

Project *brief*

Thünen Institute of Rural Studies

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Education and training choices in spatial perspective

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- **Analyses of education and training choices in the National Educational Panel (NEPS)**
- **Regional econometric analyses of the education and training situation in Germany**
- **School-leaving certificate and vocational training are orientated towards local opportunities**

Background and aims

In view of an increasing skill shortage in certain sectors and regions, questions of education and training continue to gain importance. In this context, a spatial perspective is particularly relevant for rural locations with very limited immigration from other regions. Therefore, we have investigated the following questions:

- How does the location affect education and training choices?
- Does this influence differ according to family background?
- Does the local labour market situation have an impact on the realisation of preferences and skills?

The aim of the project was to gain first insights into educational and occupational choices in the context of regional, especially rural, development.

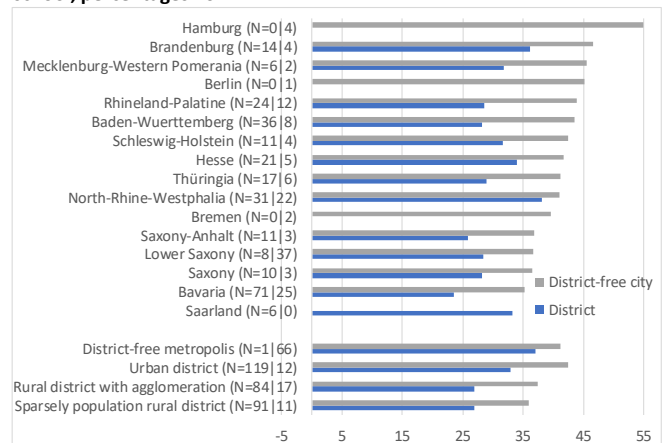
Approach

Conceptually, the project is based on the rational choice theory. We assume that people make education and training choices under consideration of their costs and benefits. Based on this, the theoretical part discusses how individual characteristics of students and school leavers interact with the labour market conditions at the place of residence with regard to the choice of an education and training path. The empirical analysis explains the different realised decisions in multinomial logistic regression models that take into account the different levels of influencing variables. Microdata from the National Education Panel (NEPS) are used for this purpose. This is a representative survey of pupils in the 9th grade who are accompanied on their education and training path. The analyses based on this individual data are supplemented by regional economic analyses with aggregated data at district level.

Results

The results show that educational and training choices, especially in economically disadvantaged families, are oriented towards the opportunities of the local labour markets. Intensity of competition and diversity are higher in urban training and labour markets. Therefore the compatibility between the requirements of training fields and the documented skills of trainees tend to be higher in the metropolitan context than in rural labour markets. On the other hand, school leavers with lower documented skills can more easily realise certain individual preferences, relating for example to comfort and income, in rural labour markets. The analyses of the regional data confirm the relevance of the observations for the development of labour markets, especially in rural regions. Supporting the mobility of trainees could generate welfare gains.

Share of graduates with upper secondary school degree at the location of school, percentages 2017



Source: Indicators and Maps for Spatial and Urban Development. INKAR. Edition 2020. BBSR, Bonn.

Further Information

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