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Extended Occupational Coding and Prestige Scales Available for the Recent Data Release of Starting Cohort 6 (SC6 1.0.0)

In the main release of the Scientific Use File of NEPS Starting Cohort 6 (Adult Education and Lifelong Learning) in December 2011, a set of newly generated variables related to socioeconomic status and occupational prestige have been included. Concerning occupational and vocational information, the data files of the main release additionally contain codes for the new Classification of Occupations 2010 ("Klassifikation der Berufe", KldB-2010, Paulus et al, 2010), which was published by the Federal Employment Agency in 2011. Furthermore, occupational codes according to the International Standard Classification of Occupations 2008 (ISCO-08) are provided in the main release. With regard to prestige variables, we added the Magnitude-Prestige Scale (MPS) by Wegener (1985). The MPS is a metric scale to measure occupational and vocational prestige and can be directly derived from the ISCO-88. In a forthcoming update of the SC6 data (SC6 1.0.1) we will additionally introduce the new prestige scale ISEI-08 (International Socioeconomic Index of Occupational Status) according to Ganzeboom (2010). The ISEI-08 is derived from ISCO-08 and, thus, provides an up-to-date measure of socioeconomic status based on income and educational level of persons in different professions.

With the availability of codes from the 2010 version of the KldB, it is possible to deduce the qualificational level needed to access this specific occupation or vocational training. This information is provided by the 5th digit of the code. This ordinally scaled number, ranging from 1 (activity without any training needed) to 4 (highly complex activity for experts), shows the so-called vertical dimension of the linked occupation or vocational training. Also, the ISCO-08 extends the older ISCO-88 by including new features. Some revisions were made to provide a contemporary and better fitted occupational classification. For instance, the old sub major classes 12 and 13, and some well-known problems of differentiating between them, were abolished. Furthermore, additional codes are assigned within the important group of the occupations in skill level 1 (major class 9), thus significantly improving data quality. The new prestige scale ISEI-08 is the first scale available that measures occupational prestige on the basis of ISCO-08. We are proud to offer this new scheme to NEPS data users from now on.

References

Ganzeboom, H. (2010). Questions and Answers about ISEI-08. http://home.fsw.vu.nl/hbg.ganzeboom/isco08/qa-isei-08.htm, requested at 2012/17/02.

Paulus, W., Schweitzer, R. & Wiemer, S. (2010). Klassifikation der Berufe 2010. Entwicklung und Ergebnis. In: Methodenbericht der Statistik der BA, Nürnberg.

Wegener, B. (1985). Gibt es Sozialprestige? In: Zeitschrift für Soziologie 14(3). S. 209-235, Mannheim.

Upcoming Two-Day User Training in April

The NEPS Data Center provides comprehensive user support of which our user training program is a key feature. On a regular basis the program provides training courses for researchers that are currently using or are interested in using NEPS data for their research. The aim of the training is to introduce researchers (1) to the panel and survey design of the NEPS, (2) to the data structure of the NEPS, (3) to issues of data privacy and security connected to data usage, (4) to methodological and practical issues in data management and analyzing longitudinal data of the NEPS. Participants are guided through the process of data access to conducting first analysis with the data. Courses provide hands-on sessions with the NEPS data using different statistical software packages (Stata, SPSS, R). The user training also provides an excellent platform for informal exchange and networking in the scientific community using NEPS data. Furthermore, attendance at the user training is a precondition for accessing more sensitive data provided by the new remote-access-system RemoteNEPS, which allows working on the NEPS data remotely in a virtual desktop secured by biometrical access. Special attention will be devoted to the technical functions of RemoteNEPS and opportunity for biometrical enrolment will be given.

The NEPS invites all interested researchers to the upcoming two-day training course at the NEPS (Bamberg) on April 16 and 17. The course will focus on methodological issues in analysing event history data from the NEPS Starting Cohort 6. Please register for training until April 2, 2012. For more information, please follow the link.

Updated Data Release Schedule

The schedule of data releases has been adjusted slightly. See the table below for upcoming releases.

Starting Cohort / SUF	Release Date	Type of Release
Starting Cohort 6 (SC6 1.0.1)	April 2012	Minor update to SC6 1.0.1 (small modifications, enhanced set of variables)
Starting Cohort 2 (SC2 1.0.0)	August 2012	First wave release date brought forward from October 2012 (original plan)
Starting Cohort 3 (SC3 1.0.0)	August 2012	First wave; in time
Starting Cohort 4 (SC4 1.0.0)	August 2012	First wave; in time
Curricular-reform Study in Thuringia (TH 1.0.0)	August 2012	Two cross-sectional waves; in time
Starting Cohort 6 (SC6 2.0.0)	October 2012	Second NEPS-wave (effectively third wave data); in time
Starting Cohort 5 (SC5 1.0.0)	December 2012/January 2013	First wave; release postponed due to fieldwork delay

Current NEPS Working Papers

The following NEPS Working Papers have recently been released:

- Rohwer, G. (2011). Using Sampling Weights for Model Estimation? (NEPS Working Paper No. 4). Bamberg: Otto-Friedrich-Universität, Nationales Bildungspanel.

- Rohwer, G. (2011). Uses of Probabilistic Models of Unit Nonresponse (NEPS Working Paper No. 5). Bamberg: Otto-Friedrich-Universität, Nationales Bildungspanel.

- Rohwer, G. & Blossfeld, H.-P. (2012). Contextual and Random Coefficient Multilevel Models. A Comparison (NEPS Working Paper No. 6). Bamberg: Otto-Friedrich-Universität, Nationales Bildungspanel.

All NEPS Working Papers are availabe for download on our website.

For any further questions, please contact us

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