

For the Future: International Conference on
Vocational Education and Training Development
Beijing, China
December 5th, 2019

Vocational Education and Training in Italy



Fondazione
Agnelli

Andrea Gavosto
fondazioneagnelli.it



The Fondazione Agnelli

Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli was set up in 1966 in memory of the founder of Fiat «Giovanni Agnelli».

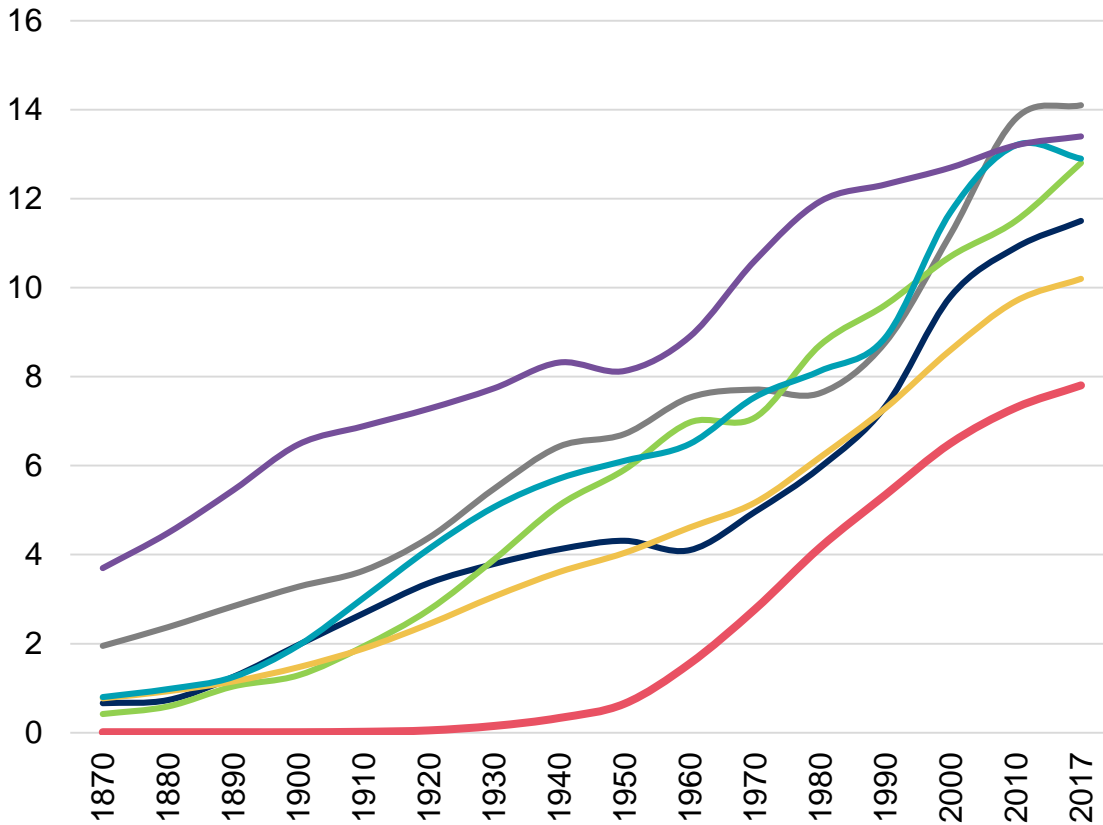
It is a research and advocacy foundation, and its mission is: «to research in depth and spread knowledge about the conditions on which Italy's economic, scientific, social and cultural progress depends»

From the Fondazione Agnelli by-law

Since 2008 the Fondazione has focussed on **education**



Italian Education: Increase of Years of School over Time



Average Number of Years of School in Selected Countries

Since the unification of the country, Italian education levels have almost caught up with other Oecd countries in terms of years of school.

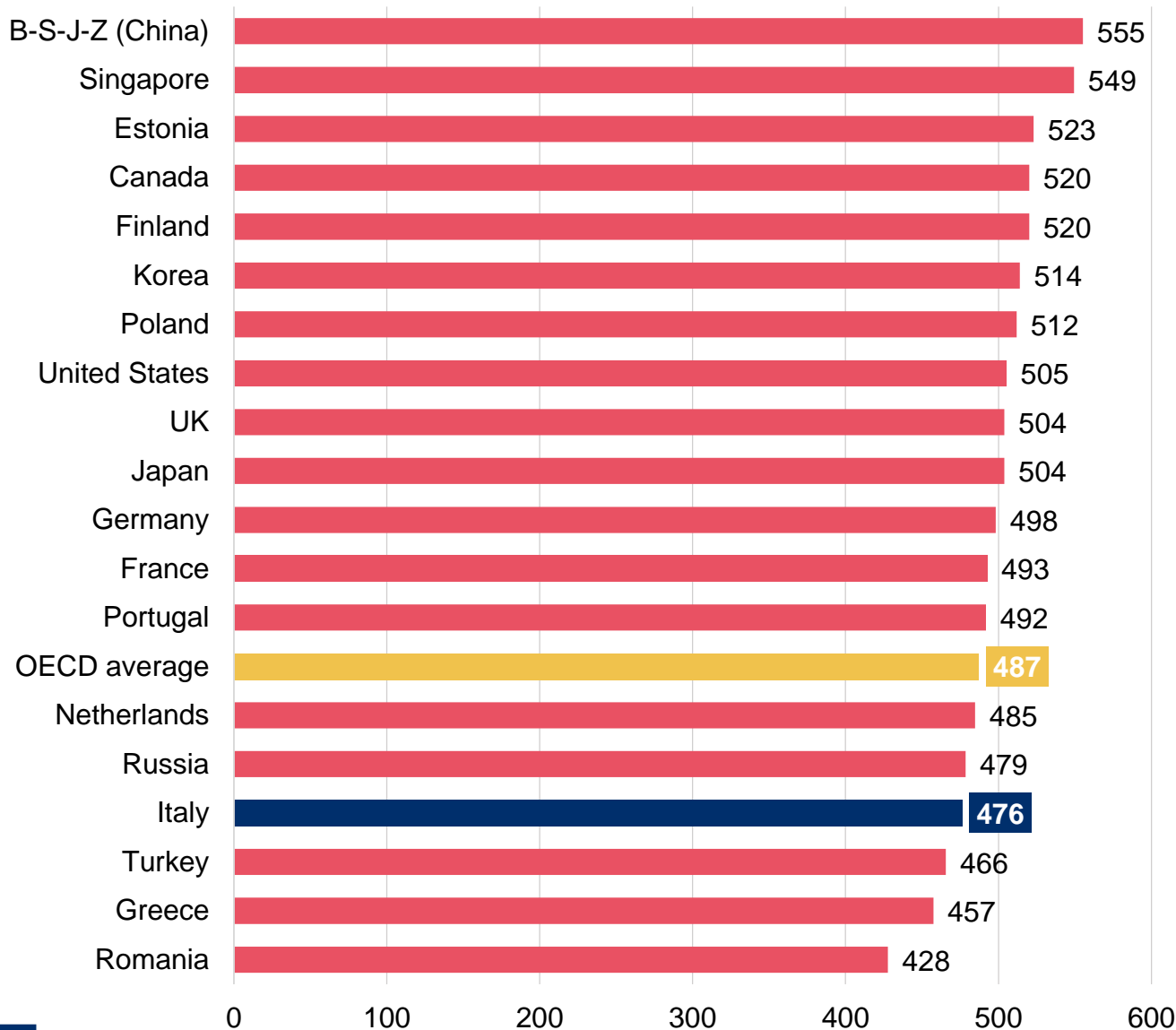
A massive surge took place in the aftermath of WWII.

