

²⁹⁹² Lutte contre le cyberharcèlement: Les harceleurs bannis des réseaux sociaux, Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 October 2023.

<https://www.education.gouv.fr/lutte-contre-le-cyberharcèlement-les-harceleurs-bannis-des-reseaux-sociaux-379692>

²⁹⁹³ What the new digital law will change for people in France, The Connexion (Monaco) 18 October 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/article/French-news/What-the-new-digital-law-will-change-for-people-in-France>

²⁹⁹⁴ Projet de loi de finances 2024, Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) November 2023. Access Date: 01 December 2023. Translation provided by Compliance Director. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/projet-de-loi-de-finances-2024-379542>

²⁹⁹⁵ Développer les compétences numériques des enseignants et personnels d'éducation avec le dispositif Pix+ Édu: déploiement d'un parcours d'auto-positionnement pour tous les enseignants et personnels d'éducation volontaires dès octobre 2023, Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) 10 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/developper-les-competences-numeriques-des-enseignants-et-personnels-d-education-avec-le-dispositif-379683>

²⁹⁹⁶ France: Digital strategy for education 2023-2027, European Commission (Brussels) 3 May 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/news/france-digital-strategy-education-2023-2027>

²⁹⁹⁷ Réforme des lycées professionnels et formation aux métiers d'art: Déplacement de Carole Grandjean à Gien (45), Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) October 2023. Translation provided by Compliance Director. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/reforme-des-lycees-professionnels-et-formation-aux-metiers-d-art-deplacement-de-carole-grandjean-379752>

²⁹⁹⁸ The many challenges facing France's reindustrialization, GIS (Schaan) 11 September 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/france-reindustrialization/>

On 8 November, Minister of National Education and Youth, Gabriel Attal, met with Brazilian Minister of Education, Camilo Santana to affirm their commitment to objectives within the Sustainable Development Goal 4 in promoting quality education for all.²⁹⁹⁹ Specific agreements for the Brazil-France Strategic Partnership educational cooperation includes training of primary and secondary education professionals and on media and information education to combat disinformation and cyber-harassment among younger audiences and training teachers to promote multilingualism.

On 30 November 2023, Ministry of National Education and Ministry of Agriculture announced that they will establish a two-week internship opportunity, offered to 550,000 general and technological secondary school students starting June 2024.³⁰⁰⁰ This initiative aims to facilitate the process of providing students with a deeper insight into various professions and assist them in making informed career decisions.

On 18 January 2024, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kingdom of Cambodia signed an agreement for the AFD to commit EUR215 million towards vocational training and other initiatives.³⁰⁰¹

On 12 February 2024, Ministry of National Education and Youth announced various measures in response to harassment in the education system, including a pay incentive of EUR1,250 for workers who effectively prevent harassment in schools.³⁰⁰² These measures will foster a more inclusive and equitable education system.

On 6 March 2024, the Ministry of National Education and Youth announced a compulsory two-week observant internship to take place in June of the academic year that aims to expand student awareness of various professional fields.³⁰⁰³

On 4 April 2024, the Ministry of National Education and Youth released and implemented a the “Deploy a Shield Around the School” plan, established to enhance the safety of students, staff, and educational institutions in response to the increase in hate crimes occurring on or in proximity to school premises.³⁰⁰⁴ This initiative prioritizes safety measures to ensure that all individuals within the educational system feel protected and valued.

On 17 April 2024, the Ministry of National Education and Youth released numbers regarding its “Pact” initiative, which encourages voluntary participation of teaching staff to partake in extra paid tasks for short-

²⁹⁹⁹ Rencontre entre les ministres Français et Brésilien de l'Éducation nationale, Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) 9 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 December 2023.

<https://www.education.gouv.fr/rencontre-entre-les-ministres-francais-et-bresilien-de-l-education-nationale-379938>

³⁰⁰⁰ Un stage en juin pour les élèves de seconde générale et technologique, Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) 30 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 February 2024.

<https://www.education.gouv.fr/reussir-au-lycee/un-stage-en-juin-pour-les-eleves-de-seconde-generale-et-technologique-380196>

³⁰⁰¹ AFD and Kingdom of Cambodia Double their Cooperation, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 18 January 2024. Access Date: 12 February 2024. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communiquede-presse/afd-and-kingdom-cambodia-double-their-cooperation?origin=/fr/actualites/communiquede-presse>

³⁰⁰² Mobilisation contre le harcèlement : Nicole Belloubet engage un renforcement du plan d'action face aux constats de la 1er enquête nationale sur le harcèlement, Le ministère de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) 12 February 2024. Translation provided by Compliance Director. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/mobilisation-contre-le-harcelement-nicole-belloubet-engage-un-renforcement-du-plan-d-action-face-aux-380805>

³⁰⁰³ Découverte des métiers: un nouveau stage obligatoire en fin de seconde générale et technologique du 17 au 28 juin 2024, Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) 6 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 March 2024. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/decouverte-des-metiers-un-nouveau-stage-obligatoire-en-fin-de-seconde-generale-et-technologique-du-413805>

³⁰⁰⁴ Déployer un bouclier autour de l'école: Plan ministériel pour la sécurité des élèves, des personnels et des établissements scolaires, Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) 4 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 March 2024. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/deployer-un-bouclier-autour-de-l-ecole-plan-ministeriel-pour-la-securite-des-eleves-des-personnels-414084>

term education missions.³⁰⁰⁵ During its inaugural year, the Ministry allocated more than EUR700 million to the Pact.

On 7 May 2024, Minister of National Education and Youth Nicole Belloubet and Minister of Culture Rachida Dati signed an agreement to renew their commitment to providing young people from modest backgrounds with access to higher artistic and cultural studies for five years.³⁰⁰⁶ This reaffirms their full support for the Culture and Diversity Foundation's Equal Opportunities programs.

France has fully complied with its commitment to making progress for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education. Initiatives such as hiring specifically trained teachers for students with disabilities, reforming vocational high schools, and fostering an international collaboration with Brazil and Cambodia to advance education underscore its commitment to ensuring inclusive and equitable education at home and abroad. By mandating internship programs and creating vocational opportunities, France assures that students from different backgrounds have equal access to valuable learning experiences.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Emily Carlucci

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to making progress toward ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.

On 24 May 2023, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection announced, alongside the Alliance for Training and Further Education, that they finalized a key policy which focuses on increasing vocational education among the German population.³⁰⁰⁷ This includes a training guarantee and the creation of the Vocational Education Excellence Initiative which guarantees higher vocational training and placement. The aim of this initiative is to increase vocational education accessibility in Germany.

On 14 June 2023, the Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training reported on a study tour in Berlin organized in association with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and South African academics guiding how to promote vocational education in South Africa.³⁰⁰⁸ The aim of the tour was to enable vocational knowledge sharing with South Africa, concurrent to the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development's ongoing commitment to foster equitable and inclusive economic development in South Africa.

On 15 June 2023, the Federal Ministry of Finance concluded negotiations with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and announced an extension and additional funding of EUR38 million in 2026 and EUR41 million in 2027 to increase inclusive and innovative Holocaust education in Germany and

³⁰⁰⁵ Dispositif de rémunération de missions complémentaires du Pacte enseignant: Nicole Belloubet salue un premier bilan positif, Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) 4 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 March 2024. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/dispositif-de-remuneration-de-missions-complementaires-du-pacte-enseignant-nicole-belloubet-salue-un-414153>

³⁰⁰⁶ Signature de la convention avec la fondation "Culture et diversité", Le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Jeunesse (Paris) 7 May 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/signature-de-la-convention-avec-la-fondation-culture-et-diversite-414330>

³⁰⁰⁷ Bund, Länder, Wirtschaft und Gewerkschaften stärken duale Ausbildung, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Klimaschutz (Berlin) 24 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2023/05/20230524-bund-laender-wirtschaft-und-gewerkschaften-staerken-duale-ausbildung.html>

³⁰⁰⁸ South Africa: Sustainability in vocational education and training, German Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training (Berlin) 14 June 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.govet.international/en/176512.php>

beyond.³⁰⁰⁹ The aim of this initiative is to continue to foster high-quality awareness in education regarding the Holocaust.

On 3 August 2023, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) announced that the Government of Germany pledged EUR12 million to assist UNRWA with the digitization of their Health and Education program which seeks to assist educational capacities for refugees across Jordan, the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Lebanon.³⁰¹⁰ The aim of this initiative is tied to Germany's concurrent pledge to assist development in Palestinian territories.

On 4 August 2023, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research reaffirmed their commitment to accessible means for vocational pursuits for German citizens and immigrants, through the on-going "Excellence Initiative on vocational education and training" through which Germany has pledged EUR750 million until 2026 to promote vocational education.³⁰¹¹ The German Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training reported on a technical meeting between the Italian Ministries of Education, Labour, and the Italian Employment agency and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the German Embassy, Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Milan and the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts to ensure a collaborative and inclusive dialogue between the two G7 members.³⁰¹²

On 30 August 2023, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced that the Government of Germany would be partnering to provide quality education and other social services to Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.³⁰¹³ The aim of this initiative is to continue Germany's commitment to alleviating the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

On 28 September 2023, the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training announced that it will be organizing a research conference about international vocational education.³⁰¹⁴ The conference will foster inclusive discussion on vocational education practices, recruitment, and strategies in an international context. The aim of this initiative is to continue Germany's commitment to increasing vocational education accessibility and capacity.

