



## INBIL - Institute for Longitudinal Educational Research

### NEPSdata No. 1

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#### Dear scientists,

With this email you are receiving the first newsletter of the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) for the scientific community, called NEPSdata. The NEPS consists of an interdisciplinary excellence network of researchers from various disciplines with the target activity to collect longitudinal data on the development of competencies, educational processes, educational decisions, and returns to education in formal, nonformal, and informal contexts throughout the life span. This will provide a rich source of potential analyses for the various disciplines (like demographics, educational science, economics, psychology, sociology) concerned with educational and training processes. With this issue we are providing first information about the beta release of the data of the NEPS Starting Cohort 6, which is now available. Furthermore, we give an overview of the data access possibilities, a short introduc-

tion of the data and links to more detailed information about the NEPS, the data-releases and our main scientific goals. Currently we are working on the main release of our scientific use data from NEPS Starting Cohort 6, which will be available in the fourth quarter of 2011.



With best regards,

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans-Peter Blossfeld  
P.I. of the NEPS

**Disclosure:** You are receiving this email because of your self-registration on our website or via email, or when you have already applied for a user number. If you do not want to receive the NEPSdata Newsletter any longer, please send an email to Michael Lindner ([michael.lindner@uni-bamberg.de](mailto:michael.lindner@uni-bamberg.de)) to get unsubscribed.

#### Beta Release of Scientific Use Data from NEPS Starting Cohort 6

We are pleased to announce the first release of NEPS data. This release represents a beta version of scientific use data from Starting Cohort 6 - Adult Education and Lifelong Learning - which is scheduled for official release in autumn 2011. All researchers from the scientific community are invited to test these data extensively.

We wish to emphasize that these data are made available to the scientific community less than 12 months after the end of fieldwork, reflecting the NEPS's goal of releasing all

data as soon as possible. This beta release is a service to all researchers interested in working with the NEPS data. In addition, we expect valuable feedback from beta users that will help us to further improve the quality of the scientific use file for the official release.

Note that the process of data editing is not yet complete. Therefore, we recommend waiting for the official release before publishing any results.

## NEPS Starting Cohort 6: Longitudinal Data on Adult Education and Lifelong Learning

Starting Cohort 6 comprises a representative sample of the adult working age population in Germany. Within this study, life course data on education and occupation as well as on competence acquisition are collected. In order to be able to study adult education, the entire spectrum of educational activities and learning processes (formal, non-formal, and informal), decisions resulting in their participation, and the previous life course of the interviewees (especially the course of education and occupation, re-

gional mobility, relationships, and children) are recorded in detail.

For more information on the studies, sampling strategies, and survey instruments, please consult our website:

<https://portal.neps-data.de/en-us/datacenter/studyoverview/startingcohortadults.aspx>

### The Beta Scientific Use File for NEPS

The beta release of Starting Cohort 6 includes longitudinal data on a sample of 11,649 individuals who participated in the first NEPS wave in 2009/2010. Data from a forerunner study („Working and Learning in a Changing World“, ALWA) conducted in 2007/2008 have been integrated into the scientific use file. Therefore, two waves of panel data are already available for a substantial fraction of the sample.

The data comprises detailed and complete life-course information in long-format spell data on schooling, voca-

tional preparation, vocational training, military service, employment, unemployment, parental leaves, and further education as well as partnership and child histories. Furthermore, long-format panel data on adult education, learning environments, decision-making processes, subjective well-being, and health are included. In addition, we provide a number of generated datasets which support researchers in preparing and analyzing the data.

### Data Access

Obtaining the data of this beta release is simple. Sign the data use contract and mail it to the NEPS User Service. For instructions, please consult our web-portal:

<https://portal.neps-data.de/en-us/datacenter/dataaccess/datausecontracts.aspx>

These modes differ with respect to the degree of data sensitivity. Details on the access modes can be found here:

<https://portal.neps-data.de/en-us/datacenter/dataaccess.aspx>

We offer three modes of data access.

- Download via our web-portal
- Remote access via RemoteNEPS
- Access data on-site at the premises of the NEPS

### Contact to the User Service

For any further questions, please contact us:

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