Large geographic differences still remain, especially in the South part of the country

Source: Lee-Lee (2016), Barro-Lee (2018) and Undp (2018)



Italian Education: Achievements.



PISA scores in 2018
(grade 10)

According to Pisa 2018 data, just released, Italian 15-yrs old are between 23^o and 29th place for literacy. They are also very weak in science.

Source: Pisa 2018



Italian Education: Vocational Education and Training

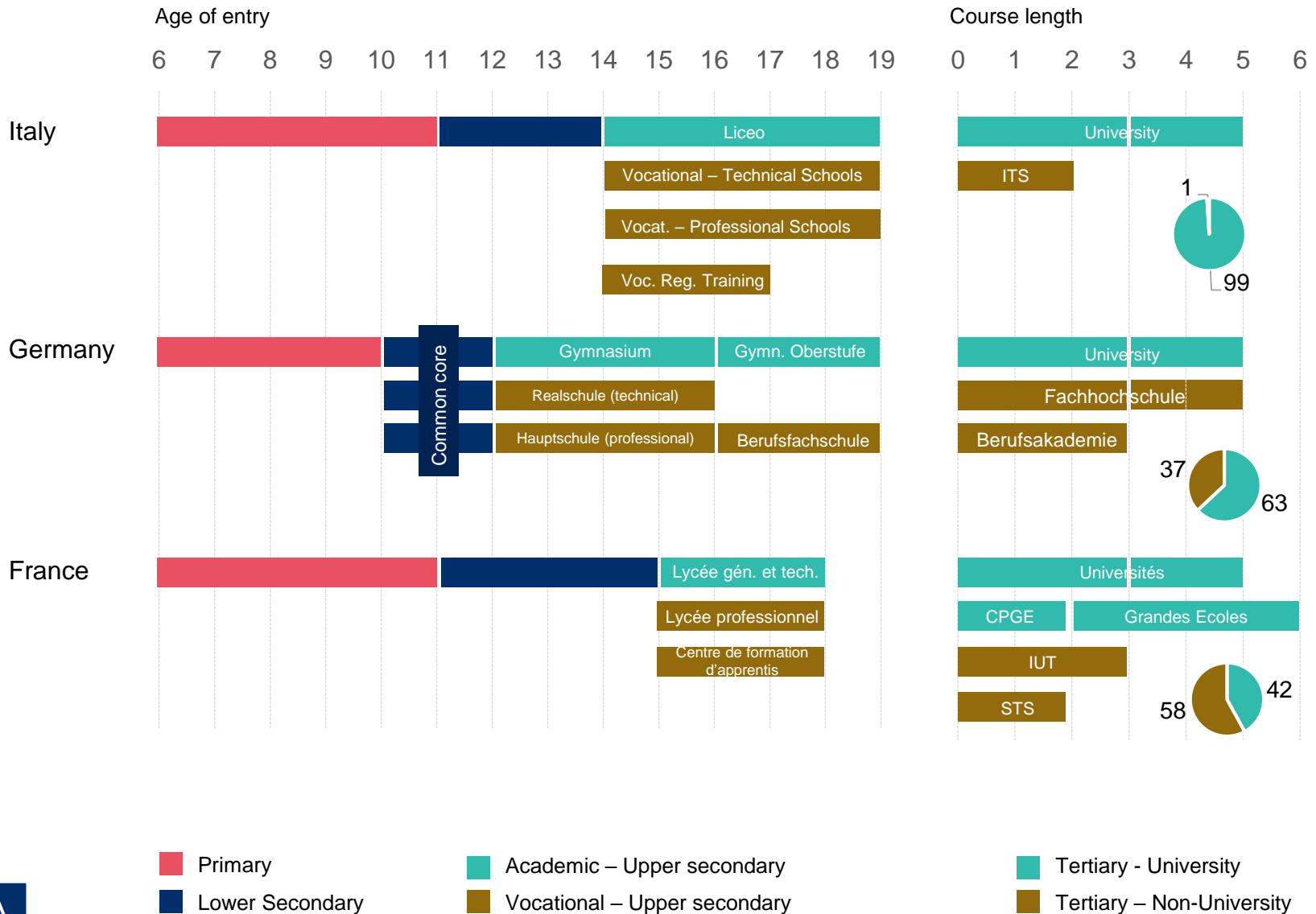
Italian VET includes 3 tracks, addressed to students from 14 yrs old onwards:

- 1. Technical Secondary Schools: 826,200** students, last for 5 years. Two main tracks: Business (2 sub-tracks) and Technology (9 sub-tracks). Mix of academic and practical subjects.
- 2. State Professional Secondary Schools: 491,000** students, last for 5 years. 11 tracks: most relevant are handcrafts, hotel training, health and social services. Mostly practical subjects, with workshop experience.
- 3. Regional Professional Agencies:** around **315,000** students, last for 3 or 4 years. Mostly in the developed North. Courses according to local industry characteristics

After high school, students can either join **university** (with a strong academic path) or **ITS**, 2-yrs post-secondary vocational schools .



