



Longitudinal Data  
For **IN**equalities  
In **E**ducation

# LINEUP EDUCATION DATA EXPLORER

## FAQS



## CONTENT

DATA .....	3
SCOPE.....	5
ACCESS.....	6
FUNCTIONALITY .....	7
SUPPORT .....	8

## DATA

### Which types of data are included?

In the LINEup Education Data Explorer, the included datasets meet specific inclusion criteria:

1. Data must be longitudinal in nature – this includes purely longitudinal survey data, pseudo longitudinal (repeated cross-sectional) survey data, and/or administrative data.
2. Data must pertain to the primary and secondary levels of education (excluding higher education).
3. Data must focus on students' learning outcomes (basic skills and others) typically measured through standardized test scores; and/or on academic performance indicators (e.g. school grades, exam scores, drop-out, truancy, grade retention, school trajectories); and/or on other measures of cognitive and non-cognitive development (e.g. socioemotional and transversal skills, students' school engagement, sustained attention, etc.).
4. Data must originate from EU Member States (27), European Economic Area Associated Countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway) and/or Switzerland and the UK.
5. Data must be representative at regional/national level or at least based on a large-scale sample.
6. Data collection must be ongoing or recent - if concluded, the latest wave must have taken place no earlier than 2014.

### What does “longitudinal” mean in the Explorer?

Longitudinal data include repeated observations on the same individuals or units over time. Longitudinal data are typically organized so that each row corresponds to an individual-or unit-time observation. Depending on the dataset, longitudinal data can follow different levels of analysis - such as students, classrooms, schools, or even regions - enabling multi-level analyses of educational dynamics over time. Longitudinal data can be collected and organized in different ways. In the Explorer, we adopted an inclusive classification of longitudinal data, including:

- Pure longitudinal data: data repeatedly collected by following the same individuals over time (panel studies).
- Repeated cross-sectional data: data collected from different individuals or units (i.e. classrooms, schools, etc.) at multiple points in time that allow the construction of longitudinal data through a unique identifier for its units of analysis.
- Pseudo-panel data: constructed from repeated cross-sectional data by grouping individuals or units into synthetic cohorts (e.g., by birth year or education level) and tracking average outcomes over time.

### What is the difference between survey-based, administrative or hybrid data while referring to longitudinal data?

Longitudinal data can differ not only in structure, but also in terms of data sources and data collection methods. Some datasets are survey-based, typically designed for research purposes; others rely on administrative records, primarily developed for monitoring and governance. In some cases, these two sources are combined in hybrid configurations, where survey data are linked with administrative records to enrich the scope and quality of available information. Pseudo-panel data: constructed from repeated cross-sectional data by grouping individuals or units into synthetic cohorts (e.g., by birth year or education level) and tracking average outcomes over time.

### **Does the Explorer include datasets on early childhood education (ISCED 0) or higher education (ISCED 4–8)?**

The Explorer includes precise information on datasets that pertain to the primary and secondary levels of education (ISCED 1, 2, 3). However, specific indicators are included that capture whether data collection started during ECEC (Early Childhood Education and Care) and/or whether students are followed into higher education.

### **Does the Explorer include international assessments such as PISA, TIMSS, or PIRLS?**

No, international assessments are excluded from the mapped datasets and described in the Explorer.

### **Does the Explorer include datasets that are no longer collected?**

Yes, the Explorer includes datasets for which the data collection is still ongoing or for which the last wave was collected not earlier than 2014.

### **Does the Explorer include microdata or only metadata?**

The Explorer does not include microdata, but only metadata. It is therefore not possible to download microdata from the Explorer.

### **Does the Explorer include school-level or teacher-level data?**

The Explorer includes metadata on the availability of school identifiers and characteristics, classroom identifiers and characteristics, teacher characteristics and student-teacher links.

### **Which countries are represented in the Explorer?**

The LINEup Education Data Explorer covers **32** countries: the 27 EU Member States, three European Economic Area (EEA) associated countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway), Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

### **Does the Explorer include information on when data was collected (e.g., number of waves, years covered)?**

The Explorer includes metadata on time trends such as data collection frequency, data collection starting year, data collection ending years, and school grades included. Different cohorts for the same databases are classified as different datasets.

## SCOPE

### Who developed the Explorer?

The Explorer is a result of a collective effort of all researchers involved in the Horizon Europe project LINEup (Longitudinal Data for Inequalities in Education), grant agreement No 101132455.

### Can I use the Explorer for research or teaching?

Yes, the Explorer is an open access resource built to facilitate research and/or teaching.

### Why are international large-scale assessments excluded?

International large-scale assessments such as PISA, TIMSS and PIRLS, that provide valuable cross-country data, are purposely excluded from the Explorer since they do not follow the same individuals longitudinally. We wanted to describe longitudinal datasets in Europe without accounting for international assessments.

## ACCESS

### How can I find the source of the data? Is there direct access to datasets?

You cannot access microdata directly from the Explorer. However, in the detailed information for each dataset we included accessibility information, including the direct website (when available) to verify access conditions and download the microdata if possible.

### Why do some datasets have incomplete or missing information?

Incomplete or missing information detects the impossibility of extracting that information from the available material on a specific dataset. When microdata was not accessible, metadata collection was mostly based on codebooks, technical materials, and public documentation on the datasets. Therefore, even if we tried to collect information as thoroughly as possible, some information was not available.

### Why are some datasets marked as “restricted”, “on request”, or “not publicly accessible”?

Dataset accessibility shows whether the microdata is accessible. However, the explorer cannot grant access to microdata, as this is determined by dataset owners. Access to microdata is flagged as “open” if microdata is in an open access, as “accessible upon request” if microdata is accessible after a formal request to data owners, and as “very restricted or not available” if microdata is not accessible or specific condition required (e.g. accessibility only on site).

