

NEPSdata No. 4

Upcoming data releases of starting cohorts 2, 3, and 4

First-wave data of NEPS starting cohort 2 (Kindergarten), starting cohort 3 (fifth grade) and starting cohort 4 (ninth grade) will be available very soon.

Currently, the NEPS Data Center is completing the final steps in the process of data edition, is preparing user-friendly documentation, and is running advanced data integrity checks. We are very confident to meet our data release schedule by publishing the data releases in mid-September 2012.^[1]

The Kindergarten cohort comprises ample data on a sample of about 3,000 children in day-care facilities two years prior to school enrollment in Germany. Competence data about children - collected via picture-based tests - and context data collected from educators, from Kindergarten principals as well as from parents will be available in the first-wave release. The fifth-grade cohort started with a sample of about 6,100 students in fifth grade from different school forms in Germany. First-wave data contain questionnaire and test data on those students. Additionally, context data collected

from teachers and school principals are available. Like in the Kindergarten sample, there is also comprehensive data from parent interviews, for example, data on the family's sociocultural and socioeconomic background or the student's school history. Data on starting cohort 4, the ninth grade sample, is structured very similarly and comprises about 16,400 students. Furthermore, the first release of starting cohort 4 already contains data from two waves, since the sample was surveyed for the first time in fall 2010 - quickly followed by a second data collection sweep in spring 2011. Besides students at regular schools ("Schüler an Regelschulen"), the NEPS also surveys samples of students with special educational needs in the area of learning at special needs schools ("Schüler an Förderschulen") in starting cohorts 3 and 4. With the exception of test data, full data on students with special needs are already included in the first release.

^[1] <https://www.neps-data.de/en-us/datacenter/researchdata.aspx>

New version of NEPSplorer available

The NEPSplorer provides an interactive and contemporary online access to metadata of the NEPS studies and data sets.

Using our new online tool, researchers can quickly retrieve studies, questionnaires, items, and variables published by NEPS. By the end of July, already the third version of NEPSplorer was released on our [website](#).

One of the new features is the search by concepts. This enables researchers to filter metadata according to relevant NEPS topics. Additionally, searches can be filtered by data collection period or starting cohort. For example, it is now possible to search specifically for all those questions addressed to the adult sample in 2010 relating to health issues or educational returns. Registered and logged in researchers can use a clip board

function to collect retrieved items and to print them out later. Moreover, there are documents for download (e.g., original questionnaires or reports) attached to instruments. As a further feature, aggregated data like means and tabulations are also displayed in codebook style.

Next steps in the development of the NEPSplorer will comprise issues of interoperability, for example, providing NEPS metadata in XML-based formats like DDI (Data Documentation Initiative). Thus, the NEPSplorer will go beyond just providing an easy and fast interface for the retrieval of metadata. It will serve as the technological basis for future developments considering long-term archiving of social science metadata.

NEPS User Trainings 2012

The dates for the NEPS User Trainings 2012 have been fixed:

Date	Event
9/26/2012 - 9/27/2012	13th NEPS user training: introduction to the NEPS data structure with special focus on starting cohorts 2 (Kindergarten), 3 (fifth grade) and 4 (ninth grade)
10/8/2012 - 10/9/2012	2nd NEPS data workshop for the DFG Priority Programme 1646 "Education as a Lifelong Process. Analyzing data of the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS)"
10/25/2012	14th NEPS user training: introduction to the NEPS data structure with special focus on the additional study in Thuringia
11/13/2012 - 11/14/2012	15th NEPS user training: introduction to the NEPS data structure with special focus on starting cohort 6 - adults
12/11/2012 - 12/12/2012	16th NEPS user training: using data on competencies in the NEPS

For more information on user trainings and registration, please visit our [website](#).

Opening Meeting of the DFG Priority Programme 1646 "Education as a Lifelong Process. Analyzing Data of the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS)"

The opening meeting of the DFG Priority Programme 1646 "Education as a Lifelong Process. Analyzing Data of the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS)" took place on May 3-4, 2012, at the NEPS (Wilhelmsplatz 3) in Bamberg. The opening meeting offered participants of the Priority Programme the possibility to get to know each other, to present their research agendas, to exchange ideas, and to initiate research cooperation. Shortly after this, a workshop about the NEPS starting cohort 6 (adults) data was offered to the participants of the Priority Programme.

The Priority Programme combines different research projects that are devoted to one or more of the following research topics: (1) studying competence development over the life course, (2) utilizing the NEPS database for other substantive analyses, (3) dealing with methodological issues relevant to the NEPS. The Priority Programme of the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) aims to be a starting point for fostering widespread public use of the data and the research opportunities pro-

vided by NEPS. Individual projects will be promoted for three years initially. After this first funding phase new projects can be included in the Priority Programme and the projects approved for funding in the first phase may be extended by a second funding phase (2015-2017). By now, the Priority Programme has grown to encompass 17 research projects from five different disciplines. These projects are distributed across seven German universities and seven German research institutes. The Priority Programme started on January 1, 2012, and has been approved for six years. It is coordinated by Prof. Dr. rer. pol. Dr. h.c. Hans-Peter Blossfeld and Prof. Dr. Sabine Weinert.

The next NEPS data workshop for the members of the Priority Programme will be held in October 2012. In summer 2013, a 14-day summer school is planned to take place in Bamberg. Participants will be offered various seminars and presentations by highly acclaimed experts in the fields of educational research and quantitative methods.

Current NEPS Working Papers

The following NEPS Working Papers have recently been released:

- Arnold, K.-H., Lindner-Müller, C. & Riemann, R. (2012). Erfassung sozialer Kompetenz bei Kindern und Erwachsenen (NEPS Working Paper No. 7). Bamberg: Otto-Friedrich-Universität, Nationales Bildungspanel.
- Bayer, M., Ditton, H. & Wohlkinger, F. (2012). Konzeption und Messung sozialer Kompetenz im Nationalen Bildungspanel (NEPS Working Paper No. 8). Bamberg: Otto-Friedrich-Universität, Nationales Bildungspanel.
- Rohwer, G. (2012). Functional Models and Causal Interpretations (NEPS Working Paper No. 9). Bamberg: Otto-Friedrich-Universität, Nationales Bildungspanel.
- Rohwer, G. (2012). Estimating Effects with Logit Models (NEPS Working Paper No. 10). Bamberg: Otto-Friedrich-Universität, Nationales Bildungspanel.
- Müller, S. & Schneider, T. (2012). Educational Pathways and Dropout from Higher Education in Germany (NEPS Working Paper Nr. 11). Bamberg: Otto-Friedrich-Universität, Nationales Bildungspanel.
- Rohwer, G. (2012). Models of Educational Stages (NEPS Working Paper No. 12). Bamberg: Otto-Friedrich-Universität, Nationales Bildungspanel.

All NEPS Working Papers are available for download on our [website](#).

For any further questions, please contact us

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