

LINEup Longitudinal Data for INequalities in Education

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In a nutshell...

1

Mapping and analyzing the research design and findings of **existing longitudinal data** on students' learning outcomes at primary and secondary level.

2

Understanding to what extent different datasets can be made directly comparable and deliver a **feasibility study** that brings innovation to the research community interested in comparative longitudinal analysis.

3

Collecting **primary data** on school-based **compensatory policies and interventions** to support student engagement, address different learning needs, and reduce inequalities in the short, medium, and long term.

4

With a cascade mechanism (starting from the schools engaged in the qualitative research) creating a **network of schools** to build capacity and raise awareness on **the value of longitudinal data** for a more supportive and equitable school environment.

LINEup Consortium (1)



14

Partners



6

Countries



2.8

Mio € Funding

**INTERDISCIPLINARY AND COMPLEMENTARY RESEARCH,
POLICY AND PRACTICE EXPERTISE**

LINEup Consortium (2)



3 year project (Feb 2024-Jan 2027)

Coordinated by:

- Fondazione per la Scuola (IT)

Engaging 14 partners from 6 countries:

- DE
- EL
- ES
- FR
- IT
- PT

Systematic Literature Review

1 Quantitative Analysis

A comprehensive **desk research** to identify and describe **existing longitudinal data** on students' learning outcomes in 32 countries.



EU Member States, European Economic Area Associated Countries, Switzerland, The United Kingdom

Expert Questionnaire, Researcher Web-Search & Analysis
→ Mapping → Feasibility Study

2 Qualitative Analysis

A **qualitative research** in project countries to gather primary data on the role of **students' engagement with school**.



France, Germany, Greece,
Italy, Portugal, Spain

Multiple Case Studies → Interviews/Focus groups
→ Soft Cross Country Comparison

Project Status & Outcomes

Systematic Literature Review → delivered in September 2024

RQ1 - To identify **studies** on educational inequalities in primary and secondary school education **with a longitudinal or repeated cross-sectional research design** and the related datasets.

RQ2 - To describe the **methods and techniques** used for analysing this type of data.

RQ3 - To identify and cluster the **variables** that are factors or predictors of educational inequalities.

Mapping → in the middle of task 2

Task 1 - Identification of Longitudinal Data

Task 2 - Longitudinal Data Analysis

Task 3 - Feasibility Study



Initial step:

227 datasets in 28 countries (+US) identified through different means:

- Systematic literature review
- Expert questionnaire
- Researchers' web search
- Collaboration with sister projects

Preliminary Results

The mapping activity led to the identification and description of **103 datasets** across **24 European countries**.

The **highest number of datasets** was found in **Germany and the United Kingdom**, while **limited or no datasets** were identified in **several Eastern European and Balkan countries**.

The **datasets vary significantly in terms of research design and scope**. Key differences include, among others, study objectives, sample sizes, age groups, educational outcomes assessed, and the availability of contextual data on students and their families.

This diversity reflects the **complexity of the field** and underlines the importance of **structured documentation** to facilitate comparative and longitudinal analyses of educational inequalities across different contexts.

Next Steps

With the dataset description phase nearing completion, the project is now **selecting a subset of datasets** for further analysis: both **within-country in-depth study** and **cross-country comparative research**.

To ensure comparability, the project will undertake a **data harmonisation** process – a crucial yet complex and challenging task aimed at aligning variables and measurement approaches across different datasets.

Preliminary findings from WP3 will be presented at the **second LINEup event** to be held in Athens in October 2025, where representatives from sister projects are also invited to participate.

LINEup in Athens 2025:

Understanding Educational Inequalities Through Longitudinal Data

Building Evidence, Shaping Education

17 October 2025

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