

Regional Profile

Saxony-Anhalt

Key facts

Population (2021): 2.169.253

Territory (sq. km): 20.452

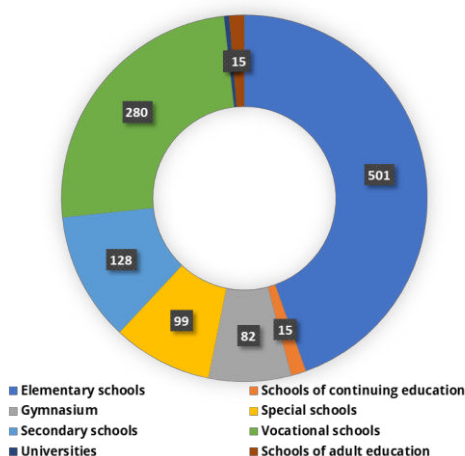
Regional GDP (2022) (€): 30.900

Educational provision in Saxony-Anhalt

In 2019, the Land of Saxony-Anhalt has had **871 schools**, of which 501 were elementary schools, 128 secondary schools and 82 gymnasiums. There are further 280 vocational schools, 15 schools for continuing education (German: *Volkshochschulen*), 15 schools of adult education and 11 universities and higher education institutes (see the figure below).

One of the main challenges is the **shortage of teachers**, which is systematically addressed by the policies, but which improves only slowly. This is also due to demographic developments of the last decades and the low birth rates.

One recent change in the school system is the **career orientation** at gymnasiums. In addition to the focus on study orientation, career orientation should also be an integral part of the education at the Gymnasium. The amended regulation reflects the real development that high school graduates continue their education in comparable vocational training as an alternative to university studies.



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 Saxony-Anhalt

Saxony-Anhalt is divided into 11 rural and 3 urban districts. The rural districts cover almost the entire area of the Land (93%), but inhabit only 75% of the population as of 2021. The cities of Dessau-Roßlau, Halle (Saale), and Magdeburg, the capital of the region, belong to the urban districts and are the political, economic and educational centres of the *Land*.

As part of the former German Democratic Republic, the *Land* Saxony-Anhalt has inherited socialist economic model and transformed to modern market economy over the last 30 years. Since the *Wende*, Saxony-Anhalt has strengthened its economic, industrial and tourist potential. On the other hand, as a result of the transformation, Saxony-Anhalt has now a rather **low density of population** and struggles with de-population of both urban and rural areas, although there are many programs to attract the early emigrants to turn back and rebuild the region. Especially young women, but also increasingly young men, are leaving the *Land* in search of better job and life opportunities.

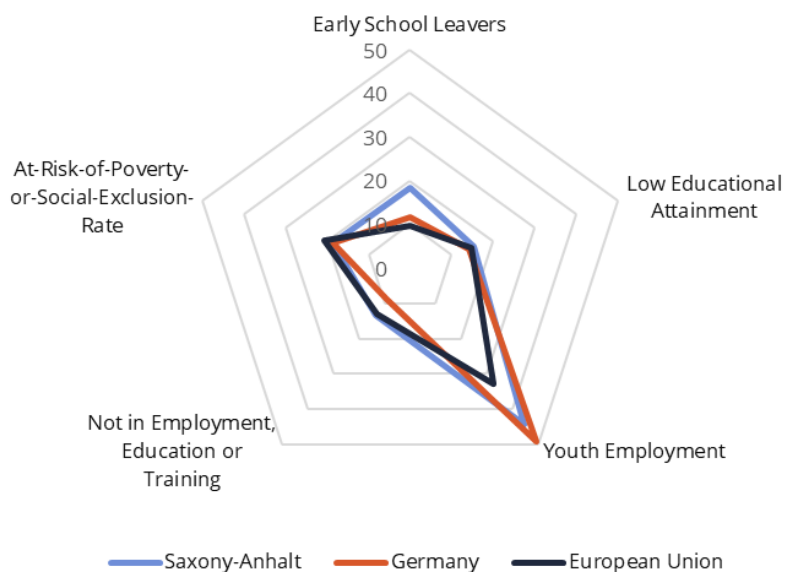
Amongst the groups in most vulnerable positions are particularly young women, who often leave the land in search for job opportunities or people from migrant background, who face difficulties in acknowledging their learning experiences.

Regional performance

Saxony-Anhalt is a region with strong focus on coal industry, which currently undergoes a **structural change**.

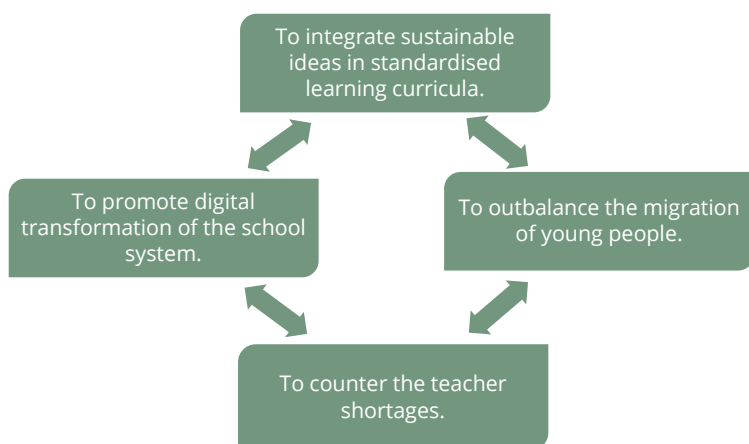
The youth employment rate in Saxony-Anhalt is similar to the national average, however, the rate of young people not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs) lies above the national average. More so, the risk of **poverty** is the second highest nationwide, which mainly affects the unemployed and single parents. Still, Saxony-Anhalt has one of the **highest childcare rates** in Germany, which facilitates the employment of women and the overall consolidation of work and family.

With regard to **learning outcomes**, Saxony-Anhalt is experiencing a continuous decrease of learning performances. Both in reading and mathematics, the numbers have fallen down over the last decade. Although they remain at the same level as the German average, other indicators, such as Early School Leaving, remain considerably high. Apart from that, the main challenges of the *Land* are the **teacher shortage** as well as the **digital transformation** of the education system.



Source: Eurostat, 2023

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.



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

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- University of Lisbon
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- University of Genoa
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Coordinator

Prof. Dr. Marcelo Parreira do Amaral
University of Münster
Institute of Education
Georgskommende 33
48143 Münster, Germany

Website: www.clear-horizon.eu

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