

A Matter of Time and Place? Changes in the Willingness for Spatial Mobility of NEET Youth Seeking VET in the Context of Regional Disparities in Germany

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[Aims and Scope]

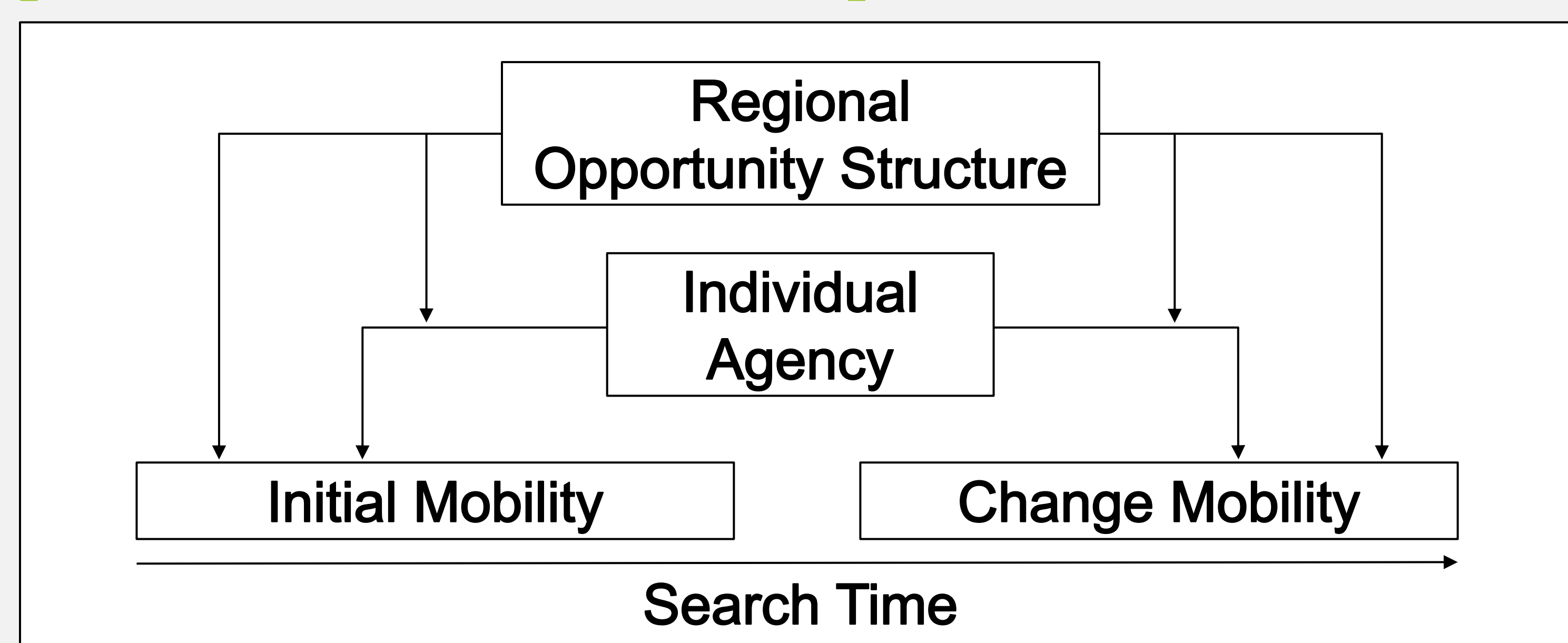
Motivation

Spatial mobility is an important means of overcoming NEET and facilitating successful transitions into VET

Research Question

What are the drivers for **changes** in the **willingness for spatial mobility** at the **individual** and **regional level**?