³⁰⁰⁹ Holocaust Survivors Will Continue to Receive Additional One-Time Payments from the German Government Until 2027 As a Result of Claims Conference Negotiations, Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (New York) 15 June 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.claimscon.org/2023/06/holocaust-survivors-will-continue-to-receive-additional-one-time-payments-from-the-german-government-until-2027-as-a-result-of-claims-conference-negotiations/>

³⁰¹⁰ Germany Signs EUR 28 Million in Project Funding to Support UNRWA for Participatory Camp Improvement and Digitalization in Health and Education, The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (Amman) 3 August 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/news-releases/germany-signs-eur-28-million-project-funding-support-unrwa>

³⁰¹¹ Italy – Reforms for Modern Vocational Education and Training, German Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training (Milan) 4 August 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.govet.international/en/178406.php>; Germany: Excellence in VET brings together new and proven initiatives to address skill shortages, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Thessaloniki) 4 July 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news/germany-excellence-vet-brings-together-new-and-proven-initiatives-address-skill-shortages>

³⁰¹² Italy – Reforms for Modern Vocational Education and Training, German Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training (Milan) 4 August 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.govet.international/en/178406.php>

³⁰¹³ Providing Palestinian Children and Their Families Access to Crucial Lifesaving Basic Services, UNICEF in the State of Palestine (Ramallah) 20 August 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.unicef.org/sop/press-releases/providing-palestinian-children-and-their-families-access-crucial-lifesaving-basic>

³⁰¹⁴ Vocational Education, Skilled Workers and Transformation in an International Perspective, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (Bonn) 28 September 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.bibb.de/en/180891.php>

On 21 October 2023, Development State Secretary Jochen Flasbarth pledged EUR200 million to the Ukrainian government to assist with education and reconstruction.³⁰¹⁵ The aim of this funding is part of the on-going commitment of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development to support quality educational systems in Ukraine.

On 20 November 2023, Germany hosted the Compact with Africa Summit of the G20.³⁰¹⁶ Development Minister Svenja Schulze pledged to increase Germany's support for African start-ups such as the developPPP ventures program, which uplifts women through economic and business education. The aim of this initiative is to expand the entrepreneurial and educational ability of women across Africa.

On 11 March 2024, Federal Ministry of Education and Research held the "10,000 days – skilled workers for climate jobs" competition to celebrate innovative measures to support disadvantaged groups get the skills education for vocational roles in the climate field. This was an extension of Project Together funded by the Ministry to promote equitable social innovation.³⁰¹⁷

On 17 April 2024, the government introduced an act to provide financial support for nurses pursuing courses, training, and internships, aiming to create more opportunities for individuals interested in entering the nursing profession but lacking access to the necessary resources.³⁰¹⁸

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to making progress toward ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education. Germany has implemented initiatives, such as the Vocational Education Excellence Initiative and partnerships with international organizations like UNRWA, to advance inclusive and quality education. Additionally, the government has launched robust initiatives across various professions to offer financial support for students engaged in skills training.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Rejaa Khali

Italy: +1

Italy fully complied with its commitment to making progress for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.

On 23 May 2023, Ministry of Education provided a EUR20 million fund to allow students to continue with school despite the floods in Emilia Romagna, as well as EUR3.5 million to help students who need computers while facilitating the transition to remote learning.³⁰¹⁹ These funds aimed to better aid students in the region of Emilia-Romagna to avoid falling behind in their education and make quality education accessible despite the complications for families, teachers and students.

³⁰¹⁵ Flasbarth: Investitionen in Landwirtschaft sind zentrales Element für wirtschaftlichen Wiederaufbau der Ukraine, Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (Mykolaiv) 21 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 02 November 2023. <https://www.bmz.de/de/aktuelles/aktuelle-meldungen/flasbarth-wirtschaftlicher-wiederaufbau-ukraine-182954>

³⁰¹⁶ Entwicklungsministerium legt Fokus auf Unternehmerinnen und Jobs für nachhaltige Entwicklung in Afrika, Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (Berlin) 20 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 December 2023. <https://www.bmz.de/de/aktuelles/aktuelle-meldungen/compact-with-africa-gipfel-190780>

³⁰¹⁷ Zarah Bruhn: Mit Sozialen Innovationen mehr Fachkräfte für die Energiewende gewinnen, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (Berlin) 11 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 April 2024. https://www.bmbf.de/bmbf/shareddocs/kurzmeldungen/de/2024/03/240311_soziale-innovationen.html#searchFacets

³⁰¹⁸ Pflegestudium als Weg in den Beruf, Die Bundesregierung (Berlin) 17 April 2024. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/ueberblick-zum-pflegestudium-2271670>

³⁰¹⁹ Emergenza Emilia-Romagna, riunione a Palazzo Chigi, Governo Italiano (Rome) 23 May 2023. Translation provided by Google. Access Date: 13 November 2023. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-s-address-meeting-held-palazzo-chigi-flood-emergency-emilia-romagna/22714>

On 4 August 2023, Ministries of Education, Labour, and the Italian Employment Agency met with the German Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training and German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, German Embassy, German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Milan and the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts to ensure a collaborative and inclusive dialogue on vocational education between the two G7 members.³⁰²⁰

On 15 October 2023, Ministry of Education and Merit approved new contracts for hiring Ata staff in Southern Italy, as well as authorized a EUR12 million investment to support hiring new positions, such as technical assistants and school collaborators.³⁰²¹ The fund aims to narrow educational gaps between Northern and Southern Italy by strengthening and building a more inclusive school system.

On 23 October 2023, Council of Ministers approved the bill to offer benefits for teachers working in mountain schools, such as tax credit to cover property rental costs.³⁰²² This bill aims to make quality education accessible for students living in mountain areas and any disadvantaged areas.

On 27 October 2023, Italy hosted a meeting with French Cooperation Officer for French Agnès Pallini-Martin regarding the promotion of the French language and education.³⁰²³ The courses offered in French result in a double diploma credited to the government of France and Italy. This meeting contributes to a bilingual educational path for youth and students to pursue more education and be recognized while advocating for inclusivity.

On 27 October 2023, Ministry of Education and Merit allocated EUR12 million to schools in Southern Italy.³⁰²⁴ This investment aims to increase quality of education in Southern Italy by funding staff hiring to better implement the educational agenda and decrease education gaps nationwide.

On 31 October 2023, Minister of Education and Merit Giuseppe Valditara announced the release of EUR78 million to help families and over 200,000 students with the purchase of teaching materials.³⁰²⁵ Coupled with proposing a general rule for the right to study, this action aims to support students and families going through economic hardship with the essential resources to access education.

On 9 November 2023, Ministry of Education and Merit responded to recent antisemitism by taking concrete steps and further committing to implement measures to eradicate racial hatred and antisemitic behaviors in

³⁰²⁰ Italy – Reforms for Modern Vocational Education and Training, German Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training (Milan) 4 August 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.govet.international/en/178406.php>

³⁰²¹ Scuola, al via assunzione di nuovo personale Ata. Valditara: impegno mantenuto. Stanziare risorse aggiuntive anche per le scuole del Mezzogiorno ad alto tasso di dispersione, Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 15 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-al-via-assunzione-di-nuovo-personale-ata-valditara-impegno-mantenuto-stanziate-risorse-aggiuntive-anche-per-le-scuole-del-mezzogiorno-ad-alto-t>

³⁰²² Scuola, agevolazioni per docenti che prestano servizio nelle aree di montagna. Il Ministro Valditara: "Iniziativa di equità per garantire presidio in territori svantaggiati," Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 23 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-agevolazioni-per-docenti-che-prestano-servizio-nelle-aree-di-montagna-il-ministro-valditara-iniziativa-di-equita-per-garantire-presidio-in-terr>

³⁰²³ Nuove opportunità per docenti e studenti per il francese, ANSA (Bolzano) 27 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 November 2023. https://www.ansa.it/trentino/notizie/qualitaaloadige/2023/10/27/nuove-opportunita-per-docenti-e-studenti-per-il-francese_fe7f0e65-2762-4c25-9349-e62c1b9327ef.html

³⁰²⁴ Agenda Sud, da MIM 12 milioni in più per contratti ATA aggiuntivi. Valditara: "Dal Ministero grande attenzione alle scuole del Mezzogiorno," Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 27 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/agenda-sud-da-mim-12-milioni-in-piu-per-contratti-ata-aggiuntivi-valditara-dal-ministero-grande-attenzione-alle-scuole-del-mezzogiorno>

³⁰²⁵ Scuola, da Mim sbloccati 78 milioni di euro per il diritto allo studio, Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 31 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-da-mim-sbloccati-78-milioni-di-euro-per-il-diritto-allo-studio>

schools.³⁰²⁶ This response is geared towards creating inclusive educational spaces that welcome everyone, irrespective of their background.

On 10 November 2023, Ministry of Education and Merit published a report presenting projects to improve training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) for students and teachers while strengthening scientific skills for innovation.³⁰²⁷ These projects aim to reduce gender gaps in learning and make these tools accessible for both public and private school teaching.