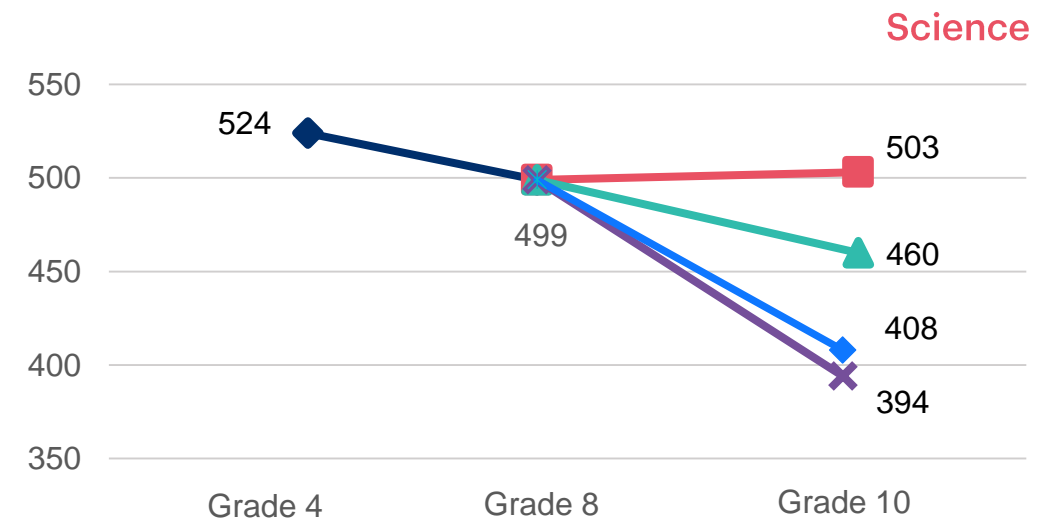
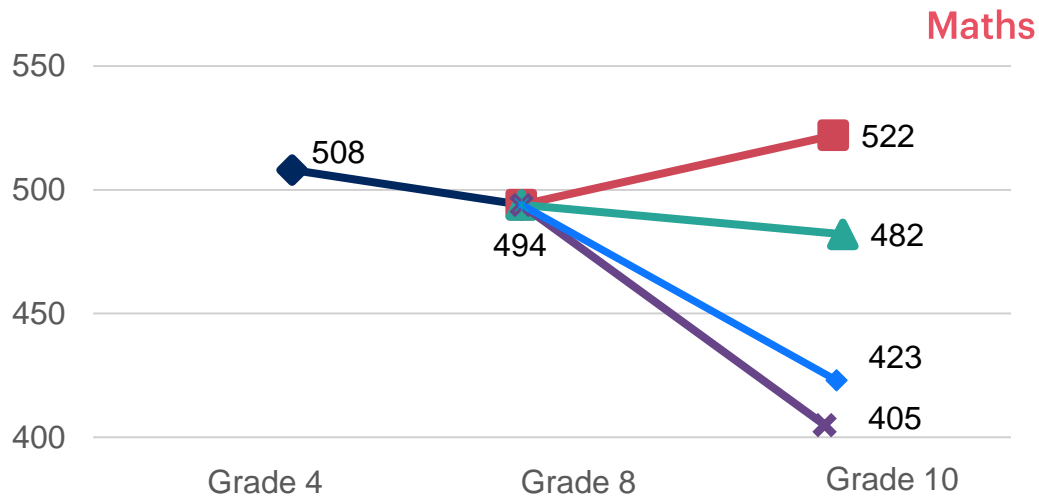
Italian Education: Academic vs Vocational Tracks in Europe



Source: Eurostat for Germany Federal Statistical Office



Italian Education: Results by Grade



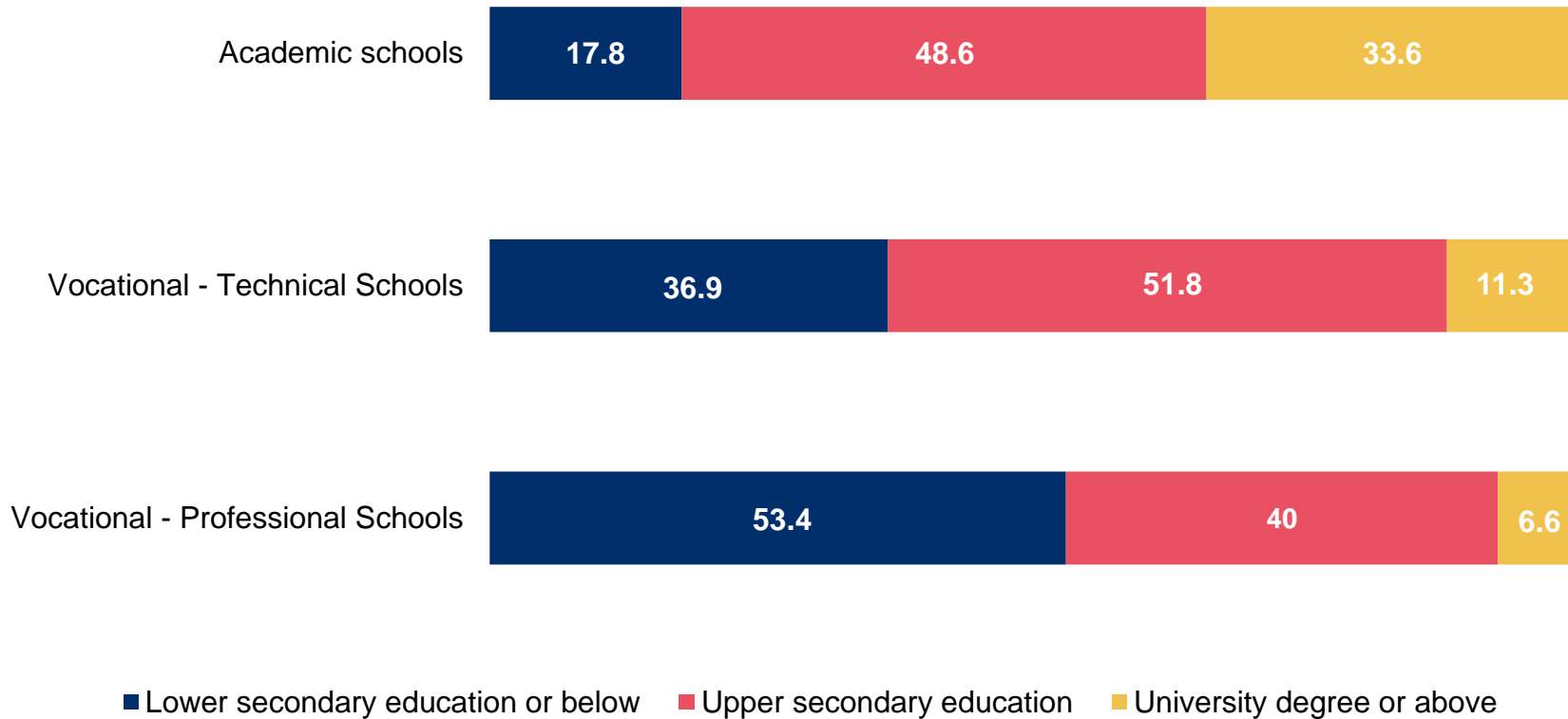
■ Academic School ▲ Vocational - Technical Schools
◆ Vocational - Professional Schools ✱ Vocational - Regional Training

