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Positive prospects for successful completion of higher secondary school

Analysis of the educational careers of 120 000 students in Austria

Vienna, 2023-06-13 – The chances of successfully completing upper secondary education are generally good for all groups of students. This is the current result of a multivariable analysis conducted by Statistics Austria and its cooperation partners on behalf of the ministry of education among 120 000 students in Austria, the first comprehensive analysis based on numerous administrative data sources.

“The success of young people in Austria in completing higher secondary education depends very much on their academic performance in the previous school levels, on personal characteristics and on the composition of the school classes. An important indicator of success is the completion of lower secondary level: young people who complete this school level with a very good assessment have a 16.7 times higher chance of successfully completing higher secondary level compared to those with a very poor marks,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Factors for successful completion of higher secondary school in Austria

It is evident that a successful educational career depends on a large number of factors and their interaction. Primarily, the analyses show that all groups of pupils in the cohorts studied (2012/13, 2013/14), including those with weak academic performance in their educational biographies, have a good chance of successfully completing higher secondary school.

A key indicator of success for future academic performance is previous academic performance measured by whether grades were completed with good or excellent success, whether there were “not enough” assessments in compulsory subjects, or neither. Students with very good marks in lower secondary school are 16.7 times more likely to successfully complete higher secondary school than those with very poor marks.

Personal characteristics of pupils have a strong influence on success in higher secondary school: The chances are significantly higher (by a factor of 1.5 and 1.3, respectively) for female pupils and for all pupils who have two caregivers. The interaction of education of the caregivers, migration background and income of the family was summarised in the characteristic personal background (pBG). This characteristic shows considerable influence on pupils chances of success, with a strongly supportive pBG significantly increasing the chances of successful completion. In addition, the death of a caregiver reduces adolescents’ chances of graduation by more than one-third.

The sociodemographic composition of school classes – as a framework condition of instruction – has an effect on chances of success in addition to their personal background, but to a lesser extent.

For detailed results and further information please refer to [website](#).

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:

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