On 4 December 2023, Minister Valditara emphasizes the results in technological and training improvement in school given the recent investment of EUR1 billion made for education in Puglia.³⁰²⁸ These funds have made quality education more accessible within this region.

On 21 December 2023, the Senate approved a government bill that allows for a reformation in the technical-professional education system and introduces a new model to reduce the number of years needed to study.³⁰²⁹ The reform shall help individuals pursuing professional training in entering the job market earlier.

On 3 February 2024, Ministry of Education and Merit authorized EUR790 million to reduce regional gaps in the quality of education.³⁰³⁰ Targeting geographic differences in education quality improves overall national equality in education.

On 9 February 2024, Minister Valditara announced EUR700 million in education funding, including EUR113.4 million for disabled students.³⁰³¹ This funding addresses unequal barriers to education faced by disabled students.

³⁰²⁶ Valditara su caso docente di Roncade: “Odio razziale e antisemitismo incompatibili con principi della scuola costituzionale,” Ministero dell’Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 9 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/valditara-su-caso-docente-di-roncade-odio-razziale-e-antisemitismo-incompatibili-con-principi-della-scuola-costituzionale>

³⁰²⁷ Scuola, pubblicato primo avviso PNRR per progetti paritarie su potenziamento competenze Stem. Valditara: “Con queste iniziative sarà possibile colmare divari territoriali e fornire agli studenti le competenze richieste dal mondo del lavoro,” Ministero dell’Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 10 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-pubblicato-primo-avviso-pnrr-per-progetti-paritarie-su-potenziamento-competenze-stem-valditara-con-queste-iniziativa-sara-possibile-colmare-div>

³⁰²⁸ Lecce, Valditara: “Puglia regione strategica. Sbloccato oltre 1 miliardo di fondi PNRR per istituzioni scolastiche ed enti locali del territorio,” Ministero dell’Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 4 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/lecce-valditara-puglia-regione-strategica-sbloccato-oltre-1-miliardo-di-fondi-pnrr-per-istituzioni-scolastiche-ed-enti-locali-del-territorio>

³⁰²⁹ Scuola, la riforma degli istituti tecnici e professionali approvata in commissione al Senato: si passa da 5 a 4 anni, La Repubblica (Rome) 21 December 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 December 2023. https://www.repubblica.it/scuola/2023/12/21/news/riforma_istituti_tecnici_professionali_4_anni-421722649/

³⁰³⁰ Scuola, da MIM 790 milioni di euro per il nuovo piano di riduzione dei divari territoriali negli apprendimenti e per il contrasto della dispersione scolastica. Valditara: “Con questa misura vogliamo accompagnare gli studenti verso il successo formativo e il completamento del loro percorso di studi,” Ministero dell’Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 3 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-da-mim-790-milioni-di-euro-per-il-nuovo-piano-di-riduzione-dei-divari-territoriali-negli-apprendimenti-e-per-il-contrasto-della-dispersione-sco>

³⁰³¹ Scuola, da Mim oltre 700 milioni per le scuole paritarie. Valditara: “Tutte le realtà educative del sistema pubblico devono essere valorizzate. Particolare attenzione a infanzia e alunni diversamente abili,” Ministero dell’Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 9 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-da-mim-oltre-700-milioni-per-le-scuole-paritarie-valditara-tutte-le-realta-educative-del-sistema-pubblico-devono-essere-valorizzate-particolare>

On 24 February 2024, Ministry of Education and Merit announced that part of EUR140 million in funding will be spent on technical and vocational courses.³⁰³² The opportunities granted to attendees of vocational schools include work and study experiences abroad.

On 5 March 2024, Minister Valditara authorized EUR478 million to schools in Abruzzo for building institutions, reducing educational gaps, and supporting elementary and middle schools.³⁰³³ These funds are part of the Southern agenda to strengthen skills and professionalism training for all students.

On 17 March 2024, Minister Valditara and Egyptian Minister of Education and Technical Education Reda Hegazy signed a cooperative Memorandum to improve the access to skills training by promoting studies of the Italian language in Egypt.³⁰³⁴ This memorandum aims to strengthen skills and access to employment opportunities for Egyptians in Italy.

On 26 March 2024, the Ministry of Education and Merit simplified within the 2024 Budget Law the way in which working mothers submit forms and applications.³⁰³⁵ This measure reduces barriers for those to whom filling out educational applications proves difficult.

On 6 April 2024, Minister Valditara signed a decree reinforcing the Italian Government's goals to provide equitable quality of education in the country's South, targeting action towards the region's most fragile schools.³⁰³⁶

On 11 April 2024, Minister Valditara signed a decree allocation EUR400 million to the improvement of both curricular and extracurricular programs at Italian schools, including through the remuneration of voluntary extracurricular involvement by teachers.³⁰³⁷

On 20 April 2024, Minister Valditara and Minister of Education of the Republic of Tunisia Salwa Abassi signed a memorandum to improve skills, technical training, and Italian language acquisition within the Tunisian

³⁰³² PON, 140 mln per esperienze estive di alternanza scuola-lavoro all'estero per gli studenti degli Istituti tecnici e professionali. Valditara: "Importante opportunità per i nostri ragazzi che valorizza un canale formativo strategico," Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 24 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 March 2024.

[https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/pon-140-mln-per-esperienze-estive-di-alternanza-scuola-lavoro-all-estero-per-gli-studenti-degli-istituti-tecnici-e-professionali-valditara-importante-](https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/pon-140-mln-per-esperienze-estive-di-alternanza-scuola-lavoro-all-estero-per-gli-studenti-degli-istituti-tecnici-e-professionali-valditara-importante)

³⁰³³ Scuola, Valditara in Abruzzo: "Istruzione centrale per lo sviluppo, investire sui giovani e sul sistema scolastico è il nostro impegno". Stanziati oltre 478 milioni di euro per edilizia scolastica, formazione degli studenti, contrasto alla dispersione scolastica e Its nella regione, Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 5 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-valditara-in-abruzzo-istruzione-centrale-per-lo-sviluppo-investire-sui-giovani-e-sul-sistema-scolastico-e-il-nostro-impegno-stanziati-oltre-478>

³⁰³⁴ Memorandum Italia-Egitto, Valditara: "Impegnati per una formazione tecnica e professionale di eccellenza nei settori strategici," Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 17 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2024. [https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/memorandum-italia-egitto-valditara-impegnati-per-una-formazione-tecnica-e-professionale-di-eccellenza-nei-settori-strategici-](https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/memorandum-italia-egitto-valditara-impegnati-per-una-formazione-tecnica-e-professionale-di-eccellenza-nei-settori-strategici)

³⁰³⁵ Da domani le lavoratrici madri della scuola possono presentare la domanda online per l'esonero contributivo sino a 3.000 euro, Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 26 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/da-domani-le-lavoratrici-madri-della-scuola-possono-presentare-la-domanda-online-per-l-esonero-contributivo-sino-a-3-000-euro>

³⁰³⁶ Agenda Sud, nuovo decreto per il supporto alle scuole più fragili. Valditara: "Il nostro obiettivo è una scuola di successo per tutti gli student," Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 6 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/agenda-sud-nuovo-decreto-per-il-supporto-alle-scuole-piu-fragili-valditara-il-nostro-obiettivo-e-una-scuola-di-successo-per-tutti-gli-studenti->

³⁰³⁷ Piano Estate, 400 milioni di euro alle scuole. Valditara: "Il nostro obiettivo è una scuola punto di riferimento per studenti e famiglie tutto l'anno. Si alle sinergie con associazioni ed enti locali," Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 11 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/piano-estate-400-milioni-di-euro-alle-scuole-valditara-il-nostro-obiettivo-e-una-scuola-punto-di-riferimento-per-studenti-e-famiglie-tutto-l-anno-si-a>

education system.³⁰³⁸ This memorandum allows for cooperation between both countries to improve professional training for all students.

On 30 April 2024, the Council of Ministers allocated EUR18.5 million to renew the contracts of fixed-term workers supporting the Agenda South initiative to reduce educational disparities between the North and South of Italy.³⁰³⁹ The funds will, among other initiatives, be allocated towards the building of laboratories in Southern Italian schools to support the development of technical and professional skills.

On 3 May 2024, Minister Valditara signed a decree allocating EUR734.9 to Italian kindergartens, improving the overall quality of education and easing the strain on families associated with maternity leave.³⁰⁴⁰ These actions aim to improve educational accessibility and quality in Italy.

On 7 May 2024, Minister Valditara visited campuses in Alessandria and Piedmont region to promote training on innovative teaching and involve school communities on the challenges of the National Plan of Recovery and Resilience.³⁰⁴¹ The ministry allocated EUR739,714,995.44 for the Piedmont Region and EUR69,567,831.36 for the Alessandria region.

Italy fully complied with its commitment to making progress for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education. Italy has provided platforms for students in Science, Technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to work on hands-on project to strengthen their skills. Italy has funded and supported initiatives such as investing in Southern Italy to narrow educational gaps, supporting teachers in mountain schools, allocating funds for teaching materials to aid economically challenged families, and promoting STEM education with a focus on gender equality to promote inclusive and exclusive education. Additionally, international collaborations, such as with Germany, underscore Italy's commitment to narrowing global disparities in vocational education.

