

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

## **NEPS Network Charter**

### **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 innovative, interdisciplinary networking activities. A basic prerequisite for long-term success is the lasting and mutual cooperation in this flexible, multilocational network (NEPS network), which is guided by the necessity to respond to particular needs and demands.

According to this, network partners can be professors<sup>1</sup> from the University of Bamberg actively engaged in NEPS or from those institutions that have signed cooperation agreements for the purpose of implementing NEPS.

If active engagement as defined above is terminated, signatories will lose with immediate effect their status as network partner. New active participation of professors of the University of Bamberg or new cooperation agreements for the purpose of implementing NEPS made with other institutions constitute the status of network partner, thus granting with immediate effect authorization to sign the Charter and participate in the relevant committees.

#### I.

The network partners 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.

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<sup>1</sup> As well as LfBi Heads of Departments and, in exceptional cases, also scientific staff holding a doctoral degree and contributing to NEPS. All terms for official titles and roles shall refer to both male and female gender.

## II.

The network partners 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 network partners 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 network partners 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 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. 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 network partners 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 network partners with the institutional body of the NEPS, the Leibniz Institute for Educational Trajectories (Leibniz-Institut für Bildungsverläufe e.V., LIfBi). The network's structures of communication and advice operate independently and without instruction by the LIfBi 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 LIfBi Board of Directors, the signatories of the network partners, and elected staff representatives. At the core of consultations held at the annual meeting lies the long-term strategic orientation of the NEPS as well as plans regarding the research- and service program of NEPS, which the Director presents to the Scientific Advisory Board for their statement and to the Board of Trustees for resolution. The Annual Meeting also deliberates on the publication strategy, public relations, the transfer of knowledge, and presence at conferences, as well as plans for further education within 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 LIfBi Board of Directors, four elected signatories each of the network partners from the University of Bamberg and from the cooperation partners, as well as the elected staff representatives of NEPS. The Network Committee discusses current, medium- and long-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 network partners. Changes to the Network Charter are admissible by a two-thirds majority of the signatories of the NEPS network partners. Future network partners will join this Charter by signing an equivalent declaration.

Signed

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Place, date

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Signature

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Print name