using file	pTarget	Reduced pTarget* (1 row per ID_t)	xTargetCompetencies	xCompMethods	spSchool	spVocPrep	spMilitary	spVocTrain	spEmp	spUnemp	spParLeave	spGap	spPartner	spChild	spChildCohab	spCourses	spFurtherEdu1	spFurtherEdu2	spFurtherEdu3	Methods	Biography	Education	FurtherEducation	Children	MaritalStates	Basics	RegioInfas	pTargetMicrom
pTarget			n:1 ID_t	1:1 ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:1 ID_t wave						n:1 ID_t		1:1 ID_t wave
Reduced pTarget* (1 row per ID_t)			1:1 ID_t	1:1 ID_t wave	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:1 ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t						
xTargetCompetencies	1:n ID_t	1:1 ID_t		1:1 ID_t																1:n ID_t						1:1 ID_t		
xCompMethods	1:1 ID_t wave	1:1 ID_t wave	1:1 ID_t																	1:1 ID_t wave						1:1 ID_t		
spSchool	n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t																		n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t splink	n:1 ID_t splink				n:1 ID_t		
spVocPrep	n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t																		n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t splink	n:1 ID_t splink				n:1 ID_t		
spMilitary	n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t														1:1 ID_t splink wave				n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t splink		n:m ID_t splink			n:1 ID_t		
spVocTrain	n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t																n:1 ID_t course		n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t splink	n:1 ID_t splink	n:1 ID_t splink			n:1 ID_t		
spEmp	n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t														1:1 ID_t splink wave				n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t splink		n:m ID_t splink			n:1 ID_t		
spUnemp	n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t														1:1 ID_t splink wave				n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t splink		n:m ID_t splink			n:1 ID_t		
spParLeave	n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t												n:1 ID_t child subspell		1:1 ID_t splink wave				n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t splink		n:m ID_t splink	n:1 ID_t child		n:1 ID_t		
spGap	n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t												subspen		1:1 ID_t splink wave				n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t splink		n:m ID_t splink			n:1 ID_t		
spPartner	n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t														wave				n:1 ID_t wave						n:1 ID_t		
spChild	n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t									1:n ID_t child subspell				n:m ID_t child wave					n:1 ID_t wave				n:1 ID_t child		n:1 ID_t		
spChildCohab	n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t									subspen			n:m ID_t child wave						n:1 ID_t wave				n:1 ID_t child		n:1 ID_t		
spCourses	n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t					1:1 ID_t splink		1:1 ID_t splink	1:1 ID_t splink	1:1 ID_t splink	1:1 ID_t splink						1:1 ID_t course		n:1 ID_t wave	1:1 ID_t splink		1:1 ID_t course			n:1 ID_t		
spFurtherEdu1	n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t					wave		wave	wave	wave	wave						1:1 ID_t course		n:1 ID_t wave			1:1 ID_t course			n:1 ID_t		
spFurtherEdu2		n:1 ID_t						1:n ID_t course								1:1 ID_t course	1:1 ID_t course			n:1 ID_t wave			1:1 ID_t course			n:1 ID_t		
spFurtherEdu3	n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t																		n:1 ID_t wave						n:1 ID_t		
Methods	1:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t	n:1 ID_t	1:1 ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	1:n ID_t wave	_	1:n ID_t wave		1:n ID_t wave			n:1 ID_t		
Biography		n:1 ID_t			1:n ID_t splink	1:n ID_t splink				1:1 ID_t splink				n:1 ID_t wave		1:1 ID_t splink	1:n ID_t splink			n:1 ID_t								
Education		n:1 ID_t			1:n ID_t splink	1:n ID_t splink		1:n ID_t splink													1:1 ID_t splink					n:1 ID_t		
FurtherEducation		n:1 ID_t					n:m ID_t splink	1:n ID_t splink	n:m ID_t splink	n:m ID_t splink	n:m ID_t splink	n:m ID_t splink				1:1 ID_t course	1:1 ID_t course	1:1 ID_t course		n:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t splink					n:1 ID_t		
Children		n:1 ID_t									1:n ID_t child			1:n ID_t child	1:n ID_t child											n:1 ID_t		
MaritalStates		n:1 ID_t																								n:1 ID_t		
Basics	1:n ID_t	1:1 ID_t	1:1 ID_t	1:1 ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t		1:n ID_t	1:n ID_t						
RegioInfas		n:1 ID_t						_	_		-			_	-	-			_		_	-	-	-		n:1 ID_t	-	
pTargetMicrom	1:1 ID_t wave	n:1 ID_t																								n:1 ID_t		
Valid for NEPS SC6 3.0.1	* e.g. pTarge	et reduced to ha					clists the most	important lin	kage scenario	s between da	ta files. Rows	represent the	e "master" file	(the data ma	trix that is cur	rently being l	oaded) that i	s supposed to	be merged w	ith the "using	" file (that is tl	he data matrix	x that will be j	oined to the ri	ight of the ma			

Legend: While there are numerous ways of linking data files, the merging matrix lists the most important linkage scenarios between data files. Rows represent the "master" file (the data matrix that is currently being loaded) that is sufficiently listed by the poor relationship between master and using file (that is the data matrix that will be joined to the right of the master case by case). Cells specify the type of relationship between master and using file as well as a set of linkage variables. For instance, a "1:1" relationship with ID\_t as linkage variables means, that one record from the master case by instance, a "1:1" relationship with "ID\_t splink) as linkage variables means, that one record from the master dataset is linked by ID\_t to one record so not uniquely identified via ID\_t splink). Please note that albeit a merging-relationship indicated in the matrix might be technical possible it has not to be necessarily meaningful by a substantive point of view. Please treat n:m relationships with caution since there is no unique logical assignment; for those cases always try to reduce at least one dataset to achieve a unique record matching (e.g., in spell files keep only subspell=0 observations).