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³⁰³⁸ Memorandum Italia-Tunisia, potenziamento dello studio della lingua italiana e dell'istruzione tecnica. Valditara: "Abbiamo rilanciato la cooperazione per lo sviluppo della formazione tecnica e professionale e per l'incremento dell'italiano," Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 20 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/memorandum-italia-tunisia-potenziamento-dello-studio-della-lingua-italiana-e-dell-istruzione-tecnica-valditara-abbiamo-rilanciato-la-cooperazione-per->

³⁰³⁹ DI Coesione, sì al rinnovo degli incarichi di 6.147 collaboratori scolastici; al via mega piano infrastrutturale. Valditara: "Mantenuto impegno verso i lavoratori a supporto delle scuole per PNRR e Agenda Sud. In campo misure per una scuola più moderna e centrata su studente," Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 30 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 May 2024. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/di-coesione-si-al-rinnovo-degli-incarichi-di-6-147-collaboratori-scolastici-al-via-mega-piano-infrastrutturale>

³⁰⁴⁰ Asili nido, parte nuovo Piano da 734,9 milioni di euro. Valditara: "Il nostro obiettivo è ampliare un servizio fondamentale per i più piccoli, per ridurre le disparità nei punti di partenza, ma anche per le famiglie e in particolare per le donne," Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 3 May 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 May 2024. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/asili-nido-parte-nuovo-piano-da-734-9-milioni-di-euro-valditara-il-nostro-obiettivo-e-ampliare-un-servizio-fondamentale-per-i-piu-piccoli-per-ridurre->

³⁰⁴¹ Scuola Futura, Valditara: "Per scuole del Piemonte da Mim circa 740 milioni di euro di risorse Pnrr". Il Ministro dell'Istruzione e del Merito: "Qui ho incontrato ragazzi entusiasti, scuola sia mezzo per realizzare i loro sogni", Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 7 May 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 7 May 2024. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-futura-valditara-per-scuole-del-piemonte-da-mim-circa-740-milioni-di-euro-di-risorse-pnrr-il-ministro-dell-istruzione-e-del-merito-qui-ho-inc-1>

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Zoba Mobeen

Japan: +1

Japan fully complied with its commitment to making progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.

On 13 June 2023, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida approved the Basic Policies Related to Women 2023, which outlined goals to increase diversity, financial independence and decrease gender-based violence.³⁰⁴² Through this policy, the government aims to implement overall skill programs and to ensure diversity in academia.

On 23 June 2023, the Japanese Diet implemented the Act on Promotion of Public Understanding of Diversity of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (No. 68 of 2023).³⁰⁴³ Japan's government aims to promote gender and sexual orientation diversity in schools as well as building a society of tolerance and coexistence, addressing inclusivity concerns in education.

On 21 July 2023, Japan supported 111 universities and technical colleges with an investment of JPY300 billion for higher education.³⁰⁴⁴ Japan aimed to increase science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates to boost the industrial and technological sector, in part by attracting students through the development of additional scholarships for “middle-income” students. The government also aimed to achieve this whilst increasing the proportion of female students by, for example, increasing female dormitory spaces.

On 25 July 2023, Immigration Services Agency announced the prospective certification of vocational students by the Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ministry, granting these students similar visa rights as university students.³⁰⁴⁵ The certification allows foreign graduates to apply for work visas that allow them to work in a wide variety of sectors.

On 25 September 2023, Japan donated JPY500 million to support Paraguay's sustainable development through their technical capacity and industry.³⁰⁴⁶ The project aims to supply vocational schools and universities with educational equipment to improve skills for the workforce.

On 12 October 2023, Japan provided funding for three classrooms and furniture in a new building at Nabaitavo school district in Fiji to improve student's learning conditions.³⁰⁴⁷ The new classrooms allow younger students to receive quality education while shielded from extreme weather and cold.

³⁰⁴² Joint Meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in Which All Women Shine and the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality, Prime Minister's Office of Japan (Tokyo) 13 June 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023.

https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/actions/202306/13josei.html

³⁰⁴³ 性的指向及びジェンダーアイデンティティの多様性に関する国民の理解の増進に関する法律. e-Gov法令検索 (Tokyo) 23 June 2023.

Translation provided by Google Translate and DeepL. Access Date: 30 November 2023. https://elaws.e-gov.go.jp/document?lawid=505AC1000000068_20230623_000000000000000

³⁰⁴⁴ Japan to give ¥300 billion to universities expanding science education, Japan Times (Tokyo) 21 July 2023. Access Date: 3

November 2023. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/07/21/national/japan-billion-universities-science-education/>

³⁰⁴⁵ Japan to Broaden Employment Options for Intl Students Studying at Vocational Schools, Japan News (Tokyo) 25 July 2023.

Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/politics-government/20230725-125121/>

³⁰⁴⁶ Acto de Suscripción de Acuerdo de Cooperación financiera, Embassy of Japan In Paraguay (Asunción) 10 October 2023.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 November 2023. https://www.py.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00407.html

³⁰⁴⁷ Japan Hands over Two New School Projects in Naitasiri, Embassy of Japan in Fiji (Suva) 12 October 2023. Access Date: 30

November 2023. <https://www.fj.emb-japan.go.jp/files/100574596.pdf>

On 13 October 2023, Japan extended a grant to fund a solar panel for the Al Midan Training Center and the North Autism Center.³⁰⁴⁸ The access to a stable energy source will support the continuation of training opportunities for youth and specialized education opportunities for children with special needs within the region.

On 27 October 2023, Japan signed a contract to support two school construction projects in Peru.³⁰⁴⁹ The projects aim to increase accessibility to education by building schools in rural areas.

On 9 November 2023, Japan and Bangladesh launched a joint vocational training project. The project involves the construction of a building aiming to train over a 1,000 young people.³⁰⁵⁰

On 29 November 2023, Japan signed a grant of around USD65,000 for the construction of new classrooms at Shree Chandrawati Secondary School, Nepal, to create a better education environment with the aim to decrease socio-economic gaps in communities.³⁰⁵¹

On 7 December 2023, Japan announced plans to make tuition free for families with three or more children.³⁰⁵² The proposal is planned to go into effect in 2025. This policy will make education more accessible for students with economic dependents.

On 14 December 2023, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office announced a shift for further strengthening its National Women's Education Center and established a National Center for Gender Equality.³⁰⁵³ The proposal includes regional centers that would implement gender equality policies in local and national governments.

On 22 December 2023, the Cabinet passed a draft budget including JPY5,471.6 billion for Ministry of Education and presented it to the Diet on 26 January 2024.³⁰⁵⁴ The budget allocates approximately JPY600 billion for targeted scholarships and tuition decreases for lower- and middle-class students. The government promised increased financial support for applied research programs and artificial intelligence research. The increased funding is targeted towards young people to support young researchers and families.

On 31 January 2024, Japan signed a USD72,740 grant to the Al Bawadi Company for Development and Training.³⁰⁵⁵ The grant is funding new pottery equipment, and vocational training for unemployed and at-risk individuals, including refugees, youth and disabled people.

³⁰⁴⁸ Japan supports Al Midan Training Center and the North Autism Center through the Installation of a Solar Power System, Embassy of Japan in Lebanon (Beirut) 13 October 2023. Access Date: 20 April 2024. <https://www.lb.emb-japan.go.jp/files/100566579.pdf>

³⁰⁴⁹ Firma de 2 proyectos del programa APC, Embassy of Japan In Peru (Lima) 9 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 November 2023. https://www.pe.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_01708.html

³⁰⁵⁰ Ambassador IWAMA Kiminori Visited the Project Site of Japanese Grant in Habiganj, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh (Dhaka) 9 November 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. https://www.bd.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/11_000001_00858.html

³⁰⁵¹ Japanese Assistance for New Classroom at Shree Chandrawati Secondary School in Udayapur District, Embassy of Japan in Nepal (Kathmandu) 29 November 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. https://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00942.html

³⁰⁵² Japan plans to make university tuition free for large families, Japan Times (Tokyo) 7 December 2023. Access Date: 26 February 2024. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/12/07/japan/society/tuition-free-large-families/>

³⁰⁵³ 独立行政法人国立女性教育会館及び男女共同参画センターの機能の強化及び施設の見直し, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 14 December 2023. Translation provided by DeepL. Access Date: 26 February 2024. https://www.gender.go.jp/kaigi/senmon/keikaku_kanshi/siryo/pdf/ka30-1-2.pdf

³⁰⁵⁴ 令和6年度予算政府案, Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 26 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate and DeepL. Access Date: 26 February 2024. https://www.mof.go.jp/policy/budget/budger_workflow/budget/fy2024/seifuan2024/index.html

³⁰⁵⁵ A Japanese grant of US\$ 72,740 for the provision of pottery production equipment to Al Bawadi Company for Development and Training, Embassy of Japan in Jordan (Amman) 31 January 2024. Access Date: 20 April 2024. <https://www.jordan.emb-japan.go.jp/files/100615631.pdf>

On 10 February 2024, Japan signed a USD16 million dollar grant to fund the construction of a new building at the National University of Samoa.³⁰⁵⁶ The funding is allocated for the university's medical school with plans for giving medical equipment and building a new library and facilities to support the expansion of the National University of Samoa's medical program.

