Changes over Time in the Effect of Parental Background on Children’s Educational Enrolment in Europe

Alessandra Trimarchi will present her work in progress within her study about educational enrolment of children aged 15-19 across countries and over time. As she has received the updated sample data only recently, she is looking forward to getting feedback in the upcoming Werkstattgespräch.

Abstract: Rising social inequalities have become an important policy concern. In time of crisis, enhancing education is seen as a strategy to fight poverty and to ensure social and territorial cohesion. This is why the European Commission in 2010 launched Europe 2020, a plan which aimed, among other things, to reduce school dropout. Several studies have focused on the links between school dropout and parental background, but less attention has been paid to variation across countries and trends over time. In this study, we want to fill this gap by using the European Labour Force Surveys (EU-LFS) of 27 countries, for the years 1998-2019. The EU-LFS is a large household survey that collects information of people aged 15 years and older. We focus on children aged 15-19, a key age group for completion of the upper-secondary level, which is necessary to access tertiary education.

Preliminary results from logistic regressions show that, in all regions, children living with medium and highly educated parents, especially the mother, are more likely to be enrolled in formal education relatively to children with low educated parents. This effect seems to be more prominent in Central Europe and in Balkan countries, while it is much smaller in Nordic countries. We will further present analyses for the effect of periods, and that consider the combination of parental education with children’s living arrangements.

The Werkstattgespräche offer the opportunity to discuss current research. Whether open questions, seemingly unsolvable problems, interpretations of empirical material, skill sharing or lecture rehearsals – in the Werkstattgespräch we are debating, trying out and analyzing. In a relaxed atmosphere we want to advance our research together!

We will send out the link for participation to all institute members by mail shortly before the event. We look forward to another exciting workshop discussion and to a great participation!

Marlies Zuccato-Doutlik und Hannah Quinz

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