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## PROJECT COORDINATION

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# Programme Portrait

In cooperation with



Funded by



DFG PRIORITY PROGRAMME 1646  
Education as a Lifelong Process

The Priority Programme "Education as a Lifelong Process. Analyzing Data of the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS)" of the German Research Foundation (DFG) encompasses seventeen research projects from five different disciplines. These projects are distributed throughout seven German universities and seven German research institutes. The Priority Programme is coordinated by Prof. Dr. rer. pol. Dr. h.c. Hans-Peter Blossfeld and Prof. Dr. Sabine Weinert (both University of Bamberg).

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 relevant substantive analyses, (3) dealing with methodological issues relevant to the NEPS. The Priority Program of DFG aims to be a starting point to foster widespread public use of the data and the research opportunities of NEPS.

The start of the Priority Programme was on the 1st of January 2012. While the main programme is approved for six years, the individual projects will be implemented initially for three years and may be extended afterwards in addition to further projects being included.

The National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) in Germany provides unique, nationally representative longitudinal data on individuals' educational careers and competencies and how they unfold over the life course in relation to family, educational institutions, workplaces, and private life. The first assessment waves of the NEPS were carried out in 2009/2010 (adult cohort) and 2010/2011 (kindergarten children at age 4, children in secondary school at ages 10 and 15, and first-year students at institutions of tertiary education). In 2013 a sample of infants (in their first year of life) will be added

to the NEPS. These cohorts will be reassessed on a yearly basis.

To summarize, the six representative starting cohorts are composed of infants, 4-year-olds attending Kindergarten, 10- to 11-year-olds in 5th grade, 14- to 15-year-olds in 9th grade, first-year higher education students, and 23- to 64-year-old adults.

Data from the first wave of the adult cohort was recently released as a scientific use file. Further data from other cohorts will be released in the summer of 2012.

The NEPS is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research within its Framework Programme for the Promotion of Empirical Educational Research. NEPS is set up as an open research infrastructure providing unique data for further research within the scientific community.

The members of the SPP Steering Committee are Prof. Dr. Jutta Allmendinger, Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB), Prof. Dr. h. c. Hans-Peter Blossfeld (chairman), University of Bamberg, Prof. Dr. Hans-Günter Roßbach, University of Bamberg, Prof. Dr. Sabine Weinert, University of Bamberg, and Prof. Dr. André Wolter, Humboldt University of Berlin.

A further important goal of the Priority Programme is to form an efficient interdisciplinary network of experts studying education as a lifelong process. The NEPS consortium can function as the core of such a network; and the Institute for Educational Longitudinal Research (Institut für Bildungswissenschaftliche Längsschnitfforschung, INBIL) at the University of Bamberg will serve as an institutional platform coordinating such kinds of activities. In particular, a specific theoretical and methodological training program will be developed and organized for doctoral students and postdocs enabling them to conduct cutting-edge research and publish in the best peer-reviewed journals in the field.

A final objective of the Priority Programme is to stimulate national and international cooperation with key scientists in the field. For example, an important focus within Germany should be cooperation with other large-scale activities financed by the BMBF (such as PISA and BLK programs) and closely related DFG Priority Programmes (such as the Priority Programme 'Kompetenzmodelle zur Erfassung individueller Lernergebnisse und zur Bilanzierung von Bildungsprozessen'). On an international level, cross-national comparisons of the NEPS data with comparable data structures on educational processes from other countries can help to forge closer ties to educational researchers from different countries.

For the first three years the following events are organized for the members of the Priority Programme:

Date	Event	Content
Spring 2012, 2 days	Opening Meeting, Colloquium and 1 <sup>st</sup> NEPS Data Workshop	1 <sup>st</sup> day: Opening Meeting and Colloquium Introduction to the NEPS; Presentation of projects 2 <sup>nd</sup> day: Colloquium and NEPS Data Workshop Presentation of projects; Coordination of further tasks; Introductory courses to scientific use data from the NEPS
Winter 2012, 3 days	2 <sup>nd</sup> NEPS Data Workshop	Introductory courses to scientific use data from the NEPS
Spring 2013, 2 days	Colloquium	2-day meeting: Project presentations, progress report, and coordination of further tasks
Summer 2013, 10 + 2 days	Summer School and 3 <sup>rd</sup> NEPS data workshop	10-day summer school: courses on educational research; methodological courses on longitudinal and multilevel data analysis; presentation of preliminary project results; user support 2-day NEPS Data Workshop
Spring 2014, 2 days	Colloquium	2-day meeting: Project presentations, progress report, and coordination of further tasks
Winter 2014/ Spring 2015, 2 days	Final Conference of First Funding Period and Concluding Colloquium	1 <sup>st</sup> day: Presentation and discussion of final results 2 <sup>nd</sup> day: Presentation and discussion of final results Coordination of further steps