



Participation in continuing education is regarded as a key indicator of the implementation of lifelong learning and of the ability of the population to adapt to the changing requirements of the labour market. Even though continuing education participation has risen in Germany over recent years, the numbers remain just about in the mid-range. Differences for Germany (and for other countries) are evident in this respect depending on which data is taken as the basis.

The project “An international comparison of participation in continuing education – a contribution to the critical discussion of international comparative data” seeks to address two points. Firstly, the project aims to take the 24 to 35-year-old age cohort and investigate whether the form of initial vocational education and training might influence participation in continuing education and, if yes, what this influence is (e.g. whether dual vocational education and training has an impact in the sense of the “Matthew Effect” or if the opposite is the case). Secondly, the project seeks to examine whether the same data is really being compiled in the different countries, or whether there are influences which might be resulting in different findings between the countries without there actually being any difference in continuing education participation, or if there is, whether this difference is not as great as the data makes it appear (e.g. different contextualization in the countries). The focus in this case is on studies which compile their own data.