

Delegation: Germany
Committee: UNESCO
Delegate: Charles Mann

Governance and its Effect on Education

The Delegation of Germany has implemented many anti-corruption initiatives and maintains good governance. The Criminal Code of Germany applies not to companies, but to individuals. It is illegal to offer, give, and receive bribes. Companies are held civilly liable under the Administration Offenses Act and can be fined up to 11 million USD. Gifts can also be illegal depending on value, intent, and benefit. Due Germany's strong institutional and legal framework, corruption is almost nonexistent. There have been few criminals who have broken Germany's strict and swift anti-corruption laws. Very few citizens of Germany believe that bribery and the abuse of power is prevalent in the public sectors. Corruption was in Germany, but because of the strict anti-corruption legislation, Germany was able to shrink corruption down to a shell of what it was. (GAN, "Germany Corruption Report," n.d.)

Germany has enacted and ratified many UN and German based legislation. The German Money Laundering Act criminalizes fraud, forgery, and embezzlement. Germany is a member of the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes, the New York Convention 1958 on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, the Organization for Economic-Cooperation Development and many more. (GAN, "Germany Corruption Report," n.d.)

Germany has been applauded for their transparency. Freedom of Expression and Press is protected by the Constitution. The Press Code of the German Press Council regulates the integrity of the media. It also established the guidelines for ethic conduct. The German media environment is open and free. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are allowed to operate without restriction. The only CSOs that have been banned are groups who actively fight against the principles and beliefs of democracy. Germany embraces CSOs. Typically, they are like watchdogs, but they have never been allowed to influence the governments' policy. Germany is ranked 10th on the Corruption Perceptions Index of 2015 with a score of 81/100. (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, n.d.)

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Preservation of World Heritage Sites

Germany recognizes the importance of the preservation of World Heritage Sites. Germany has 41 World Heritage Sites. 38 of which are specifically cultural and the other 3 are natural sites. (UNESCO, 2016) One Germany's World Heritage Sites is threatened greatly by climate change: the Wadden Sea. The Wadden Sea is the largest unblocked system of intertidal mudflats and sand flats in the world. The beautiful site attracts 10 million tourists annually. Climate change is increasing the likelihood of severe storms as well as rising sea levels. These aspects will lead to soil erosion, and damage and loss of wildlife. Ten to twelve million birds pass through the 1,143,403 hectares of land. Germany and the tourism industry has been implementing cheap, low-carbon initiatives to slow climate change and prevent the loss of one of Germany's most beautiful natural World Heritage Sites. Germany feels that carbon-neutral tourist attractions are effective ways of increasing and promoting the tourism industry. The international tourism industry can still do much more to become carbon-neutral. (UCS, 2016) Since 1978, Germany has worked closely with the Netherlands and Denmark to collaborate and cooperate to achieve a common goal: the preservation of the Wadden Sea. The Federal Environment Minister of Germany stated, "The trilateral cooperation on protecting the Wadden Sea is a success story and a model example of transboundary conservation of biological diversity." Germany's success story should be emulated in other countries that share World Heritage Sites. Germany shares 5 sites with 10 other countries and has managed each with perfection. ("German Sustainability", n.d.)

Sustainability is a key principle in the political sphere of the German government. German Chancellor Angela Merkel recently said, "What we do today must not prejudice our children and grandchildren's chances of enjoying prosperity and living in an intact environment." The Messel Fossil Pit was previously a mine for oil shale and brown coal, but upon the discovery of fossils, the mining was halted and the archaeological excavations began. In 1995, Messel became a World Heritage Site. The Beech Forests are another example of German expertise. The Beech Forests were a military exclusion zone for over 40 years. A very limited amount of people entered the forests resulting in very little human interaction. Germany has worked extensively in reducing its carbon emissions. Each year a cap is put on German emissions, and then the cap is lowered overtime. ("German Sustainability", n.d.)

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Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030

Currently, there are roughly 16.2 million students in German schools. Germany has compulsory education for 12 years from age 6 to 17. Primary school starts at age 6 and goes till grade 9. Then, the students continue to secondary schools from ages 10 to 18. Roughly 2/3 of students move on the tertiary education from 19 to 23. As of 2014, there were roughly 4,000 children out of school. This number decreased significantly from 2009. There is barely a gender gap in the educational system of Germany. In 2013, 100% of boys moved from primary to secondary school with 99.4% of girls did that same. In fact, more women graduate from a tertiary education than men. 43.79% of women graduate compared to 40.42% of men. Germany maintains an 8 to 1 student to teacher ratio. In 2012, Germany spent 4.94% of its gross domestic product on education. This was roughly 11.22% of all government expenditures of 2012. (Union of Concerned Scientists, n.d.)

Germany has mastered special education needs (SEDs). In 1960, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Lander in the Republic of Germany adopted special education. The new legislation came about after new understandings of physical disabilities. Parents of special needs children have the choice of special schools or general schools. Germany recognizes that enrollment in special education programs may be nonexistent in developing countries. These schools have the ability to control their own curriculum and have small class sizes with a longer school year. These special schools in Germany provide their graduates with the same certifications as students who graduate general schools. The special schools include provocation and vocation training as well. ("Germany - Special Needs Education within the Education System," n.d.)

Germany has very unique institutions within German soil. Sonderpädagogische Förderzentren are special centers that create reports and tailor pedagogical techniques to different regions of Germany. For example, one northern region of Germany would have different needs of its students than students in the South. These pedagogy centers allow for tailor made teaching plans that are unique to areas and provide inclusive and effective education styles. Germany has been working to improve some aspects of the German education system such as more intensive language programs for migrant pupils, a smoother transition from kindergarten to primary school, as well as an improvement in the ability and competency of German readers. ("Germany - Special Needs Education within the Education System," n.d.)

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