On 15 February 2024, Japan provided additional funding to United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) for children in Ukraine.³⁰⁵⁷ The funds will be used for emergency response education, as well as increased access to formal and non-formal education programming for children.

On 19 February 2024, Japan and Ukraine signed a Memorandum of Cooperation between Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan and Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in the field of education, science, and technology.³⁰⁵⁸ The details have not yet been shared. Japan and Ukraine also signed a tax code, which includes tax exemptions to support students.³⁰⁵⁹

On 20 February 2024, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) extended a JPY10,008 million loan for the construction of a new Medical College Hospital in Nagaland.³⁰⁶⁰ The project will increase access to health care and increase medical education for physicians and specialists.

On 29 February 2024, Japan gave USD6.8 million to UNICEF for Syrian children and youth.³⁰⁶¹ The money will go towards those affected by the earthquakes and increase access to education and safer learning conditions. The funding will promote remedial classes due to school closures as well as digital and self-learning programs. The program supports resolving regional inequalities in education.

On 7 March 2024, JICA signed a JPY14,000 million loan to Rwanda's education sector.³⁰⁶² The funds will support the creation of teacher colleges and classrooms with the goal of increasing enrollment of school age children. The JICA highlights the importance of mathematics, sciences, and digital literacy in education and Japan's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 4, Quality Education.

³⁰⁵⁶ Japan Approves US\$16 million Grant Funding for N.U.S. Faculty of Health Science 2024, Government Press Secretariat of Samoa (Apia) 10 February 2024. Access Date: 26 February 2024. <https://www.samoagovt.ws/2024/02/japan-approves-us16-million-grant-funding-for-n-u-s-faculty-of-health-science-2024/>

³⁰⁵⁷ Japan provides further support to UNICEF strengthening emergency response to children in Ukraine, United Nations Children's Fund Ukraine (Kyiv) 15 February 2024. Access Date: 20 April 2024. <https://www.unicef.org/ukraine/en/press-releases/japan-provides-further-support-to-unicef>

³⁰⁵⁸ Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 19 February 2024. Access Date: 26 February 2024. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100622724.pdf>

³⁰⁵⁹ Convention Between the Government of Japan and the Government of Ukraine for the Elimination of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 19 February 2024. Access Date: 26 February 2024. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100622714.pdf>

³⁰⁶⁰ JICA extends ODA loan of INR 564 crores to the North-Eastern state of Nagaland for the Project for the Establishment of the Medical College Hospital at Nagaland Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Kohima, Japan International Cooperation Agency (New Delhi) 20 February 2024. Access Date: 20 April 2024.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/overseas/india/information/press/2023/20240220_07.html

³⁰⁶¹ Japan contributes US\$6.8 million to enhance access to education and child protection services in crises-affected areas in Syria, United Nations Children's Fund (Damascus) 29 February 2024. Access Date: 20 April 2024.

<https://www.unicef.org/syria/press-releases/japan-contributes-us68-million-enhance-access-education-and-child-protection>

³⁰⁶² Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Rwanda: Contributing to the improvement of children's learning through teacher training, digital transformation, and efforts to reduce grade retention and dropping out, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Kigali) 7 March 2024. Access Date: 20 April 2024.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2023/20240306_21.html

On 10 April 2024, Prime Minister Kishida and President Biden announced a new endowment of USD11 million to promote student exchanges.³⁰⁶³ The funds will be primarily used for high school exchanges as well as university exchanges with a focus on ensuring equitable access to these educational experiences.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to make progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education. Domestically, the government has implemented policies to promote diversity, financial independence for women, and decrease gender-based violence. This includes supporting STEM education and increasing the proportion of female students in higher education. Additionally, Japan has provided funding and support for education projects abroad, such as vocational training in Bangladesh and infrastructure improvements in Fiji, Peru, and Nepal. The Government of Japan continues to support other countries, such as Rwanda, with its loan program as well as increasing education opportunities to children in precarious conditions with its support of UNICEF and its Human Security Projects grant program. These efforts aim to create better education environments around the world by advancing both inclusivity and equity.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ana Grace Rans Kolakovic

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to make progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational education.

On 27 June 2023, the UK Human Rights Ambassador Rita French delivered a statement that highlights the importance of the quality of education provided to children from disadvantaged backgrounds at school.³⁰⁶⁴ French ensured that teachers are given high quality training, allowing for professional development at every stage in their professional career. Additionally, she delivered a statement stating that the UK will create a national system that allows students with Special Education Needs and Disabilities to have access to provisions that will allow them to reach their potential.

On 27 June 2023, the Government of the United Kingdom responded to the Education Committee's third report of session 2022-23.³⁰⁶⁵ In this response, the Government outlined a GBP2.7 billion funding increase for apprenticeship opportunities and GBP40 million in funding for degree apprenticeships. Degree apprenticeships help fund degrees for students otherwise unable to afford degrees.³⁰⁶⁶

On 13 July 2023, the Department for Education announced GBP570 million in funding to support "skills delivery" in education,³⁰⁶⁷ including vocational education.³⁰⁶⁸

³⁰⁶³ Leaders Announce New Mineta Ambassadors Program Exchange Endowment for U.S. and Japanese Students, U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Japan (Washington D.C.) 10 April 2024. Access Date: 20 April 2024. <https://jp.usembassy.gov/leaders-announce-mineta-ambassadors-exchange-for-us-japanese-students/>

³⁰⁶⁴ UN HRC53: Statement on the right to education, Gov.UK (Geneva) 27 June 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/un-hrc53-statement-on-the-right-to-education>

³⁰⁶⁵ The future of post-16 qualifications: Government response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2022-23, UK Parliament (London) 05 July 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5803/cmselect/cmeduc/1673/report.html>

³⁰⁶⁶ Speech: Minister Halfon's speech at the Times Higher Education conference, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 07 December 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/minister-halfons-speech-at-the-times-higher-education-conference>

³⁰⁶⁷ Correspondence: ESFA Update further education: 19 July 2023, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 July 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/esfa-update-19-july-2023/esfa-update-further-education-19-july-2023#information-fe-funding-update>

³⁰⁶⁸ Teacher strikes: Everything you need to know about the 2023/24 teacher pay award, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 13 July 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/07/13/teacher-strikes-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-2023-24-teacher-pay-award/>

On 15 July 2023, the Department for Education announced that two-thirds of over 40,000 students studying and working abroad through the Turing Scheme during the 2023-2024 school year were from disadvantaged backgrounds.³⁰⁶⁹ These opportunities, including vocational education, are paid for by GBP105 million in government funding.

On 1 August 2023, the Department of Education published a Higher Education Policy Statement and Result, following a consultation conducted to citizens about higher education.³⁰⁷⁰ The Secretary of State for Education Gillian Keegan and the Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education Robert Halfon expressed the importance of achieving social justice through improvements in quality education, mentioning the investment of GBP115 million to decrease the national gaps in skills.

On 23 August 2023, the Right Honourable Minister of Parliament Claire Coutinho discussed the government's continued support towards the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) program.³⁰⁷¹ The goal of the SEND program is to facilitate high quality training for staff to ensure an inclusive environment for students in the program, fulfilling their educational needs.

On 19 September 2023, the Department of Education approved the Lifelong Learning Bills which aims to support students across all backgrounds to access loans and be able to pay for university and higher education courses.³⁰⁷² Similarly, the Bill will allow a new method of calculation for the tuition of university courses, which will make shorter courses accessible at a more affordable price. This initiative narrows the gap of educational equity between lower-income prospective students and the population at large.

On 26 October 2023, the Department of Education started an open consultation for citizens to participate in with the purpose of improving non-statutory elective home education.³⁰⁷³ The proposed changes aim to promote equitable quality education for homeschooled students.

On 21 December 2023, the Department of Education announced the publication of the curriculum for the new British Sign Language (BSL) GCSE.³⁰⁷⁴ Encouraging the learning and use of BSL in the education system makes it more inclusive for students and staff with impaired hearing.

On 30 January 2024, the Department of Education announced a framework to improve teacher training by providing more support during training years.³⁰⁷⁵ This initiative aims to ensure high quality education for students by providing teachers with the necessary early training.