Scores in TIMSS 2011 (grade 4) and 2015 (grade 8) and PISA 2018 (grade 10) by track.

VET students show lower achievements than students in academic tracks. They are well below the Oecd average.



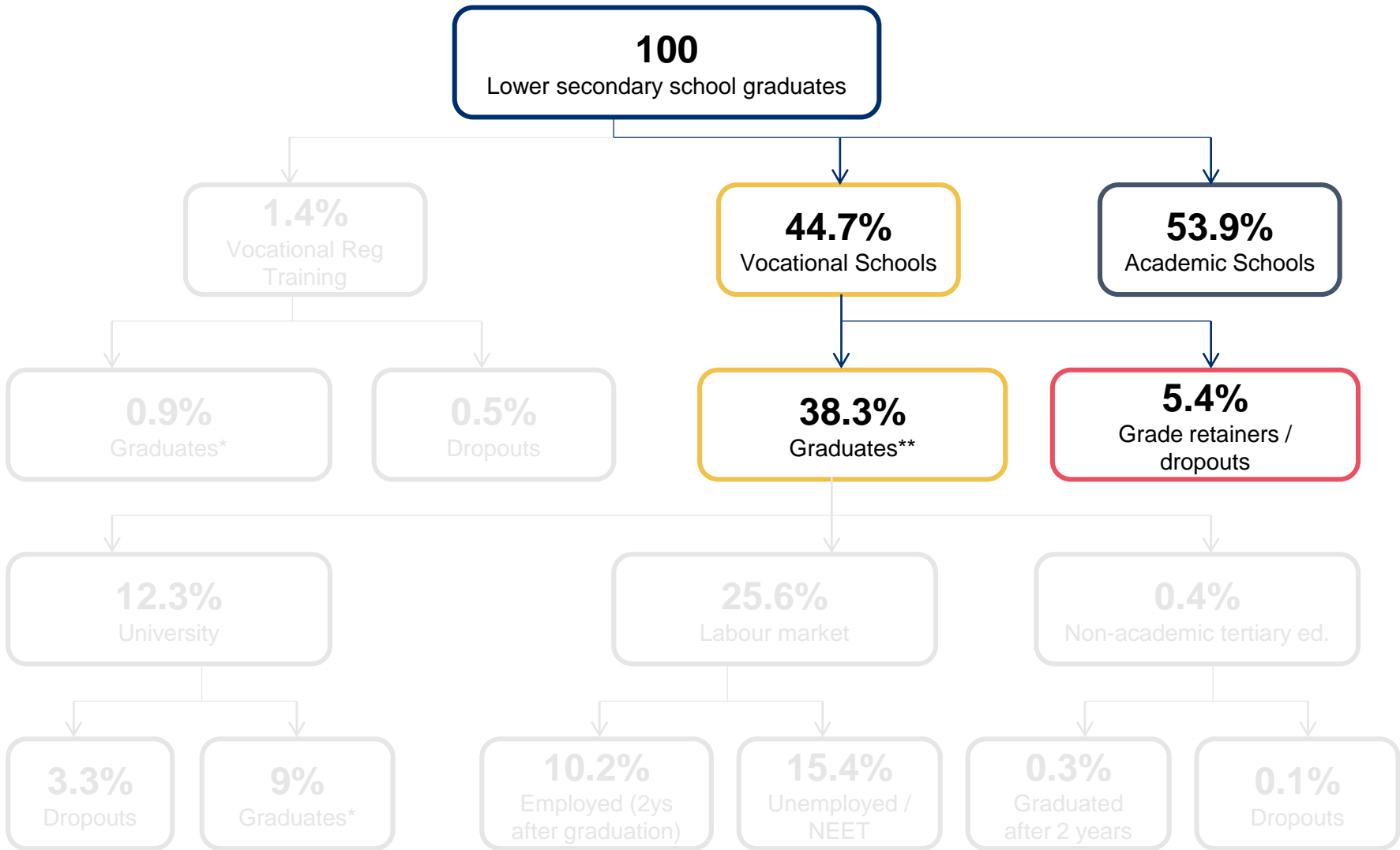
Italian Education: VET Students come from a less favourable socio-economic Background



