

using file																													
master 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	
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Valid for NEPS SC6 3.0.1 * e.g. pTarget reduced to have only last wave record for each person (ID_t)

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 supposed to be merged with the "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 variable means that one record from the master can be uniquely linked by ID_t to one record of the using file. A "1:n" relationship with "ID_t splink" as linkage variables means, that one record (being uniquely identified via ID_t splink) of the master dataset is linked to multiple records in the using file (where one record is 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).