[Theoretical Framework]



[Analytic Strategy]

Data

National Educational Panel Study (NEPS, SC4)

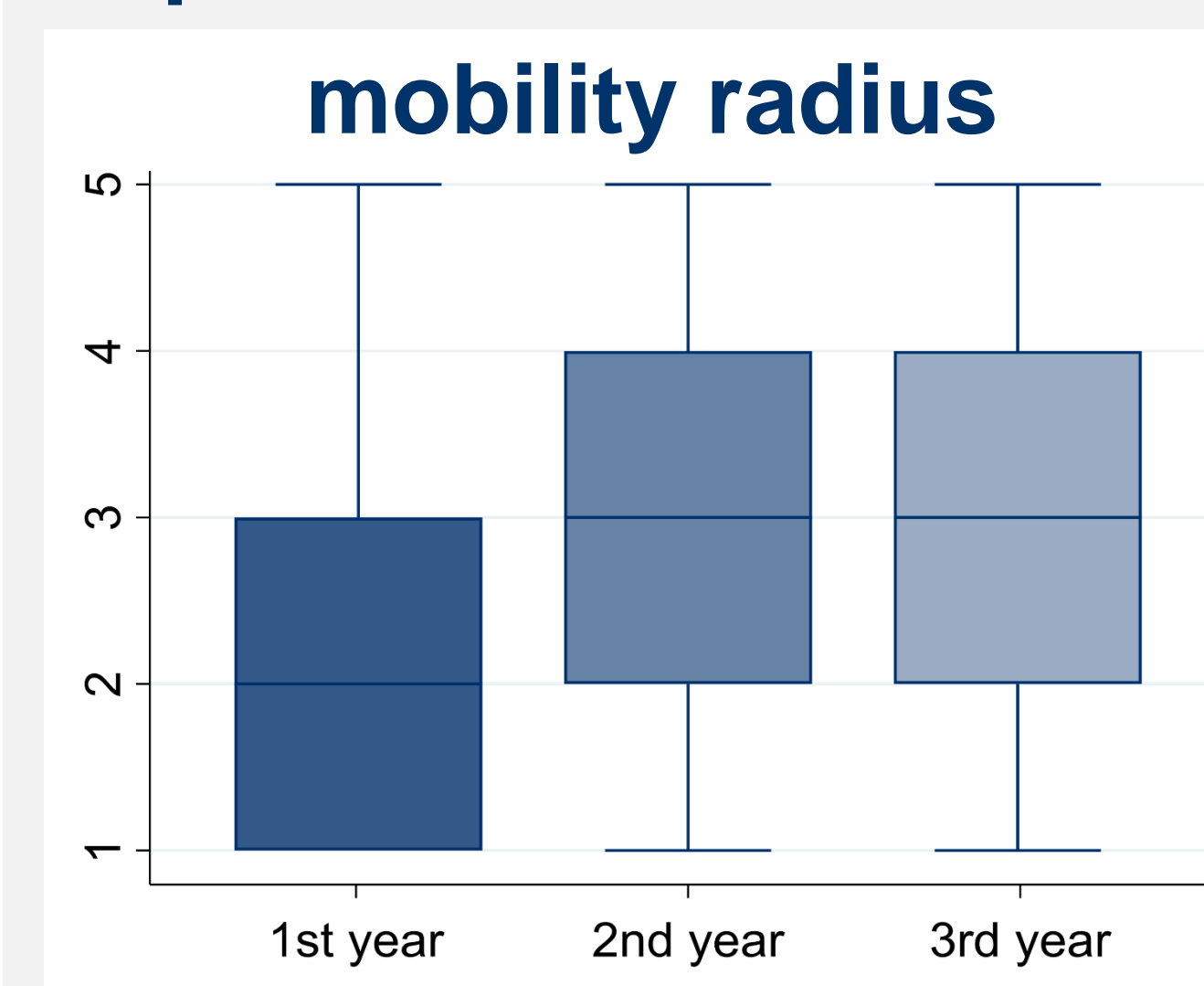
Regional data merged at the district level (NUTS-3 regions)

Method

Multilevel growth curve models and subgroup analyzes
Multiply imputed data

[Operationalization]