On 4 February 2024, the Department of Education launched a program to facilitate the process by which teachers receive apprenticeships to ensure they can provide quality education.³⁰⁷⁶ This program accounts for

³⁰⁶⁹ Press Release: Disadvantaged students to benefit from government's Turing Scheme, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 July 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/disadvantaged-students-to-benefit-from-governments-turing-scheme>

³⁰⁷⁰ Higher Education Policy Statement and Result, Department for Education (London) 1 August 2023. Access Date: 13 November 2023.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1188231/CP876_Higher_Education_policy_statement_and_reform_government_consultation_response_web_.pdf

³⁰⁷¹ More Support for children with special educational needs, GOV.UK (London) 23 August 2023. Access Date: 24 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-support-for-children-with-special-educational-needs>

³⁰⁷² Transformative student finance bill becomes law, Gov.Uk (London) 22 September 2023. Access Date: 13 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/transformative-student-finance-bill-becomes-law>

³⁰⁷³ Elective home education guidance review, Gov.Uk (London) 26 October 2023. Access Date: 13 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/elective-home-education-guidance-review>

³⁰⁷⁴ New British Sign Language GCSE heading for classrooms, GOV.UK (London) 21 December 2023. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-british-sign-language-gcse-heading-for-classrooms>

³⁰⁷⁵ New framework to support trainee and early career teachers, GOV.UK (London) 30 January 2024. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-framework-to-support-trainee-and-early-career-teachers>

³⁰⁷⁶ New teaching apprenticeship set to transform pathway to classroom, GOV.UK (London) 4 February 2024. Access Date: 24 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-teaching-apprenticeship-set-to-transform-pathway-to-classroom>

flexibility and accessibility for students, increasing the possibilities for students to receive a higher quality education from future educators.

On 21 March 2024, Minister Halfon delivered a speech outlining initiatives to support lifelong education programs.³⁰⁷⁷ Lifelong education closes the gaps in educational quality for adults who have been disadvantaged such that they did not receive equitable-quality education in their youth.

On 26 March 2024, the Department of Education and Secretary Keegan announced the distribution GBP850 million to create over 60,000 places for students with special needs, investing in schools for all students to receive high quality education regardless of abilities.³⁰⁷⁸

On 23 April 2024, the Department of Education announced GBP200 million in funding for teacher pay, to recruit and retain staff in STEM and technical education.³⁰⁷⁹ Technical subjects provide students with vocational skills.

On 9 May 2024, the Department of Education announced that new schools providing dedicated support for over 2,000 children with special educational needs and disabilities are to open in 16 areas across England. This is to help to increase capacity for pupils in special schools, who were decreasing from 1997 to 2010.³⁰⁸⁰

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to making progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education. The UK has invested in programs and enacted policies promoting inclusive and equitable quality education, with these measures applying to vocational education on more than one occasion. With measures to support those with special educational needs and disabilities, adults in lifelong education programs, regionally disadvantaged students, and vocational training programs, the United Kingdom has addressed inclusive and equitable quality education in many ways.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Zoha Mobeen

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to making progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational training.

On 5 September 2023, the Department of Education announced that it would host the “Teach to Lead Summit” and the “Conference on Equity in Opportunity” to foster dialogue about the utility of a diverse workforce in education.³⁰⁸¹

On 13 September 2023, the Department of Education announced USD21 Million in funding to assist schools’ Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).³⁰⁸² MTSS helps identify unique student needs and cater to otherwise

³⁰⁷⁷ Minister Halfon's speech at the Skills Matter Event, GOV.UK (London) 21 March 2024. Access Date: 24 April 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/minister-halfons-speech-at-the-skills-matter-event>

³⁰⁷⁸ Government delivering on 60,000 more special needs places, GOV.UK (London) 26 March 2024. Access Date: 24 April 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-delivering-on-60000-more-special-needs-places>

³⁰⁷⁹ Teachers to get up to £6000 extra to teach vital subjects, GOV.UK (London) 23 April 2024. Access Date: 3 May 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/teachers-to-get-up-to-6000-extra-to-teach-vital-subjects>

³⁰⁸⁰ Government expands support for pupils with SEND, GOV.UK (London) 9 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/teachers-to-get-up-to-6000-extra-to-teach-vital-subjects>

³⁰⁸¹ U.S. Department of Education to Promote Educator Diversity Through National Convenings, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 5 September 2023. Access Date: 15 November 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-promote-educator-diversity-through-national-convenings>

³⁰⁸² FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Build on Work to Accelerate Learning and Improve Student Achievement, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 13 September 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023.

<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-build-work-accelerate-learning-and-improve-student-achievement>

struggling groups of students, making education more inclusive and of equitable quality for students with those needs. Likewise, the Department pledged USD50 million in new grants to support states and educational partners in developing and implementing evidence-based literacy interventions and supports. These grants support school districts and communities in promoting equitable access to high-quality reading instruction and resources for all students.³⁰⁸³

On 6 October 2023, the Department of Education announced that technical assistance centers will receive over USD20 million to support state and local initiatives aimed at improving school safety, academic performance, and student well-being.³⁰⁸⁴ This assistance aims to improve learning, address students' mental health needs, and increase academic opportunity, increasing quality of education of skills and vocation at schools.³⁰⁸⁵

On 12 October 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced approximately USD 13 million in grants to 34 higher education institutions to aid campus-based childcare programs.³⁰⁸⁶ These grants aim to provide better support at these daycare programs, which will make education more accessible and inclusive for student parents.³⁰⁸⁷

On 17 October 2023, the Department of Education announced new awards of USD11 million to support the new Native American Language Resource Centers, the Native American Teacher Retention Initiative, and the State Tribal Education Partnership programs.³⁰⁸⁸ This funding aims to facilitate initiatives that encourage coordination and collaboration among tribal, state, and local educational agencies to address the needs of Native students.³⁰⁸⁹

On 19 October 2023, the Department of Education and the Fostering Diverse Schools Demonstration Program awarded USD14 million in grants to support voluntary efforts to create more diverse school communities locally and across states.³⁰⁹⁰ These grants aim to help districts in their efforts to enhance educational experiences by providing students quality education within an inclusive environment more conducive for learning.

On 25 October 2023, the Department of Education announced awards valued at almost USD115 million to increase educator diversity and combat staff shortages that disproportionately affect students from minority

³⁰⁸³ Education Dept. opens fund to boost research IT at minority-serving institutions, EdScoop (Washington) 3 August 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://edscoop.com/education-department-research-infrastructure-federal-funding/>

³⁰⁸⁴ The Biden-Harris Administration Announces Technical Assistance Centers to Accelerate Learning and Support Student Wellbeing, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 6 October 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-technical-assistance-centers-accelerate-learning-and-support-student-wellbeing>

³⁰⁸⁵ U.S. Department of Education Announces Technical Assistance Centers to Accelerate Learning and Support Student Wellbeing, National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments" (Arlington) 6 October 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/news/us-department-of-education-announces-technical-assistance-centers-accelerate-learning-and-support>

³⁰⁸⁶ Biden-Harris Administration Awards More Than \$13 Million to Improve Access to Child Care for Student Parents, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 12 October 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-awards-more-13-million-improve-access-child-care-student-parents>

³⁰⁸⁷ Department of Education to Award More Than \$13 Million for Campus-Based Childcare Programs, Diverse Issues in Higher Education (Fairfax) 13 October 2023. Access Date: October 2023. <https://www.diverseeducation.com/student-issues/article/15636442/departement-of-education-to-award-more-than-13-million-for-campusbased-childcare-programs>

³⁰⁸⁸ Biden-Harris Administration Awards More Than \$11 Million to Preserve Native Languages, Increase Native Teacher Retention, and Support Tribal Educational Agencies, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 17 October 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-awards-more-11-million-preserve-native-languages-increase-native-teacher-retention-and-support-tribal-educational-agencies>

³⁰⁸⁹ US Department of Education Announces \$11 Million for Native American Programs, Native News Online (Grand Rapids) 19 October 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://nativenewsonline.net/education/us-department-of-education-announces-11-million-for-native-american-programs>

³⁰⁹⁰ Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$14 Million Under First-Ever Fostering Diverse Schools Demonstration Grant Program, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 19 October 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-awards-14-million-under-first-ever-fostering-diverse-schools-demonstration-grant-program>

groups.³⁰⁹¹ This support aims to provide educators with skills training irrespective of background, fostering a welcoming environment for all students portrayed by the educators' diversity.

On 9 November 2023, the Department of Education committed to facilitating student transfers and increase diversity in the students' search for new educational opportunities.³⁰⁹² This commitment aims to support transfer and community college students who wish to diversify their education and achieve higher quality education.

On 28 November 2023, the Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services announced the update of a joint Policy Statement on the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs.³⁰⁹³ This update aims to highlight the urgency of including children with disabilities in early quality education programs.

On 5 December 2023, the Department of Education announced USD277 million in grant awards to improve educational equity and innovation, as a part of the Education Innovation and Research program.³⁰⁹⁴ The awards will fund various programs for various disadvantaged schooling communities, such as in rural areas.

On 6 December 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration approved USD4.8 billion in student debt relief for 80,000 individuals who had taken on loans for their education.³⁰⁹⁵ Loan forgiveness reduces education quality gaps between potential students with different financial capacities.

On 8 December 2023, the Department of Education announced USD93 million in grant awards to support underserved student groups, including funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions.³⁰⁹⁶ This funding reduces inequality in education for the targeted groups.

On 22 December 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced USD44.5 million as a part of the Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development grant program.³⁰⁹⁷ This funding helps bridge the gap between urban and rural educational quality.

