

NEPS **National Educational Panel Study**

NEPS Network Charter

Revised and amended edition according to the resolution by the NEPS Annual General Meeting as of September 13, 2022

Please note: This is the English translation of an original German legal text. In the event of a discrepancy, the German text shall prevail.

Preamble

The National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) provides research infrastructure services that deliver comprehensive longitudinal data to the scientific community, thus facilitating research on educational trajectories and competence acquisition by different disciplines and contributing to evidence-based policy advice.

The NEPS is the result of a long-term and mutual cooperation in a flexible, multilocational network of NEPS Network Partners and their employees (NEPS network), which is guided by the necessity to respond to particular needs and demands.

NEPS Network Partners (NEPS NP) are invited by the NEPS Management to actively participate in the network following the recommendation of the NEPS Annual General Meeting. This is specified contractually (at individual or institutional level) with the Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (LifBi), the institutional body of NEPS, for the purpose of implementing NEPS. The duration of membership of the NEPS Network is defined by the duration of the contractual involvement. The status of NEPS NP requires signing the NEPS Network Charter and entitles network partners to participate in NEPS committees, as listed in the Rules and Regulations of NEPS.

I.

The NEPS NP are in agreement that longitudinal research in educational science and the provision of high-quality data is only possible through interdisciplinary studies. They commit themselves to following the guidelines on good scientific practice, the principles regarding career promotion of staff, and the equality of women and men. The quality of our collective work is measured by strict scientific criteria.

II.

The NEPS NP contribute to the joint development and scientific discussion of a mid- and long-term research- and service program of NEPS and to the scientific reflection of the different aspects associated with this. The NEPS NP report to each other on a regular basis by giving an account of the progress of operations. They are actively involved in the advancement of NEPS; this includes the shared development of survey instruments, sampling and survey designs, field procedures, methods, and infrastructural offerings. Here, the partners contribute their respective disciplinary perspectives and research focuses. They agree on the shared organization of workshops and seminars on topics that are of general interest, as well as generating collective research products, such as publications and joint contributions at conferences.

The NEPS NP have authorized access to all NEPS data—given that the prerequisites concerning data protection are met in compliance with the NEPS data protection concept—under the condition that this be conducive to the development and optimization of the NEPS studies or to quality assurance. This applies in particular to the development of survey instrumentation, data editing, and the creation of indicators, as well as survey preparation, field review, and compiling reports and Scientific Use Files. Technical analyses (validity assessments, etc.) are permitted and welcome. Publications and conference presentations on content-related questions based on NEPS main studies may refer to data published in the form of Scientific Use File (SUF) only. Upon request to the NEPS Management, an early use of NEPS data is possible in justified exceptional cases for the purpose of time-sensitive policy advice. If necessary, this will be discussed by the Network Committee. With regard to content-related analyses of SUF data based on NEPS main studies, all researchers within and without the NEPS Network have equal (including equality in terms of time) conditions of access. The analysis and publication on the basis of data referring to studies dedicated to the preparation of Scientific Use Files (in particular, pilot, preliminary, link, and mode-effect studies) are not restricted.

III.

The NEPS NP are in agreement that their shared commitment to NEPS requires ongoing exchange. Therefore, they play an active part in the structures of communication and advice. In the long run, these structures will ensure the close collaboration of the NEPS NP with the institutional body of the NEPS, the Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (Leibniz-Institut für Bildungsverläufe, LfBi). The network's structures of communication and advice operate independently and without instruction by the LfBi bodies.

IV.

The "Annual General Meeting of the National Educational Panel Study" is the central committee of the NEPS Network, which shall convene once a year and consist of the members of the NEPS Management, the Extended NEPS Management, the signatories of the Network Charter, and elected NEPS staff representatives. At the core of consultations held at the Annual General Meeting lies the medium- and long-term planning regarding the research- and service program of NEPS. The Annual General Meeting also deliberates on the aspects of publication strategy and conference attendance, public relations, as well as the transfer of knowledge of the NEPS Network.

V.

From among this Annual General Meeting a "Network Committee of the National Educational Panel Study" is formed, which will convene at least three times a year. The Network Committee is made up of members of the NEPS Management, Extended NEPS Management, four elected signatories each of the NEPS NP from the University of Bamberg and from the NEPS NP outside of Bamberg, as well as the elected staff representatives of NEPS. The Network Committee discusses current and medium-term questions of the research and service activity of NEPS, reports to the Annual General Meeting and prepares the contents of their meeting.

VI.

NEPS employees shall congregate annually for a Full Staff Meeting and elect their representatives for the Annual General Meeting and for the Network Committee.

VII.

The Annual General Meeting will draw up a set of rules and regulations for itself, for the Network Committee, and for the Full Staff Meeting.

VIII.

This Network Charter is a binding agreement between the signatories of the NEPS NP. Changes to the Network Charter are admissible by a two-thirds majority of the signatories of the NEPS NP. Future NEPS NP will join the Charter by signing this declaration.

Signed

Place, date

Signature

Print name