Italy – A Cohort Progression through the VET System



Italy – A Cohort Progression through the VET System



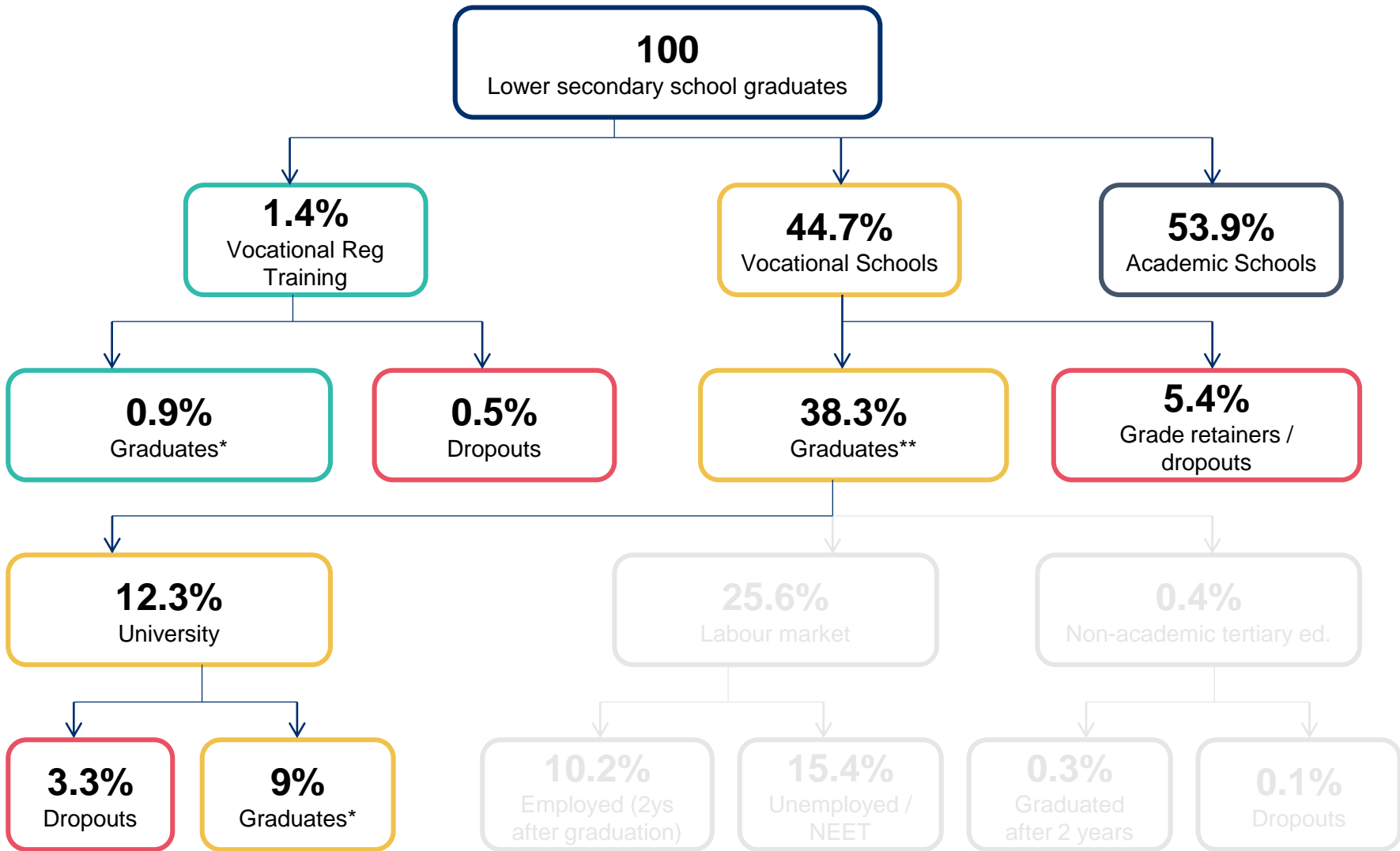
* After 4 years since the beginning. ** After 6 since the beginning

Italy – A Cohort Progression through the VET System



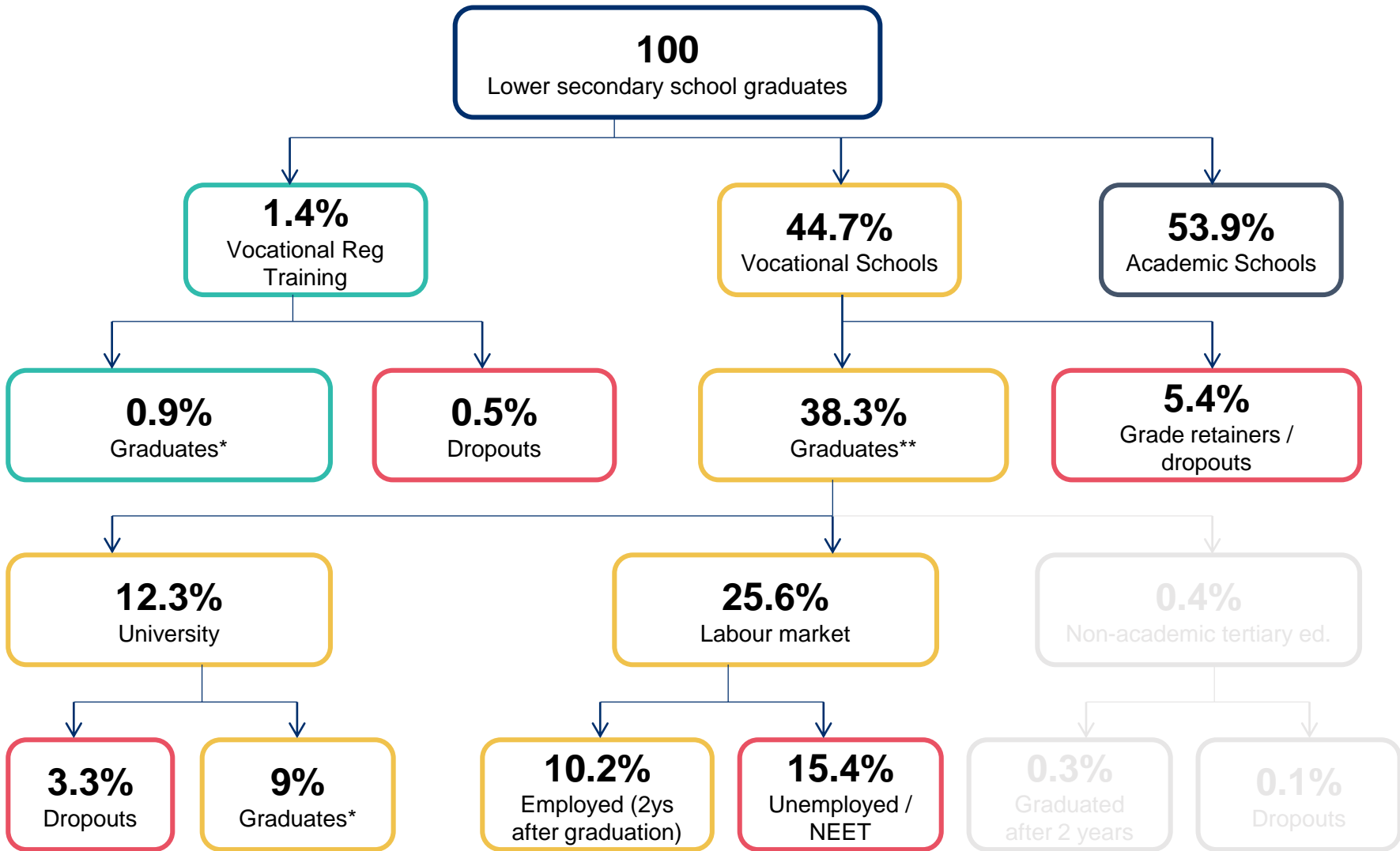
* After 4 years since the beginning. ** After 6 since the beginning