³⁰⁹¹ U.S. Department of Education Awards Nearly \$115 Million to Help Increase Educator Compensation and Promote Educator Diversity, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 25 October 2023. Access Date: 15 November 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-awards-nearly-115-million-help-increase-educator-compensation-and-promote-educator-diversity>

³⁰⁹² Biden-Harris Administration Convenes Higher Education Leaders to Improve Student Transfer to Increase Completion of College Degrees, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 9 November 2023. Access Date: 7 December 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-convenes-higher-education-leaders-improve-student-transfer-increase-completion-college-degrees>

³⁰⁹³ Biden-Harris Administration Announces Updated Resource to Support the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 28 November 2023. Access Date: 7 December 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-updated-resource-support-inclusion-children-disabilities-early-childhood-programs>

³⁰⁹⁴ Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$277 Million In Education Innovation and Research Grants to Help Address Academic Recovery, U.S. Department of Education (Washington, D.C.) 5 December 2023. Access Date: 27 March 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-277-million-education-innovation-and-research-grants-help-address-academic-recovery>

³⁰⁹⁵ Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$5 Billion in Additional Student Debt Relief, U.S. Department of Education (Washington, D.C.) 6 December 2023. Access Date: 27 March 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-nearly-5-billion-additional-student-debt-relief>

³⁰⁹⁶ Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$93 Million in Grants to Support Research and Development at HBCUs, TCCUs and MSIs, and Postsecondary Completion for Underserved Students, U.S. Department of Education (Washington, D.C.) 8 December 2023. Access Date: 27 March 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-93-million-grants-support-research-and-development-hbcus-tccus-and-msis-and-postsecondary-completion-underserved-students>

³⁰⁹⁷ Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$44.5 Million to Improve Postsecondary Education Access and Completion for Students in Rural Communities, U.S. Department of Education (Washington, D.C.) 22 December 2023. Access Date: 27 March 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-awards-445-million-improve-postsecondary-education-access-and-completion-students-rural-communities>

On 4 January 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration announced USD47 million in infrastructural spending aimed at reducing inequity in educational access.³⁰⁹⁸

On 11 January 2024, the Department of Education announced USD6 million in grants to support student mental health in districts with community violence. This funding combats unequally distributed barriers to education and safety in schools.³⁰⁹⁹

On 19 January 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration approved USD4.9 billion in student debt relief for 73,600 individuals who had taken on loans for their education.³¹⁰⁰ Loan forgiveness reduces education quality gaps between potential students with different financial capacities.

On 22 January 2024, the Department of Education released its annual National Educational Technology Plan which provides suggestions for addressing disparities in technology and closing three divides defined as the digital use, design, and access divide. This plan aims to use technology for facilitating access to educational opportunities for students.

On 24 January 2024, the Department of Education published USD25 million in grant awards for various education programs, including vocational and work-based programs.³¹⁰¹ The programs also focus on assisting underserved students.

On 21 February 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration approved USD1.2 billion in loan forgiveness to almost 153,000 individuals who had taken on loans for their education.³¹⁰² Loan forgiveness reduces education quality gaps between potential students with different financial capacities.

On 29 February 2024, the Department of Education opened grant competition applications for the “School-Based Mental Health” and “Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration” programs³¹⁰³. These programs will expand student access to mental health supports, including through an increasing number of mental health professionals, assisting otherwise disadvantaged students experiencing mental health issues.

On 14 March 2024, the Department of Education announced over USD2 million in Project School Emergency Response to Violence grants to the Hawaii State Department of Education to aid in recovery efforts following the wildfires that ravaged Maui Island in August 2023.³¹⁰⁴ These grants will provide otherwise unattainable

³⁰⁹⁸ Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$47 Million in New Funding to Support School Infrastructure Investments, U.S. Department of Education (Washington, D.C.) 4 January 2024. Access Date: 27 March 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-47-million-new-funding-support-school-infrastructure-investments>

³⁰⁹⁹ Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$6 Million in New Grants to Address Community Violence and its Impacts on Student Mental Health, U.S. Department of Education (Washington, D.C.) 11 January 2024. Access Date: 27 March 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-more-6-million-new-grants-address-community-violence-and-its-impacts-student-mental-health>

³¹⁰⁰ Biden-Harris Administration Announces Additional \$4.9 Billion in Approved Student Debt Relief, U.S. Department of Education (Washington, D.C.) 19 January 2024. Access Date: 27 March 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-additional-49-billion-approved-student-debt-relief>

³¹⁰¹ Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$25M in Grant Awards to Advance Career Connected High Schools, U.S. Department of Education (Washington, D.C.) 24 January 2024. Access Date: 27 March 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-25m-grant-awards-advance-career-connected-high-schools>

³¹⁰² Biden-Harris Administration Approves \$1.2 Billion in Loan Forgiveness for Over 150,000 SAVE Plan Borrowers, U.S. Department of Education (Washington, D.C.) 21 February 2024. Access Date: 27 March 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-approves-12-billion-loan-forgiveness-over-150000-save-plan-borrowers>

³¹⁰³ U.S. Department of Education Opens Applications for Two K-12 Mental Health Programs to Increase the Number of Mental Health Providers in Schools, U.S. Department of Education (Washington, D.C.) 29 February 2024. Access Date: 27 March 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-opens-applications-two-k-12-mental-health-programs-increase-number-mental-health-providers-schools>

³¹⁰⁴ Biden-Harris Administration Delivers Over \$2 Million in Emergency Funds to Support Maui, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 14 March 2024. Access Date: 17 March 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-delivers-over-2-million-emergency-funds-support-maui-schools>

resources for educational facilities to better recover from the disruptions caused by the wildfires and to continue providing quality education for the students.

On 21 March 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration approved USD5.8 billion in extra student loan debt relief, benefiting 77,700 borrowers engaged in public service.³¹⁰⁵ Hence, the total loan forgiveness authorized by the administration amounts to USD143.6 billion, benefiting almost four million Americans. Loan forgiveness reduces education quality gaps between potential students with different financial capacities.

On 28 March 2024, the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, inaugurated the Government Coordinating Council to establish a nationwide initiative to increase cybersecurity measures within K-12 educational institutions.³¹⁰⁶ Effective cybersecurity measures within K-12 educational institutions nationwide fosters a safe learning environment for students conducive to inclusive learning.

On 10 April 2024, President Biden and Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced a new endowment of USD11 million to promote student exchanges.³¹⁰⁷ The funds will be primarily used for high school exchanges as well as university exchanges with a focus on ensuring equitable access to these educational experiences.

On 12 April 2024 the Biden-Harris Administration authorized USD7.4 billion in extra student loan debt relief, benefiting 277,000 borrowers enrolled in President Biden's Saving on a Valuable Education Plan. With this announcement, the total loan forgiveness authorized by the administration amounts to USD153 billion, benefitting 4.3 million Americans.³¹⁰⁸

On 1 May 2024 the Biden-Harris Administration authorized USD6.1 billion in student loan debt relief, benefiting 317,000 borrowers.³¹⁰⁹ With this announcement, the total loan forgiveness authorized by the administration amounts to USD160 billion, benefitting almost 3.6 million Americans.

On 6 May 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration announced up to USD50 million for grantees to support organizations with demonstrated experience expanding college access and enrollment. This is part of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Student Support Strategy to help school districts, state, non-profits and other public and private organizations with efforts to boost FAFSA completion.³¹¹⁰

On 7 May 2024, the Department of Education released a Dear Colleague Letter to schools specifying with concrete examples the application of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to allegations of discrimination in schools based on shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics, including discrimination against students and school

³¹⁰⁵ Biden-Harris Administration Approves Additional \$5.8 Billion in Student Debt Relief for 78,000 Public Service Workers, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 21 March 2024. Access Date: 30 March 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-approves-additional-58-billion-student-debt-relief-78000-public-service-workers>

³¹⁰⁶ U.S. Department of Education Launches Government Coordinating Council to Strengthen Cybersecurity in Schools, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 28 March 2024. Access Date: 30 March 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-launches-government-coordinating-council-strengthen-cybersecurity-schools>

³¹⁰⁷ Leaders Announce New Mineta Ambassadors Program Exchange Endowment for U.S. and Japanese Students, U.S. Embassy & Consulates in Japan (Washington D.C.) 10 April 2024. Access Date: 20 April 2024. <https://jp.usembassy.gov/leaders-announce-mineta-ambassadors-exchange-for-us-japanese-students/>

³¹⁰⁸ Biden-Harris Administration Announces Additional \$7.4 Billion in Approved Student Debt Relief for 277,000 Borrowers, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 12 April 2024. Access Date: 30 March 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-additional-74-billion-approved-student-debt-relief-277000-borrowers>

³¹⁰⁹ Biden-Harris Administration Approves \$6.1 Billion Group Student Loan Discharge for 317,000 Borrowers Who Attended The Art Institutes, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 1 May 2024. Access Date: 3 May 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-approves-61-billion-group-student-loan-discharge-317000-borrowers-who-attended-art-institutes>

³¹¹⁰ U.S. Department of Education Launches Next Phase of FAFSA Support Strategy to Boost Completion Rate Among High School Students, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 6 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-launches-next-phase-fafsa-support-strategy-boost-completion-rate-among-high-school-students>

community members who are or are perceived to be Jewish, Israeli, Muslim, Arab, Sikh, South Asian, Hindu, or Palestinian.³¹¹¹

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to making progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, including vocational training. Initiatives such as the Education Innovation and Research program, student debt relief, and grants for underserved student groups and mental health support demonstrate a commitment to reducing educational disparities. Funding for rural education and infrastructure, along with efforts to address technology disparities, further support inclusivity.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Emily Carlucci

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to make progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, including in vocational education.

