

Programme Update – January 2016

The Higher Education Data and Information Improvement Programme has been established to redesign the information landscape in order to arrive at a new system that reduces the burden on data providers and improves the quality, timeliness and accessibility of data and information about HE.

This document provides an update on current HEDIIP projects and programme activity and on the HESA Data Futures programme.

1. HEDIIP Projects

Data Capability – Improving the sector's data management capability

- [Data Capability – a call to action](#) - an analysis of the sector's data management capability - was published in early January. Andy wrote about it on the [WonkHE](#) site. The report has generated a lot of interest.
- Data Capability stage 3 has now commenced and includes the following work packages: 1. Developing a quick-start toolkit 2. Regional workshops 3. Video/webinars 4. Internal audit 5. Community of practice 6. Leadership awareness 7. Communication and institutional support 8. Toolkit update 9. Handover to HESA.
- Five regional data capability workshops are [open for bookings](#) in April and May. These workshops build on the seminars delivered in 2015 and provide colleagues with the opportunity to share experiences and good practice.
- The project is looking for a couple of GuildHE institutions to participate in workshops to develop the quick-start toolkit for smaller institutions.

HE Data Language – Developing a common student data language

- Following on from engagement with data collectors and HE Providers in late 2015, the project team have used the outputs of these discussions to develop a [straw man logical student data model](#).
- In early January the logical data model was published to the HEDIIP website, inviting comments from both collectors and providers. Since then a [Glossary of Terms](#) and a document providing [examples of using the data model](#) have also been published for comment (by 29 February).
- The project team have continued to meet with data collectors who were unable to meet with the project before Christmas. Additional meetings have also been scheduled with collectors to hold more detailed discussions about the published data model. Meetings are also taking place with software suppliers.
- Phone interviews have been held with a handful of PSRBs and further requests for interviews sent.
- Three HE Provider workshops have been scheduled for the end of February to discuss the straw man data model in detail (London 22 Feb, Birmingham 25 Feb, Edinburgh 29 Feb).
- The project team are responding to feedback received on the model and are continuing with its development. A second iteration is planned for conference season (sessions at SROC and AUA).

New Subject Coding System – developing a replacement for the JACS system

- The [full set of Subject Coding reports](#) were published in December 2015, accompanied by a [Summary Report](#). Stage 2 of the project concluded at this point.

- The Project Brief for Stage 3 of the Subject Coding project has been signed off by the HEDIIP Programme Board and Advisory Panel. Stage 3 is being resourced in three ways: HEDIIP PMO, Cetus, and HESA training and will commence in February.
- Stage 3 involves five work packages: 1. Common aggregation hierarchy and mapping 2. Transition plan 3. Briefing materials 4. Communication 5. Handover (to HESA). This Stage will end in July 2016.

The ULN in HE – Adoption of a UK-wide student identifier

- The PMO continues to receive monthly progress reports from HESA, SFA, and UCAS.
- A Project Board of the ULN in HE Adoption Group took place on 22 January. Work package owners provided an update on progress and the Board considered any risks and actions moving forwards. Meetings are being scheduled between the SFA, HESA, and UCAS in order to progress work packages.
- The total number of ULNs submitted in the 13/14 HESA Student Record was 119,273. The total number submitted in the 14/15 Student Record was 125,684. Half of the 163 HE Providers submitted ULNs and 83% submitted SCNs. Only two English HE Providers submitted duplicate ULNs and these Providers will be taking measures to resolve this for the next Student data submission.
- In the 15/16 UCAS application cycle 15.4% of applications included a ULN. In the 14/15 application cycle this was 9% (analysis not including overseas or EU applicants).
- Andy is meeting with representatives from the Scottish Commission on Widening Access which is due to publish its report in March.

Inventory Review – Reviewing and updating the inventory of data collections

- The Inventory Review project commenced in November 2015 with an initial consultation phase to understand the value of the current published Inventory and identify any requirements for development.
- [Two questionnaires were published](#): one for data collectors, and one for HE Providers. The deadline for responses is 31 January.
- The project has also been undertaking a number of phone interviews with data collectors and HE Providers. The outputs of these interviews are being documented and will be used alongside the analysis of questionnaire responses to build recommendations for development of the inventory.

2. HESA Data Futures programme

- The [results of the Data Futures consultation](#) have now been published. The responses indicate positive support for the Data Futures vision.

3. Other Programme activity during January

- Andy attended the HEE RePAIR Operations Group meeting on 6 January
- Andy and Alex Leigh met with the HEFCE audit team on 8 January
- Andy attended the QAA PSRB Steering Group on 20 January
- Andy attended the HEC Data inquiry launch event at the House of Lords on 26 January
- Andy attended a meeting of the Universities Forum for In-house Systems (UFIS) on 28 January

4. Engagement - forward look

- Andy will be attending the NES Analysis Intelligence and Modelling Group on 2 February
- Andy will be attending the HESPA conference on 11 & 12 February
- Andy and Paul continue to attend a number of Data Futures meetings

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