## FUNCTIONALITY

### Why can I see only the map for Europe?

The LINEup Education Data Explorer covers 32 countries: the 27 EU Member States, three European Economic Area (EEA) associated countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway), Switzerland and the United Kingdom. To enrich the comparative perspective, we consider examples of best practices from other countries, but they won't appear in the Explorer.

### What do the numbers on the map indicate?

The numbers on the map indicate the number of datasets included in the Explorer for each country. If the country has a pin indicating 0 datasets, it means we could not find any dataset for that country that meets our inclusion criteria.

### Why does the number of datasets differ across countries?

For each country, the number indicates the number of datasets we could find that meet the inclusion criteria. For some countries, i.e. Germany, this resulted in a high number of included datasets while for other countries we found less or no datasets that match the inclusion criteria.

### How do the filters work?

You can find filtering options on the right side of the screen. You can use filters by clicking on the buttons, and different options will appear. Basic filters are always available on the screen. However, for more detailed investigation, you can open the "advanced filters" button and the "data variables" button, to make other filters available. You can select the filters of interest, and then you can click the "search" button. You can deselect filters, but you always must click the "search" button to refresh the search, since the refresh is not automatic. For cleaning the research, you can use the "clear all filters" button. The selected filters will appear on the top right of the screen.

### Can I export the dataset metadata (not the data)?

The Explorer is currently in its Beta version. Unfortunately, for the moment the Explorer does not support metadata download. We are working on implementing new features that will allow you to download metadata soon.

### Does the Explorer provide data visualizations or analytical tools?

The Explorer is currently in its Beta version. Unfortunately, for the moment the Explorer does not support data visualizations or analytical tools.

### Can I search by variable (e.g., SES, gender, migration background)?

Yes, you can search by variable using the filtering option "Data Variables" and selecting those of interests.

## SUPPORT

### I cannot find a dataset, why is that?

If you failed to find a dataset either through filtering, nor through list- or map-based interface, or through the word-search, it was probably not included in the Explorer. This could be due to mainly two reasons: the datasets were excluded because they did not meet the inclusion criteria, or because the research team could not find any information on them. If you believe the dataset, you are looking for should be included in the Explorer, you can send us feedback through the "HELP US IMPROVE" red button on the left side of the screen.

### Do I need to subscribe to access the Explorer?

No, you don't need to subscribe, the LINEup Education Data Explorer is an open access resource.

### Can I download my search results?

The Explorer is currently in its Beta version. Unfortunately, you cannot download the results from your search at the moment. We are working on implementing new features that will allow you to save and download search results soon.

### I saw a mistake and I want to report it, how can I do it?

If you want to flag outdated or inaccurate information, you can send us feedback through the "HELP US IMPROVE" red button on the left side of the screen. We will revise your feedback and correct the inaccuracy as soon as possible.

### I want to suggest a new longitudinal dataset that is not currently included, how can I do it?

If you want to suggest a new longitudinal dataset that you believe meets our inclusion criteria, you can send us feedback through the "HELP US IMPROVE" red button on the left side of the screen. We will revise your feedback, and we will eventually update the relevant information for the suggested dataset.

### Is it possible to compare two or more datasets?

No, it is not possible to compare two or more datasets directly on the website. However, it is possible to open information on specific datasets in a new webpage using the "POP OUT" button. You can therefore compare different datasets switching from one webpage to the other.

### How often is the Explorer updated?

The Explorer will be updated frequently (at least twice a year), both in terms of content and tools. Major updates will be released periodically as documented versions (e.g., v1, v2) and archived on the website for reproducibility and to let users know the last updating date.

### How does the Explorer ensure quality and consistency of information?

The mapping activity leading to the Explorer consisted in several steps, through which each dataset was reviewed by at least two researchers, with three rounds of internal cross-checking (local, central, and joint review) and consensus-based decision-making. Given that some inconsistencies or interpretative choices may persist, data owners will be invited to review and, where necessary, suggest corrections to the classification and codification of their datasets. Moreover, the permanent "HELP US IMPROVE" button offers users the opportunity to contribute feedback, such as proposing new datasets, flagging outdated or inaccurate information, suggesting improvements, or submitting specific queries.

### Can I request that the Explorer include a 'favorites' or 'save search' function?

The Explorer is currently in its Beta version. Unfortunately, for the moment there is no function allowing you to save your previous search. We are working on developing a tool that will allow to save searches.

### How can I cite the Explorer?

You can cite it as follows: LINEup Consortium (2026). LINEup Education Data Explorer. Released under Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license. <https://www.lineup-project.eu/map/>.

### Under which copyright license is the Explorer published?

The LINEup Education Data Explorer is released under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license, allowing unrestricted reuse, redistribution, and adaptation with appropriate citation. Importantly, the CC BY license applies only to the metadata, descriptions, and original content created within the Explorer. The platform does not claim copyright on external materials (e.g., dataset documentation, links, publications, or resources produced by national agencies, data owners or other third parties). All external documents and data remain subject to the copyright terms set by their respective owners. The Explorer provides metadata and publicly available information about datasets, and where necessary, it includes direct references and links to the original sources to ensure full compliance with copyright requirements. No copyrighted microdata or proprietary content is hosted or redistributed through the platform.

### Is there a helpdesk or direct contact available in addition to the "Help Us Improve" button?

We suggest using the feedback form "HELP US IMPROVE" on the left of the screen. However, if you prefer to get in touch directly with us, you can contact us at [info@lineup-project.eu](mailto:info@lineup-project.eu).