On 15 June 2023, the European Commission and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine signed an agreement recognizing the importance of education in Ukraine.³¹¹² The agreement establishes Ukrainian involvement in European Union working groups, recognition of Ukrainian academic qualifications and further integration through cooperation and Erasmus+ programs. This agreement attempts to maintain equitable education access for Ukrainians, despite the ongoing conflict.

On 20 June 2023, the Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain facilitated a week-long visit of Omani officials to Germany to study European approaches to Technical and Vocational Education and Training.³¹¹³

On 3 July 2023, the European Union allocated EUR66 million to support Niger's education policy.³¹¹⁴ The funds will close the gender gap in education and increasing women and girls' access to education, as well as investing in teachers.

On 20 July 2023, the European Union and Benin signed a new deal aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.³¹¹⁵ The EUR63.75 million fund includes funds for social and economic improvements. The Benin government aims to use funds to promote human rights and gender equality through technical and vocational education and training.

³¹¹¹ U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights Reminds Schools of Their Legal Obligation to Address Discrimination Based on Shared Ancestry and Ethnic Characteristics, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 7 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024, <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-educations-office-civil-rights-reminds-schools-their-legal-obligation-address-discrimination-based-shared-ancestry-and-ethnic-characteristics>

³¹¹² ARRANGEMENT FOR COOPERATION ON EDUCATION between the European Commission and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, European Commission, (Kyiv) 15 June 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. https://eu-solidarity-ukraine.ec.europa.eu/document/7feb877e-3cc0-4302-94f3-d3436aee293f_en

³¹¹³ The European Union and Oman cooperate on Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman (Riyadh) 20 June 2023. Access Date: 22 October 2023. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/saudi-arabia/european-union-and-oman-cooperate-technical-and-vocational-education-and-training_en

³¹¹⁴ Global Gateway: EU strengthens partnership with Niger with a €66 million investment in education, European Commission, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (Brussels) 3 July 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/global-gateway-eu-strengthens-partnership-niger-eu66-million-investment-education-2023-07-03_en

³¹¹⁵ Global Gateway: EU strengthens partnership with Benin through launch of Budget Support programme (Brussels) 20 July 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/global-gateway-eu-strengthens-partnership-benin-through-launch-budget-support-programme-2023-07-20_en

On 3 August 2023, the European Commission invested EUR115.3 million to support education programs in non-EU countries worldwide.³¹¹⁶ Higher education stakeholders will use these funds to improve educational quality in various regions worldwide, including matters of inclusivity and equitable education quality for marginalized groups.

On 23 August 2023, the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a cooperation agreement including an EUR8.5 million grant to support the implementation of Ukraine's Vocational Education and Training Project.³¹¹⁷ The project highlights the importance of supporting young people and creating an inclusive reconstruction of the education system.

On 19 October 2023, the European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen with Minister of Budget and Economic Planning of Nigeria Abubakar Atiku Bagudu allocated EUR5.4 million to education in Nigeria from the Global Gateway program.³¹¹⁸ The Nigerian-EU partnership aims to develop and support education in North Western Nigeria.

On 25 October 2023, the EU promised EUR30 million in fiscal support to Tajikistan to enhance vocational education and training, with a focus on empowering local youth, women, and returnee migrants.³¹¹⁹ The funding aims to promote employment in key sectors like agriculture, energy, and green and digital industries.

On 26 October 2023, the EIB announced EUR10 million in funding for schools, including technical divisions, and education in Armenia.³¹²⁰ The funding is focused on the Syunik region and includes transportation from rural areas to the school. This addresses equal access concerns for rural Armenians.

On 28 November 2023, the European Commission announced EUR4.3 billion for Erasmus+ programming.³¹²¹ The new proposal guidelines emphasize funding for mobility from rural areas and continued support for Ukrainians.

On 7 December 2023, the European Investment Bank announced a EUR110 million loan to help build two new campuses for vocational training and adult education in Helsinki.³¹²² The new campuses will support Finland's ability to implement new education reforms with a focus on integrating youth and adult training, as well as create a more dynamic workforce.

³¹¹⁶ Erasmus+: 159 projects selected to modernise higher education worldwide, European Commission, Press Release (Brussels) 03 08 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_4007

³¹¹⁷ EU and EIB continue helping Ukraine build modern vocational education infrastructure, European Investment Bank, (Luxembourg) 23 August 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-299-eu-and-eib-continue-helping-ukraine-build-modern-vocational-education-infrastructure>

³¹¹⁸ Global Gateway: Commissioner Urpilainen launches a major EU package to drive education, energy and transport programmes across Nigeria, Press and information team of the Delegation to Nigeria (Abuja) 19 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/nigeria/global-gateway-commissioner-urpilainen-launches-major-eu-package-drive-education-energy-and_en?s=114

³¹¹⁹ Global Gateway Forum: EU boosts employment in Tajikistan with €30 million in budget support, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (Brussels) 25 October 2023. Access Date: 28 November 2023. https://global-gateway-forum.ec.europa.eu/news/global-gateway-forum-eu-boosts-employment-tajikistan-eu30-million-budget-support-2023-10-25_en

³¹²⁰ Armenia: Global Gateway Forum - EU announces over €10 million to support education opportunities, European investment Bank (Luxembourg) 26 October 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-395-global-gateway-forum-eu-announces-over-eur-10-million-to-support-education-opportunities-in-armenia>

³¹²¹ €4.3 billion under Erasmus+ to support mobility and cooperation in education, training, youth and sport in 2024, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6098

³¹²² Finland: EIB finances new school campuses in Helsinki, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 7 December 2023. Access Date: 27 February 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-500-eib-finances-new-school-campuses-in-helsinki>

On 13 December 2023, the European Commission pledged to support the new Tirana, Albania, campus of the College of Europe, by offering scholarship funding to students.³¹²³ The European Commission aims to use the college to integrate the Balkans into the European Union.

On 20 December 2023, the European Investment Bank signed a PLN244 million agreement to support Jagiellonian University's medical school.³¹²⁴ The funding will go towards new medical facilities and medical research.

On 22 February 2024, the European Investment Bank announced a EUR18.5 million loan and EUR2.5 million grant to build and renovate Montenegrin schools.³¹²⁵ The European Investment Bank estimates 1,700 spots for new students and 530 new jobs in vocational, kindergarten, primary and secondary schools. The project aims to create a digitally literate and higher skilled workforce.

On 20 March 2024, the European Commission proposed a new framework for traineeships in the European Union.³¹²⁶ The proposal aims to create fair working conditions, equitable access to traineeship opportunities, promote worker safety and improve career guidance.

On 20 March 2024, the European Investment Bank gave a EUR100 million loan to Investitionsbank des Landes Brandenburg (ILB) to modernize and digitize schools in Brandenburg.³¹²⁷ The primary goals of the ILB are to improve digital literacy skills of students, ensure proper digital training for teachers, and provide better education in vocational schools.

On 5 April 2024, the European Investment Bank gave a EUR45 million loan to renovate engineering school Centrale Supélec.³¹²⁸ The loan will support an increase in laboratories for students, research projects, and access to business opportunities.

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to make progress to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, including in vocational education. The EU has demonstrated an interest in supporting and funding education programs across the world that reduces regional, and gender disparities. The EU funds go towards education to support the development of teachers and other employment groups. Through its relationship with private organizations and member states, the European Investment Bank is taking a strong position to fund education development in regions across the world. The European Commission has proposed frameworks to support vocational traineeships in Europe, increased funding for the Erasmus programs and funds international projects to support the development of education globally.

³¹²³ EU and Western Balkans offer scholarships for the Tirana campus of the College of Europe, European Council (Brussels) 13 December 2023. Access Date: 27 February 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/12/13/eu-and-western-balkans-offer-scholarships-for-the-tirana-campus-of-the-college-of-europe/>

³¹²⁴ Poland: EIB to finance upgrade of Collegium Medicum at Jagiellonian University, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 13 December 2023. Access Date: 27 February 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-539-poland-eib-to-finance-upgrade-of-collegium-medicum-at-jagiellonian-university>

³¹²⁵ Montenegro: €11 million EU grant for modern education infrastructure, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 22 February 2024. Access Date: 27 February 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-081-montenegro-eur11-million-eu-grant-for-modern-education-infrastructure>

³¹²⁶ Improving the quality of traineeships in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2024. Access Date: 20 April 2024. https://commission.europa.eu/news/improving-quality-traineeships-eu-2024-03-20_en

³¹²⁷ Germany: EIB and ILB back school building projects in Brandenburg, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 20 March 2024. Access Date: 20 April 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-119-eib-and-ilb-back-school-building-projects-in-brandenburg>

³¹²⁸ France: EIB backs renovation of Bréguet building, CentraleSupélec's future innovation showcase, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 5 April 2024. Access Date: 20 April 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-136-la-bei-soutient-la-renovation-du-batiment-breguet-future-vitrine-de-l-innovation-a-centralesupelec>

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

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