Italy – A Cohort Progression through the VET System



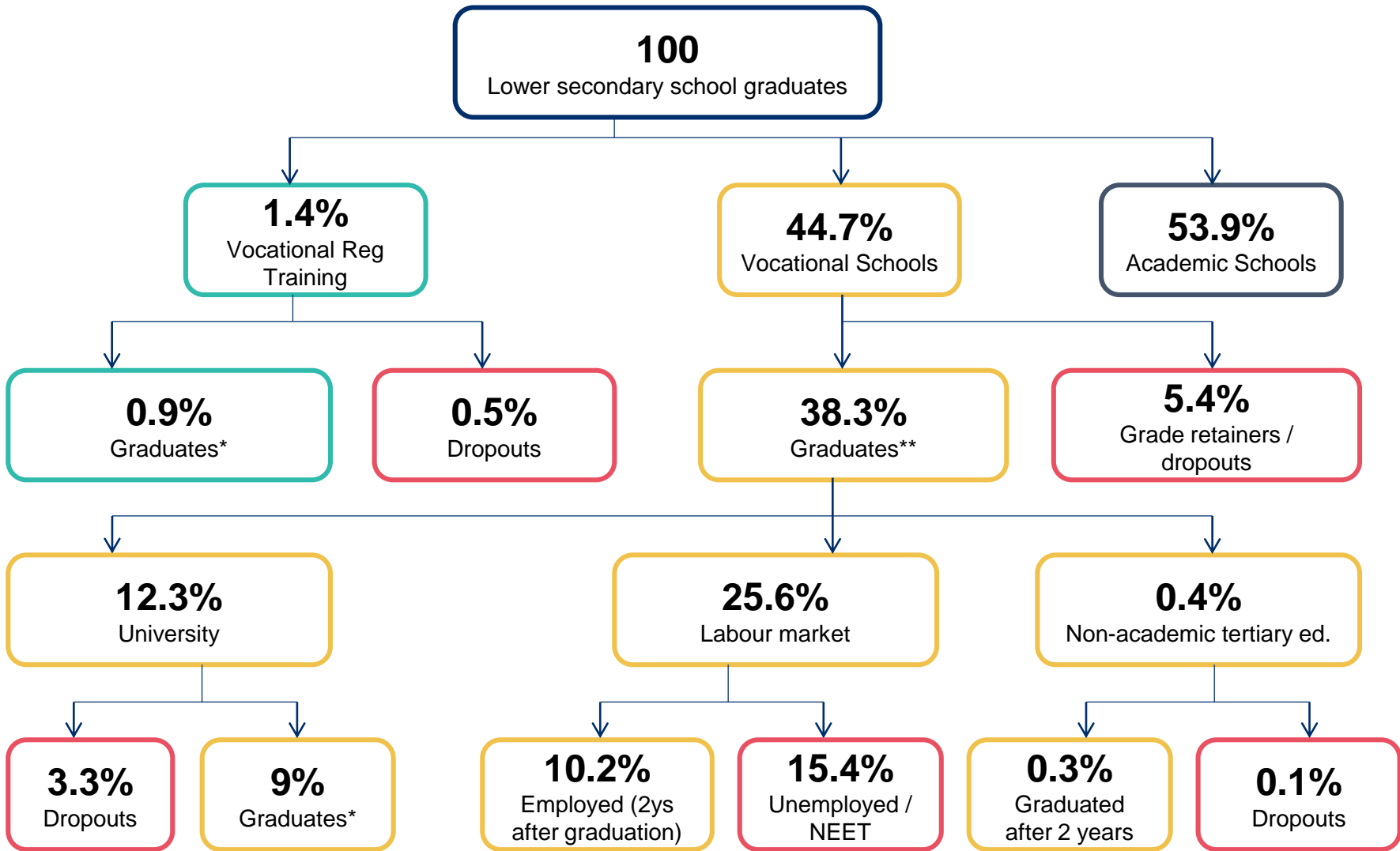
* After 4 years since the beginning. ** After 6 since the beginning

Italy – A Cohort Progression through the VET System



* After 4 years since the beginning. ** After 6 since the beginning

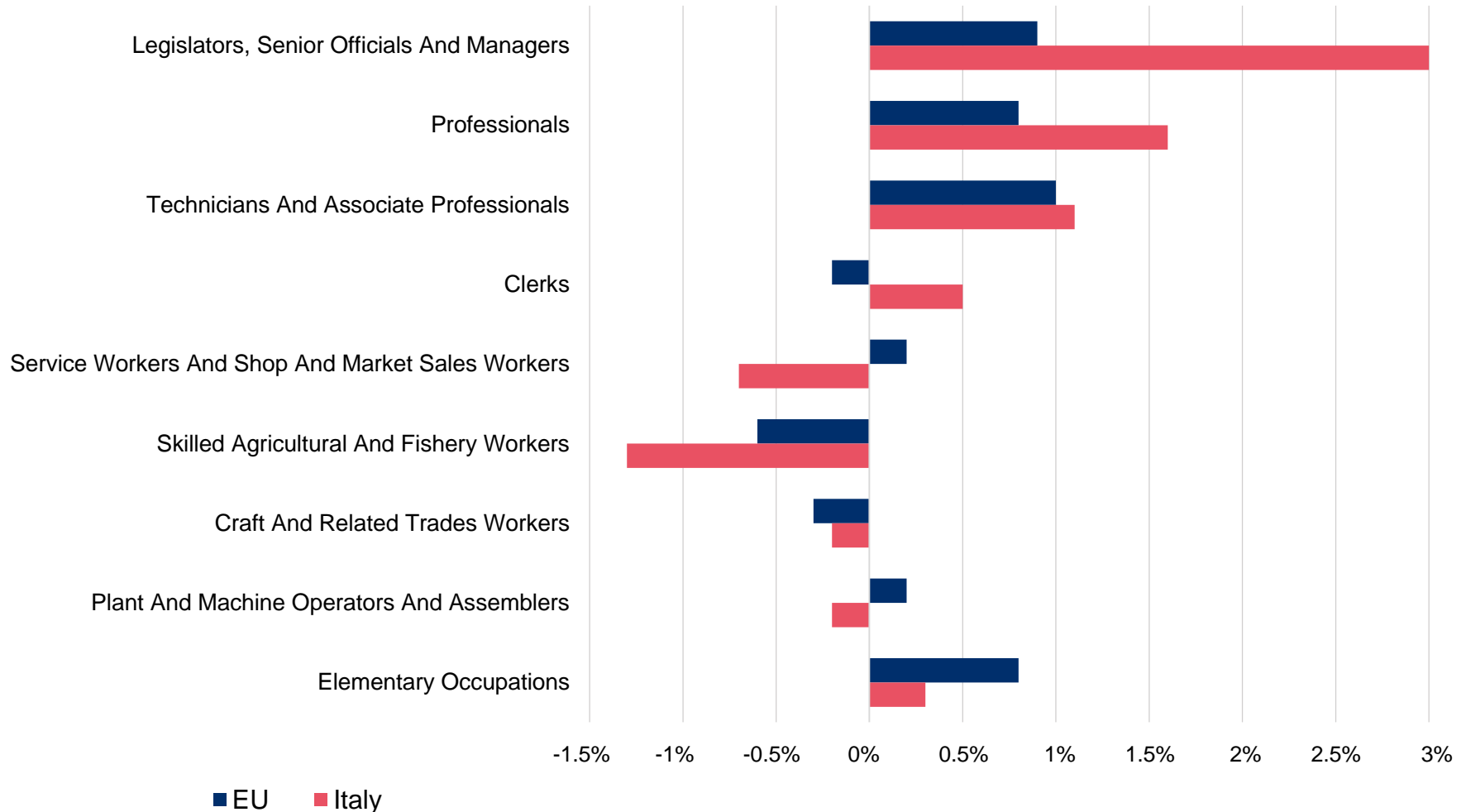
Italy – A Cohort Progression through the VET System