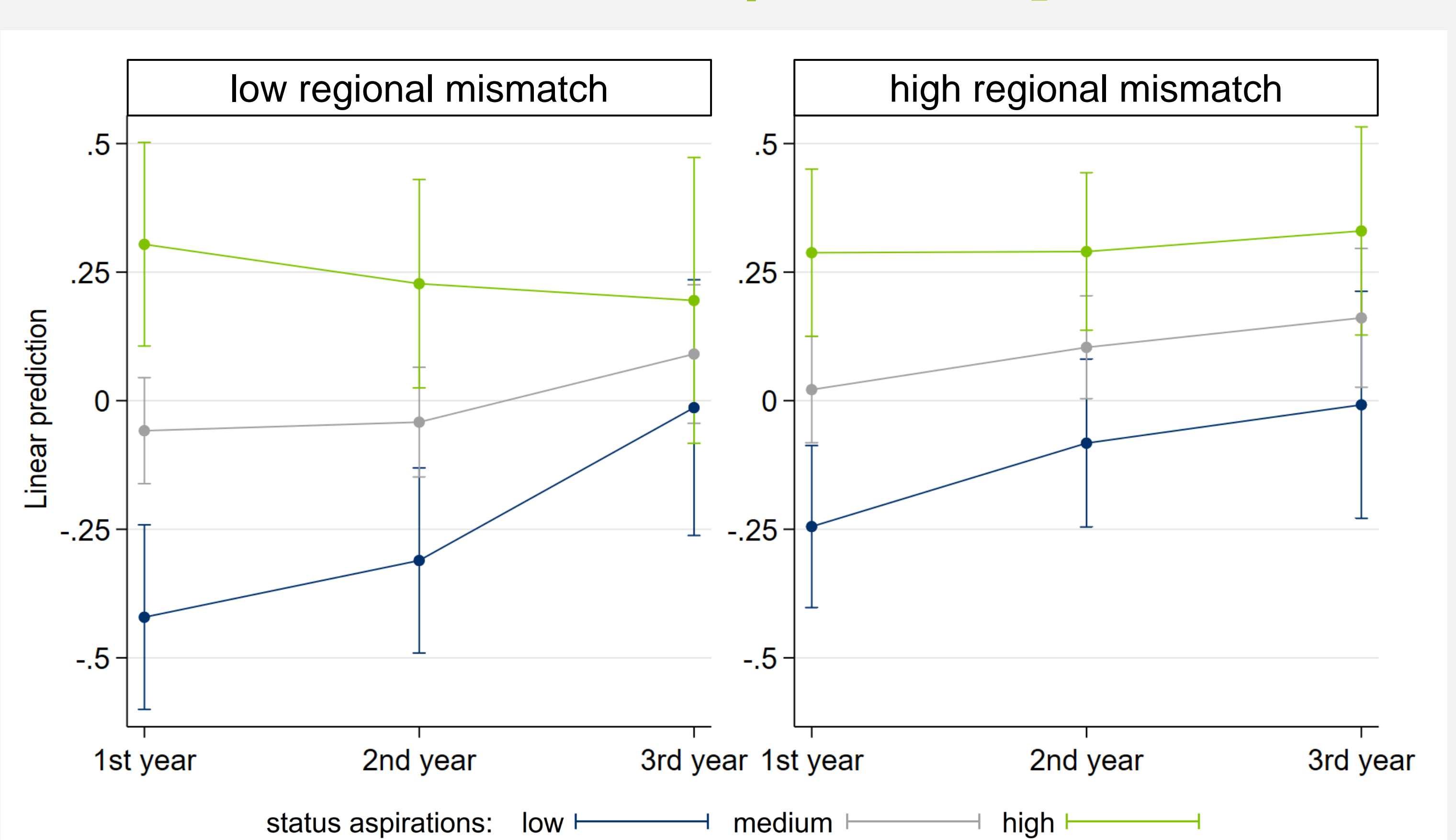
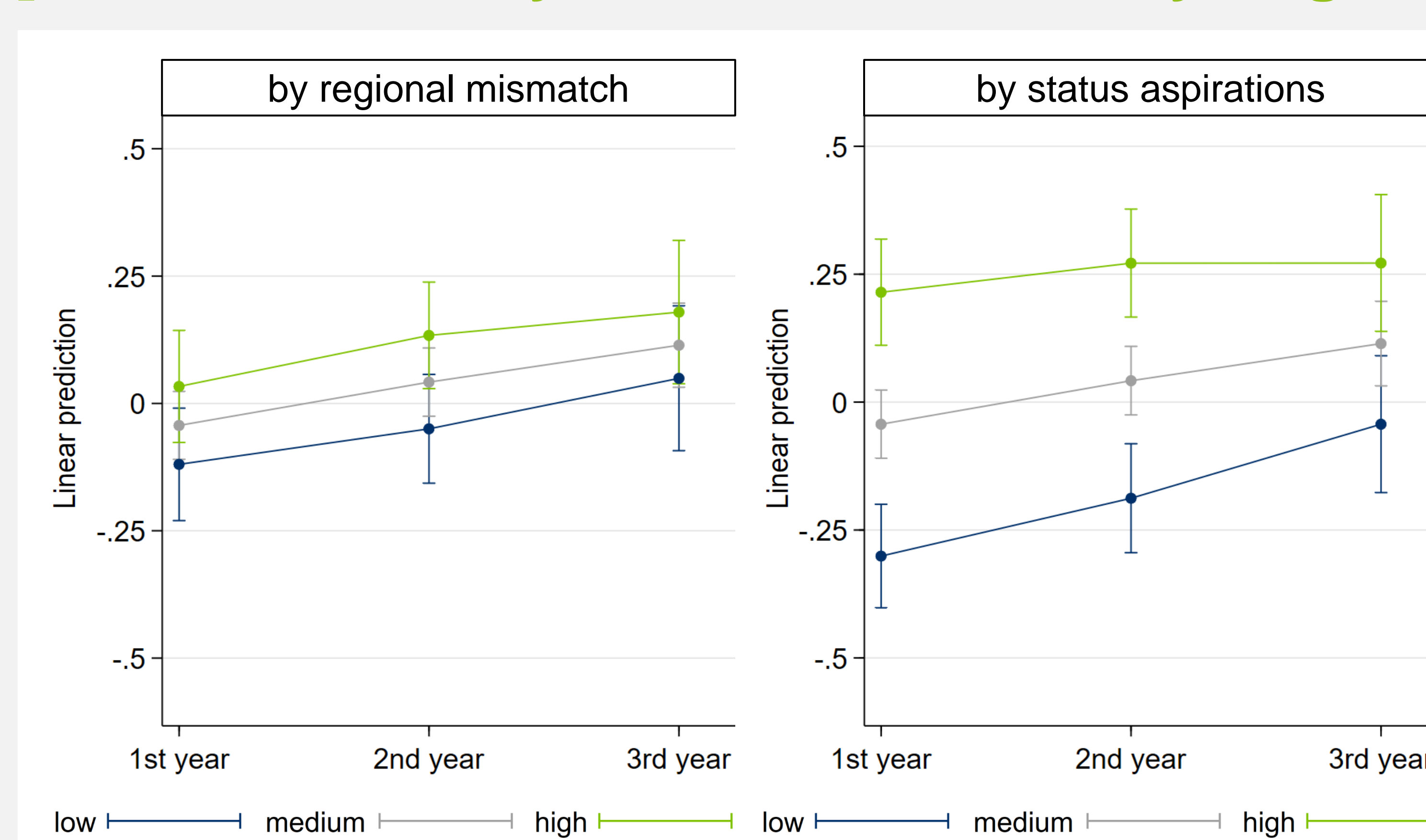
Dependent Variable



Independent Variables

- **Search time: years**
- **Individual agency: status aspirations**
- **Regional opportunity structure: regional mismatch** (share of employees in aspired occupational segment)

[Results: Mobility Radius over Time by Regional Mismatch and Status Aspirations]



[Key Findings]

The Role of Time

- overall **increase over time** in mobility radius

The Role of Regional Opportunity Structure

- only marginal time-constant differences

The Role of Individual Agency

Youths with **high status aspirations: higher mobility radius**

- independent of time or regional opportunity structure

Youths with **low status aspirations: strong adaption**

- higher increase in mobility radius over time
- higher mobility radius in regions with high mismatch

[Conclusion]

- The results reveal that **time, regional opportunity structures** and especially **individual agency** are important drivers for the **willingness for spatial mobility** of youths seeking VET in Germany
- Most notably youths with **low individual agency** show **adaption** in their **willingness for spatial mobility** when faced with **challenges** in their search for a suitable VET position
- This highlights the importance to implement **measures to support spatial mobility** for youths with **lower agentic resources** to increase their chances for **successful transitions** into VET