

4.1.3. Enhance the quality of education and teaching profession, by improving quality and relevance of continuous professional development of teachers, implementation of the system for teacher licensing, undertaking quality review of textbooks, and improving efficiency of school performance evaluation.

Summary of checks performed by relevant authorities on the steps for which funding is requested, including weaknesses identified and any corrective actions taken

In accordance with the national legal framework on public internal control, financial management and internal audit, the RGF Regulation and the applicable Commission Implementing Decision, the competent authorities conducted a comprehensive verification process for this reform step.

This included the systematic collection and review of relevant evidence by the Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship, Trade and Innovation (MIETI), with internal audit units exercising their functions in accordance with their mandate. The checks and verifications were performed through the relevant layers of the control system, including the units responsible for implementation of this reform step, the Reform Agenda coordination unit in MIETI, and the Secretary General of the Ministry.

The Reform Agenda coordination structures within the Office of the Prime Minister carried out additional checks and verifications to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the reported information and supporting evidence.

The step under review	Adoption of revised curriculum for grades 1-5; Adoption of revised curriculum for grades 6-10 and 70% of textbooks and teaching materials according to pre-university education levels. (KESP 2.7.2); At least 50% of schools undergo internal and external assessments (KESP 2.2.3).
Baseline	1. Curricula not revised 2. Curricula not revised 3. 0% 4. 7%
Deadline of the step	June 2026
Actual results	This reform consists of two elements, the adoption of revised curricula and textbooks and internal and external school assessments. 1. Adoption of the revised curriculum for grades 1–5; adoption of the revised curriculum for grades 6–10; and revision of 70% of textbooks and teaching materials according to pre-university education levels (KESP 2.7.2) To date, 107 textbooks have been reviewed by trained review teams using established criteria and descriptors. The teams prepared detailed reports identifying the strengths and weaknesses of each textbook and providing recommendations for revision. Of these, 38 Albanian language and mathematics textbooks for grades 1–9 have already been revised, and the updated versions were made available to students for the 2024–2025 school year. The remaining textbooks are planned to be used in the following school years. In total, the analyses and recommendations amount to approximately 3,000 pages. Between October and November 2026, additional reviewer training sessions are planned, followed by the revision of textbooks covering approximately 70% of those

	currently in use. The process is expected to continue during November and December 2026 and ultimately cover nearly 80% of textbooks. All analysis reports and recommendations will be submitted to publishers, which will then prepare and release the updated versions. 2. At least 50% of schools undergo internal and external assessments (KESP 2.2.3) A number of schools have already undergone internal and external evaluations, while further evaluations remain to be completed. Assessment teams, led by the Education Inspectorate, have been assigned to specific schools and have prepared assessment plans. As implementation is still ongoing, more detailed information on this reporting cycle is not yet available.
Evidence provided	Not applicable at this reporting cycle. Evidence will be provided in the next reporting.
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	During the verification of this reform step, all relevant evidence was reviewed and summarised in the control checklist, while all supporting documents were properly stored to ensure a complete audit trail. The conducted checks and verifications confirmed that: • all required documents, as specified in Annex 1 of the Reform Agenda, were provided and attached to this report; • the submitted evidence is consistent with the description and requirements of the reform step set out in the Commission Implementing Decision; • the submitted documentation confirms the fulfilment of the reform step; • the submitted documentation confirms the period in which the reform step was fulfilled. Based on the checks and verifications conducted, the evidence provided confirms the progress of the reform step and the relevant implementation period. No related findings were identified.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of this step does not contravene/contravenes the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of this step does not contravene/contravenes the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	There are no contributions from third parties in support of the achievement of this step.
Prospects of the achievement of the step within the grace period	Despite this progress, the reform step has not yet reached the required targets. Completion of this reform step within the grace period, by June 2027, will require strengthened coordination, sustained implementation efforts and active engagement of all relevant institutions.