* After 4 years since the beginning. ** After 6 since the beginning

Italian Education: Employers need Skilled Workers more than in the Rest of Europe.

Employment growth (% annual rate) from 2018 to 2030



Source: CEDEFOP 2019



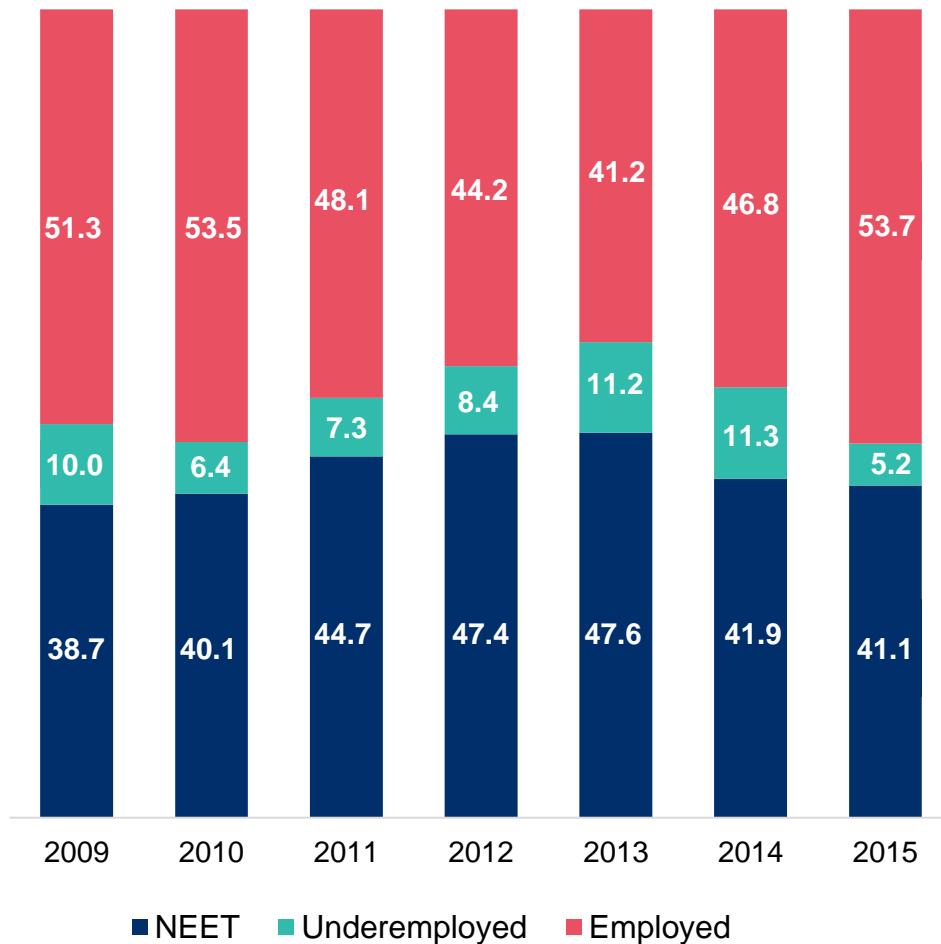
Vocational Regional Training in Italy – A Case Study

The quality of Vocational Regional Training institutions and services is very heterogeneous across Italian regions. We investigated the efficacy of the Vocational training programmes in **Piedmont** (a large region in the North part of the country)

Two objectives of the programmes:

- ▶ **To provide students with valuable skills for the job market;**
 - observed outcome: **employment status** 1y, 2ys, 3ys after graduation
- ▶ **To give a second chance to students who have dropped out from the schooling system;**
 - observed outcome: **probability to obtain a VT regional degree**

