

Regional Profile

Hamburg

Key facts

Population (2021): 1.853.935

Territory (sq. km): 755,09

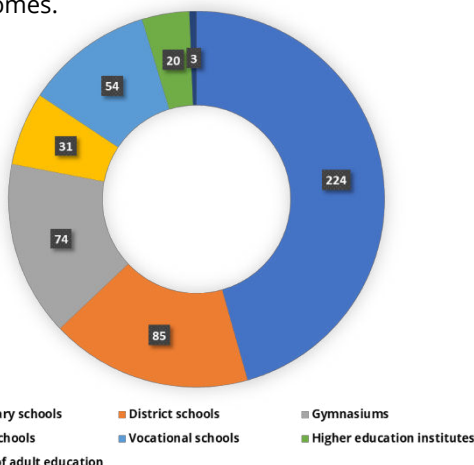
Regional GDP (2022) (€): 69.100

Educational provision in Hamburg

In 2023, Hamburg had a total of 414 schools on different levels of formal education (see figure below) and some 44 schools are planned in the coming years.

According to the latest report on education (see Behörde für Schule und Berufsbildung, 2023), Hamburg has a **growing number of children and young people**, which puts additional pressure on the educational system and the availability of teachers. Most of young people (53%) come from a migrant background and one third of them faces risk situation due to lack of their parent’s occupation.

Hamburg’s annual educational spending amounts to **€4,6 billion** (€11.400 per pupil), which is one of the highest in Germany, following only the capital Berlin. And although Hamburg is spending enormously on education, it still faces poor learning outcomes of young people and high dropout rates, which makes Hamburg a puzzling case for the analysis of the construction of learning outcomes.



Learning outcomes in Germany

In the scientific debate, we can recognise three prevailing perspectives on learning outcomes:

Competencies: Establishing common standards on skills and competencies in Germany shall enable better comparisons and introduce common standards for acknowledging certificates and credits. Competency is mostly related with professional or job competency.

Employability: Learning outcomes shall qualify for job positions and need to be flexible to the shifts and changes in economics, enabling quick re-qualifications or career jumps.

Citizenship: Learning outcomes are embedded in the debate on the wider purpose and meaning of education for developing democratic societies and strengthening the civic freedoms and participation.

Socio-economic characteristics of Hamburg

The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg is one of the Germany’s three **city-States** and presents an important economic, political and cultural centre with one of the Europe’s largest ports.

Statistically, Hamburg is considered both a NUTS2 and a NUTS3 region, which has impact on the availability and comparability of the local and regional data. Compared to other regions, Hamburg provides detailed statistics on several aspects of education.

Hamburg is a significant **trade and transport** hub, with the seat of international companies like Airbus, Beiersdorf, Lufthansa or Unilever.

It is also an important educational and science centre, hosting, for example, the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning.

Within Germany, Hamburg has the **best youth employment** and labour market integration rates and one of the lowest labour market gaps. However, it also reports one of the highest levels of young people **not in employment, education, or training (NEETs)** in Germany.

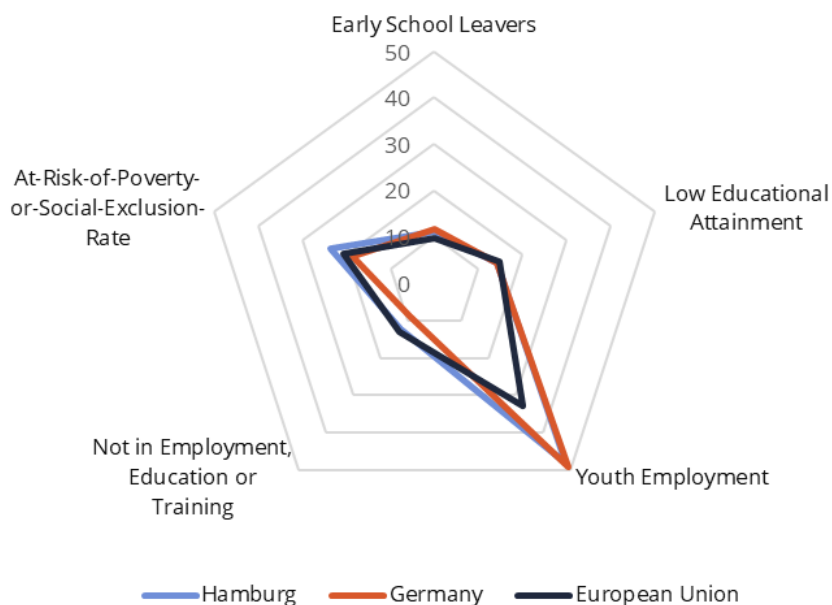
In Hamburg, young people from migrant background as well as unemployed young people with low educational levels are amongst the groups in most disadvantaged positions.

Regional performance

Hamburg is an economically well-performing region with the highest regional Gross Domestic Product in Germany. However, **young people do not profit** from the regional economic performance as good as they could, since half of them (15-24 years) is unemployed and 12,4 % (15-29 years) of them is not in education, employment or training (NEETs). This number is one of the highest in Germany. In addition, 11% of young people (18-24 years) drop early out of school or training.

With regard to groups in vulnerable position, Hamburg has one of the highest numbers of persons who are **at risk of poverty** or severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity. This indicator is higher than the German and European average.

Hamburg has **strong economic dynamics**, yet the data show **poor learning outcomes** of young people, especially those in multi-disadvantaged positions. And although the statistics slowly improves, the **impact of social background** on learning outcomes still remains significant. As the recent report on education states: "The higher the socio-economic burden of the pupils, the lower their competence acquisition, and vice versa."



Source: Eurostat, 2023

Project title: Constructing Learning Outcomes in Europe: a multi-level analysis of (under)achievement in the life course

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Project partners

- University of Münster
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- Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning
- Autonomous University of Barcelona
- University of Turku
- University of Vienna
- University of Lisbon
- University of Porto
- University of Genoa
- University of Urbino
- Codici Cooperativa Sociale
- University of Plovdiv
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Coordinator

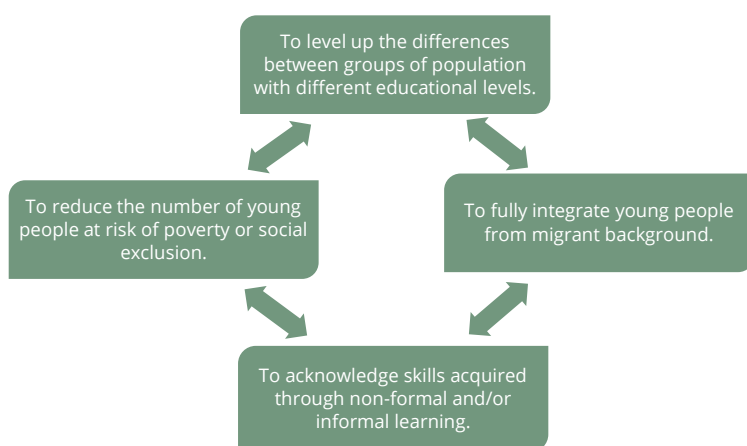
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Policy challenges



Further reading

Autor:innengruppe Bildungsberichterstattung (2018). *Bildung in Deutschland 2018: Ein indikatorengestützter Bericht mit einer Analyse zu Wirkungen und Erträgen von Bildung*. wbv

Behörde für Schule und Berufsbildung (Hrsg.) (2023). *Bildungsbericht Hamburg 2023*. Waxmann.

