

THE BENEFITS OF EUROPE WIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

The UK has long been a leader in the development of longitudinal social surveys

Survey	Year started	Sample details	Survey type
National Child Development Survey (NCDS)	1958	17,000 children born in England, Scotland and Wales in a single week	Birth cohort, data collection at age 7 11 16 23 33 42 46 50 55
British Cohort Survey (BCS)	1970	17,000 children born in England, Scotland and Wales in a single week	Birth cohort, data collection at age 5 10 16 26 30 34 38 42
Avon Longitudinal Survey of Parents and Children (ALSPAC)	1991	14,500 families in the Bristol area of the UK	Birth cohort, data collected at 68 points between birth and age 18
British Household Panel Survey (BHPS)	1992	5,500 households in Britain. From 1996 the British Youth Panel included 11-15 year olds from the BHPS sample.	Household panel survey, data collected annually until 2008 when US began
Millennium Cohort Survey (MCS)	2000	19,000 children born in the UK	Birth cohort, data collected at nine months, 3 5 7 11
Next Steps (Longitudinal Study of Young People in England)	2004	16,000 age 13/14 from state and independent schools throughout England	School cohort of year 9 pupils, surveyed annually until 2010, since then less frequently
Growing Up in Scotland (GUS)	2005	Three samples: child cohort (3,000) born 2002, birth cohort 1 (5,000) born 2005, birth cohort 2 (6,000) born 2010	Accelerated cohort survey, data collected annually for child cohort and birth cohort 1, biennially for birth cohort 2
Understanding Society (UK Household Longitudinal Study UKHLS)	2009	40,000 households in the UK, includes household members aged 10-15	Household panel survey, data collected annually on a rotating two-year cycle

Table 1: Major UK longitudinal surveys

How would the UK benefit from the survey proposed by the MYWeB project?

- Longitudinal cohort development analysis facilitates analysis of age, period and cohort. - early analysis of age effects and partial control over acute period effects
- Feedback to children and young people could include a temporal dimension (i.e. how are the young people two years older than me doing?)
- Engage with the same children and young people who do not currently feel that their voice is heard in society.
- Creates policy relevant data for several cohorts starting from the first wave.
- Enables the identification of transition periods and turning points relevant to policy
- Helps to detect important periods for policy intervention
- Allows finding high impact policy areas (for instance education, family unit etc.)
- Enables policy impact evaluation
- Macro and micro level programme process evaluation
- Policy adjustment and impact evaluation for subsequent cohorts
- Enables medium term cost savings
- National level policy evaluation and EU level comparison (assuming Europe wide)

How would a new, cross-national longitudinal survey work?

After consulting experts through a Delphi survey and reviewing the design of 44 existing surveys, the option that commanded the broadest support in the MYWeB project was a new, pan-European 'accelerated' birth cohort survey with a series of age specific cohorts from birth to 25 based on nationally representative samples in each member state.

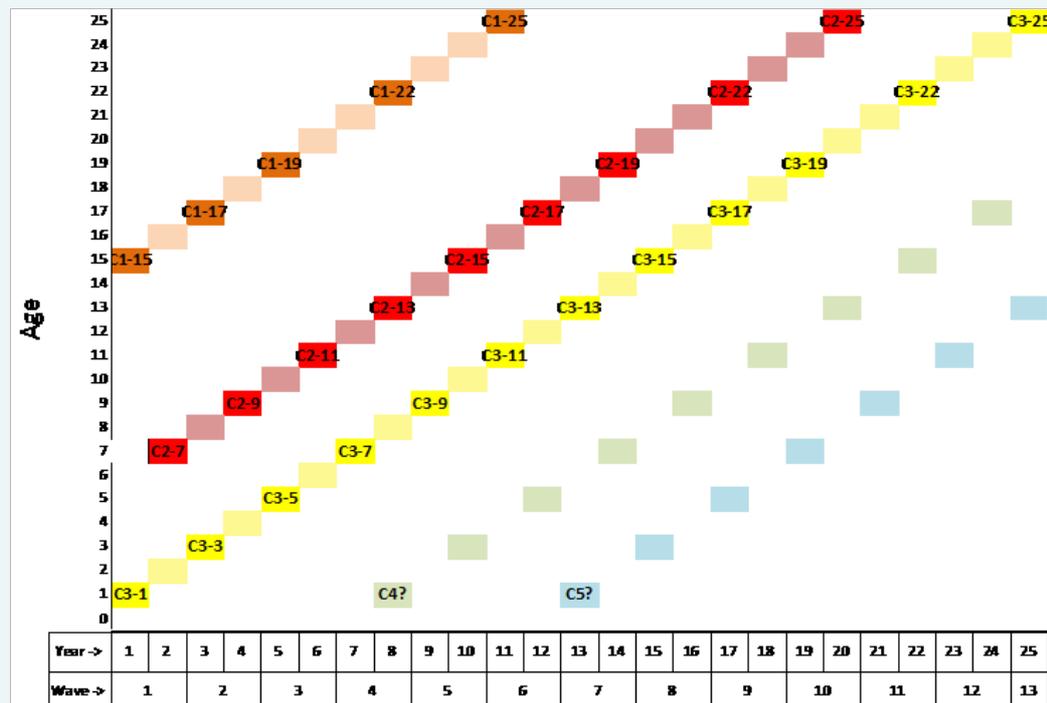


Figure 1: Accelerated cohort survey: phased design