

# Finnish Educational Transitions (FinEdu) Studies

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Finnish Educational Transitions (FinEdu) Studies is a collaborative project by the Institute of Behavioural Sciences, University of Helsinki and the Department of Psychology, University of Jyväskylä.

## What is the purpose of the project?

The aim of the project is to study the educational transitions and choices, along with factors associated with them, that young people face after compulsory comprehensive education. Specifically, the study concerns the transition from comprehensive school to secondary education and the subsequent transition to either working life or to further or higher education. The aim is to investigate the educational transitions and choices of the youth with a special emphasis on the role of personal goals, motivation, and subjective well-being.

How to facilitate the transition to adulthood; how to promote resilience and positive adjustment even in the face of adversity; what are the familial ties and resources that enhance socialization, social ties that can strengthen connections to educational and workplace settings, and institutional and state policies as well as practices that can alter the trajectories of youth, especially those at risk.

## Who are the target groups?

FinEdu is an ongoing follow-up study of the following groups of young people:

- Comprehensive school students in the 9th grade
- Upper secondary school students

## Why?

The study aims to find out, among other things, where young people end up after comprehensive and upper secondary education and what factors are associated with their different choices. Our purpose, then, is to identify different career paths and the factors that explain them.

## Data collection

The data for the study were gathered by questionnaires during the years 2003–2014. New data collection is taking place at the moment. Table 1 gives details of the study samples and times of measurements to date.

## Funding

The project has been mainly funded by the Academy of Finland and the Jacobs Foundation.

## Research group

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**Table 1. A description of samples and data collection of the FinEdu study**

| Samples                                 | Time of Measurements                              |                        |   |                                      |  |                                      |                                      |               |
|---|---|------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
|   | 2003–2004   | Spring 2004            | 2005  | 2006                                 | 2008–2009                                | 2011                                 | 2013–2014                            | 2016/ Ongoing |
| Sample 1.                               | T1  | T2                     | T3  | T4                                   | T5                                       | T6                                   | T7                                   | T8            |
| Lower secondary school students         | 9th grade   | 9th grade              | Next stage 1st year,                              | Next stage 2nd year,                 | Next stage 4th-5th year,                 | Next stage 7th year,                 | Next stage 10th year,                | BD            |
|   | <i>N</i> = 707, BD, PQ, PD                        | <i>N</i> = 642, BD, PD | <i>N</i> = 818, BD, PD                            | <i>N</i> = 749, BD, PD               | <i>N</i> = 611, BD                       | <i>N</i> = 599, BD                   | <i>N</i> = 610, BD                   |               |
|   | Age = 15/16                                       | Age = 15/16            | Age = 16/17                                       | Age = 17/18                          | Age = 20/21                              | Age = 22/23                          | Age = 24/25                          | Age = 27/28   |
| Sample 2.                               | T1  |                        | T2  | T3                                   | T4                                       | T5                                   | T6                                   | T7            |
| General upper secondary school students | General upper secondary 2nd year, <i>N</i> = 614, |                        | General upper secondary 3rd year, <i>N</i> = 636, | Next stage 1st year, <i>N</i> = 449, | Next stage 3rd-4th year, <i>N</i> = 422, | Next stage 6th year, <i>N</i> = 497, | Next stage 9th year, <i>N</i> = 528, | BD            |
|   | BD, PQ  |                        | BD  | BD                                   | BD                                       | BD                                   | BD                                   |               |
|   | Age = 17/18                                       |                        | Age = 18/19                                       | Age = 19/20                          | Age = 22/23                              | Age = 24/25                          | Age = 26/27                          | Age = 29/30   |

*Note.* Black vertical bars represent the transition points from lower secondary to upper secondary education and from upper secondary to tertiary education. BD = Basic data collection; PQ = Parental questionnaire; PD = Peer data.

