Germany is Europe’s current economic powerhouse because its strong leadership has led to investment in education system and has provided regulations of employment relationship. According to the Washington Post, Germany ranked as the best country among 36 countries in the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Africa (Anderson). Germany was considered as one of the most powerful economies before World War 1. However, Germany struggled after both World War 1 and World War 2. After a substantial rebuilding, now Germany is considered as Europe’s current economic powerhouse.

The most significant value reinforces Germany as Europe’s current economic powerhouse is a German leadership. Germany’s ascendancy as an economic powerhouse of Europe has advanced because of the ability of Chancellor Angela Merkel. Overcoming Euro crisis made Merkel as the one of the greatest German leaders of all time. The euro crisis in 2011 was devastating to Germany. Germany had 9 billion euros from the crisis the end of 2011 (Huggler). Having multiple solutions, Merkel said “If the euro fails, Europe fails” (Vick). One was combining apprenticeships with vocational education targeted towards youth unemployment which will be discussed in further arguments. The other was creating special funds and tax benefits to privatize state-owned businesses (Amadeo). Strengthening locally owned business helped countries to be revitalized. The ability to overcome the euro crisis emerged Germany as the leading power in Europe.

Second, the investment in education system assists Germany as Europe’s current economic powerhouse. Germany has a different education system from other countries’. Students in Germany spend only 6,362 hours at school in age of 7 to 14 and this is 370 hours less than the average of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD. Also, Germany has 1,413 annual hours worked which is 374 hours less than what United States has (Anderson). In Germany, students in young age are separated in early ages to different types of school they are interested in. The most interesting fact is that apprenticeship also starts early and students get to spend more time in the workplace experiencing training and real manufacturing (Anderson). The German education system provides a solid bridge from early age students to specific workplace they want to work at. With thorough education system, Germany has the second-lowest OECD youth unemployment rate after Japan among OECD countries (Trines). Therefore, employees are able to work at their early ages and employers are able to hire specified and trained workers without spending money on recruiting. Germany’s investment in education system activates and vitalizes the business and the society.

Lastly, as Europe’s current economic powerhouse, Germany has low unemployment rate and strong employment regulations. Germany protects employment with its strong regulations. German workers usually work less than workers in other countries. Germany’s annual hours worked is 1,413 hours and it is 374 hours less than United States’. Even though German workers work less, their productivity is unexpectedly high and its unemployment maintains low rate. Germany’s GDP/hr worked is 55.3 dollars which is 8th among OECD countries (Anderson). Also, the employment relationship is governed and regulated by statutory laws, the employment agreement, and collective agreements (Kremp). Regulations of the employment relationship support how a productive cycle goes and strengthens their bond between employee and employers stronger.

Overall, Germany achieved high level of economy because its strong leadership has led to investment in education system and has provided legislation policies for employment. Nevertheless, Germany has great potentials to become a leader not only in Europe but also in the world.
Work Cited


