

Maritime region Lower Elbe.

With their well-known seaports of Hamburg, Brunsbüttel, Stade, Cuxhaven and Glückstadt, the Lower Elbe region can look back on a long maritime tradition. Its proximity to the sea and the close relationship with water have characterized this area for centuries.

The area is also noted for its numerous shipyards specializing in boat and yacht building, manufacturing of inland waterway vessels as well as ship repair. The maritime industry is supported by specialized service providers in planning, project development and financing. Defining the global consolidation process in the ship building industry, the Northern German shipyards have managed throughout the past few years to find their niche in this technologically advanced sector rather than in the mass-production segment. These include, cruise ships for international shipping lines, rescue vessels, gas tankers, offshore wind turbine installation vessels and fuel-cell-powered submarines for the navy. The innovative nature of the maritime economy continuously raises new research and development challenges for both companies and research facilities. The expected further increase in safety and environmental standards offer outstanding competitive opportunities especially for high-tech supplier companies along the Lower Elbe. Key fields of innovation include increased energy efficiency in shipbuilding, reduced emissions and maritime safety.

The higher education landscape of the Hamburg Metropolitan Region is very well positioned. One of the institutes that trains shipbuilders is The Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH). Training in maritime logistics is offered at the Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH), the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, the Kühne School of Logistics and Management and the Hamburg School of Business Administration. The Cuxhaven Maritime State College (*Staatliche Seefahrtsschule Cuxhaven*) offers practical training of ship officers for merchant shipping. Private and state research institutions, such as the Fraunhofer Center for Maritime Logistics and Services, the Hamburg Ship Model Basin HSVA and the Center of Maritime Technologies e.V are closely connected with maritime technology and serve as driving forces for innovation. The Maritime Cluster Norddeutschland represents the interests of the sector.