Vocational Regional Training in Italy: Employment Status

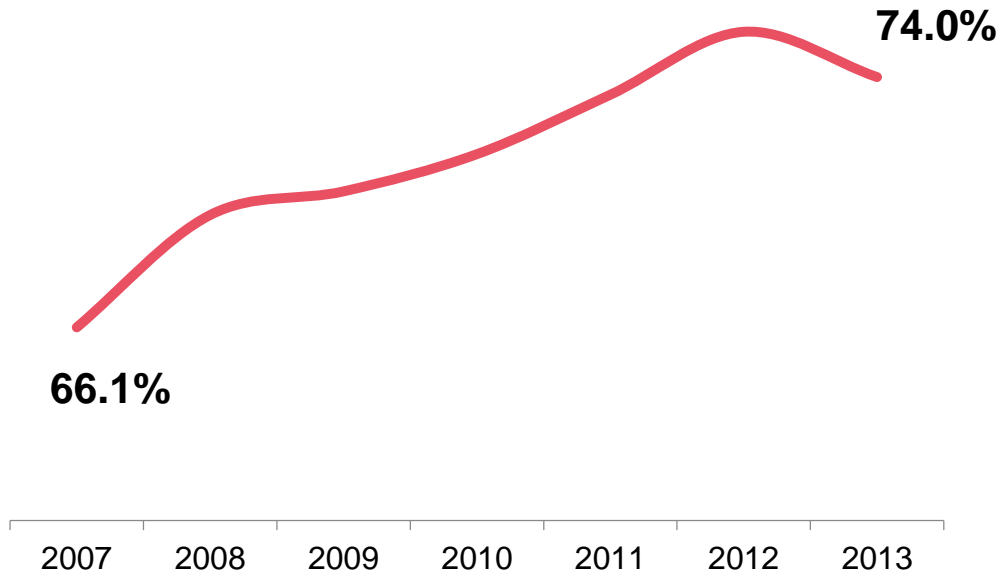


Half of the **25,235 VT graduates** in the period 2009-2015 had a permanent job two years after graduating

Source: Bernardi and De Simone, 2017



Vocational Regional Training in Italy: Degree Completion



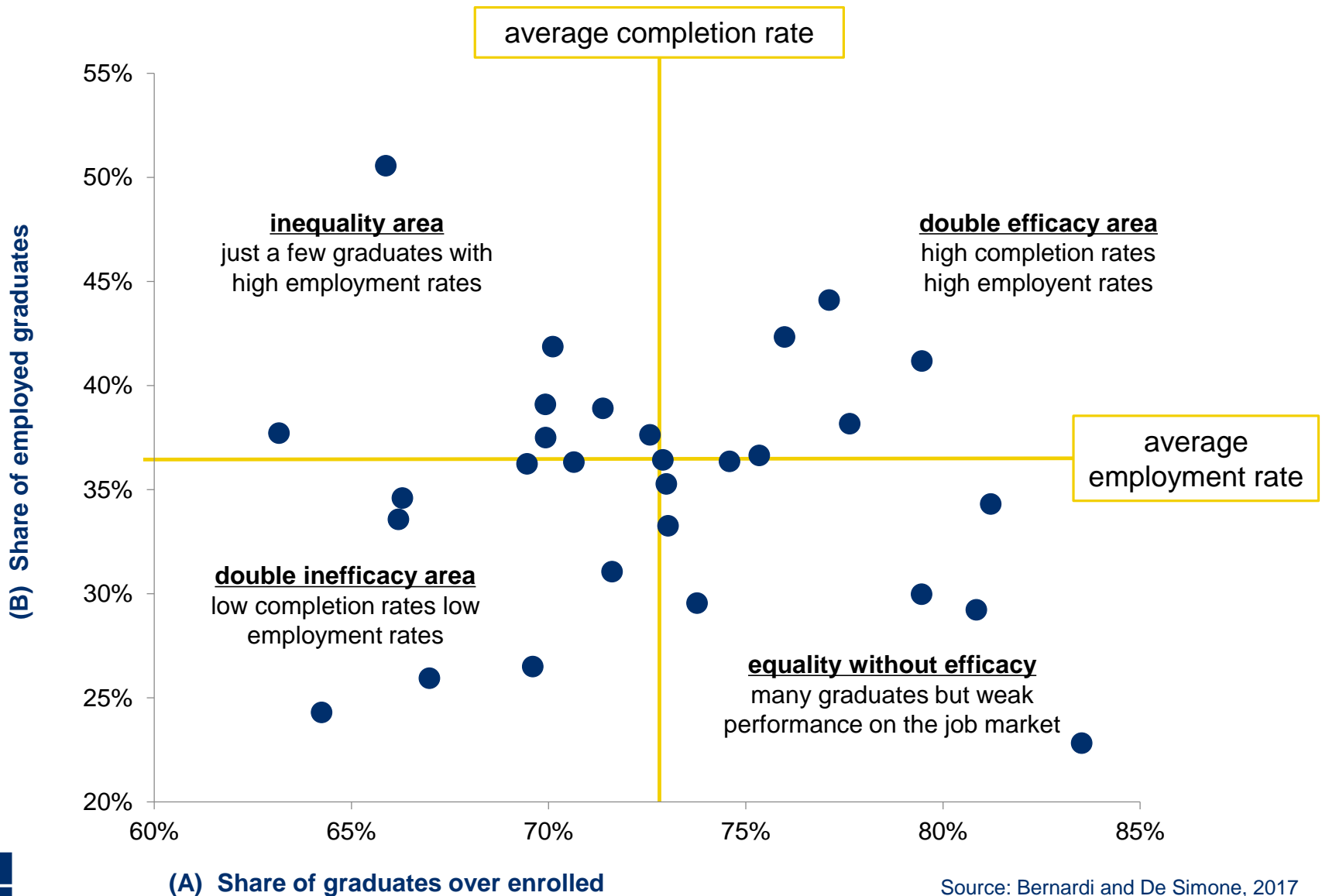
Observed rate of completion

Among the **38,404 enrolled students** in 2007, 1 in 3 dropped out.

But the completion rate has been constantly increasing up to 2013 and by the end of the observation period, only 1 out of 4 students dropped out.

Source: Bernardi and De Simone, 2017

Vocational Regional Training in Italy: VET Local Agencies can be ranked according to their Performance over the two Targets



Italian Education: Lessons from Vocational Education and Training

- Italian VET includes 3 strands: **Technical, State professional and Regional**. This creates duplicates and confusion at the moment of choice.
- The level of competencies at VET is **poor**, compared to OECD standards and academic tracks. This reflects the **adverse self-selection of students** into vocational tracks: typically students have poor records and come from a weak social background.
- The fact that VET graduates have almost no opportunity to take a **tertiary vocational degree**, such as German Fachschulen, reinforces the adverse self-selection.
- Employers are in strong need of a better qualified **technical workforce**
- **Employment rate** of vocational graduates is 49% within 2 years; only 29% are employed in jobs **consistent** with their studies.
- VET has an important role in fighting **school drop-out**, as the study by Fondazione Agnelli shows

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN ITALY

andrea.gavosto@fondazioneagnelli.it

fondazioneagnelli.it



Fondazione
Agnelli

