

## **1. Languages in Germany**

### Multilingualism in Germany's Education System

Germany's Education System follows the fundamental guidelines imposed by the Federal Republic of Germany. The latter does not only determine the school system's tripartite structure (including secondary modern schools, comprehensive schools, and grammar schools), but also stipulates the way of teaching in its regulations, National Education Standards and other structures (cfr. Hepp 2013). However, since the German Education System is based on the Federal Education System, the Federal Republic of Germany is not the only competent authority but shares the responsibility with the 16 Federal States of Germany (cfr. Lenk, Glinka & Hesse 2019: 196). These lay down the core curriculums containing concrete instructions on teaching practice.

Irrespective of the competence, the Federal Republic of Germany and its Federal States endeavour to fulfil the demands of an increasing multilingualism. In Germany, about 26,7 percent of the population registered declare to be with a migratory background (cfr. Destatis 2021: 32) so that Russian, Turkish, Polish, Kurdish, and Italian amongst others are spoken aside from German (cfr. Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung 2021). The Education System promotes this linguistic diversity with a wide range of foreign language classes usually including English, French, and Latin. Nevertheless, there is an increasing offer of foreign language classes teaching Italian, Turkish, Russian, Polish, and Japanese (cfr. Kultusministerkonferenz 2021). Moreover, apart from these classes, there are about 1179 German schools offering bilingual teaching (cfr. fmks 2021).

For more information on the Education System of the Federal Republic of Germany see:

<<https://www.kmk.org/kmk/information-in-english.html>> (last access December 3, 2021).

<<https://www.kmk.org/dokumentation-statistik/informationen-zum-deutschen-bildungssystem/dossier-englisch.html>> (last accessed on December 3, 2021).

## **2. Languages in German schools**

For more information on Curriculum Guidelines in our different Federal States (in German) see:

<<https://www.kmk.org/dokumentation-statistik/rechtsvorschriften-lehrplaene/uebersicht-lehrplaene.html>> (last accessed on December 3, 2021).

## **3. Languages proficiency**

For more information on National Education Standards (in German) se:

<[https://www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/veroeffentlichungen\\_beschluesse/2012/2012\\_10\\_18-Bildungsstandards-Fortgef-FS-Abi.pdf](https://www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/veroeffentlichungen_beschluesse/2012/2012_10_18-Bildungsstandards-Fortgef-FS-Abi.pdf)> (last accessed on December 3, 2021).

<[https://www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/veroeffentlichungen\\_beschluesse/2003/2003\\_12\\_04-BS-erste-Fremdsprache.pdf](https://www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/veroeffentlichungen_beschluesse/2003/2003_12_04-BS-erste-Fremdsprache.pdf)> (last accessed on December 3, 2021).

<[https://www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/veroeffentlichungen\\_beschluesse/2004/2004\\_10\\_15-Bildungsstandards-ersteFS-Haupt.pdf](https://www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/veroeffentlichungen_beschluesse/2004/2004_10_15-Bildungsstandards-ersteFS-Haupt.pdf)> (last accessed on December 10, 2021).

For more information on German as a Foreign Language or Second Language see:

<<https://www.mercator-institut-sprachfoerderung.de/en/>> (last accessed on December 3, 2021).

#### **4. Further information**

##### Bibliography

Destatis (2021): *Bevölkerung mit Migrationshintergrund – Ergebnisse des Mikrozensus 2020*, Fachserie 1, Reihe 2.2. <[https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Bevoelkerung/Migration-Integration/Publikationen/\\_publikationen-innen-migrationshintergrund.html](https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Gesellschaft-Umwelt/Bevoelkerung/Migration-Integration/Publikationen/_publikationen-innen-migrationshintergrund.html)> (last accessed on December 3, 2021).

Fmks (=Verein für frühe Mehrsprachigkeit an Kindertageseinrichtungen und Schulen) (2021): Deutschlandkarte Bilinguale Schulen, <<https://www.fmks.eu/bilinguale-angebote/karte-mehrsprachige-schulen.html>> (last accessed on December 3, 2021).

Hepp, Gerd (2013): *Wie der Staat das Bildungswesen prägt*, <https://m.bpb.de/gesellschaft/bildung/zukunft-bildung/145238/staat-als-akteur> (last accessed on December 3, 2021).

Lenk, Thomas/ Glinka, Philipp/ Hesse, Mario (2019): *Bildungsföderalismus in Deutschland*, In: Wirtschaftsdienst – Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftspolitik 3, 196-202.

Kultusministerkonferenz (2021): *Fremdsprachen*. <<https://www.kmk.org/themen/allgemeinbildende-schulen/unterrichtsfaecher/fremdsprachen.html>> (last accessed on December 3, 2021).

Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung (2021): *Sprache als Spiegel der Kultur*. <<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/interview-muttersprache-1721084>> (last accessed on December 3, 2021).