

Results of the Intergenerational Transmission of Skills (ITS) research project

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5 October 2021

The Intergenerational Transmission of Skills (ITS) project has developed a unique and unparalleled database, linking skills of parents to skills of children. This database (internally also referred to as the 'Goldmine project') currently provides information on some 25,000 parents and 41,000 of their children. In the future, this database will continue to expand with new data. The unique feature of the dataset is that skills of parents and their children were measured at the same age (both around age 12) and with the same test (a national test measuring proficiency in language and math skills). This linked dataset is enriched with extensive information on the grandparents, the parents, and the children. This makes the ITS database unique in the world.

The ITS project has kickstarted with two inaugural papers. The first paper is a sociological analysis by Jacobs and van der Velden (2021). They estimate structural equation models to investigate the relative contribution of three mechanisms that underlie the intergenerational transmission of education from parents to children: parent's key skills, parent's soft skills, and parent's financial resources. The second is an economic analysis by Hanushek, Jacobs, Schwerdt, Van der Velden, Vermeulen and Wiederhold (2021). They focus on identifying the causal impact of parental skills on children's skills. This is to inform you that Babs Jacobs, Rolf van der Velden and Stan Vermeulen will be our speakers for next the Learning and Work seminar in which two papers of the Intergenerational Transmission of Skills (ITS) research project are presented.