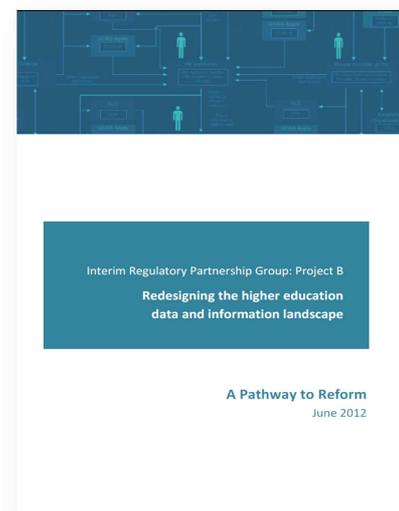# HEDIIP – the journey so far

The Higher Education Data and Information Improvement Programme (HEDIIP) is being established to meet the challenges set out in paragraph 6.22 of the BIS White Paper **Students at the Heart of the System**. This called for the HE information landscape to be redesigned "in order to arrive at a new system that meets the needs of a wider group of users; reduces the duplication that currently exists, and results in timelier and more relevant data."

Feasibility study

A feasibility study reported to the Regulatory Partnership Group in June 2012. This called for the establishment of collective oversight of the information landscape to achieve a more efficient and effective form of governance. The report also made recommendations about the development of a common HE data language, the creation of an inventory of data collections and about specific data standards work. The full report can be downloaded from http://landscape.hesa.ac.uk

RPG accepted the recommendations of this report and commissioned a series of projects to carry these forward.

Interim Regulatory Partnership Group: Project B
Redesigning the higher education data and information landscape

A Pathway to Reform
June 2012

Collective oversight and governance

The second phase of work was carried forward under a steering group made up of stakeholders from across the UK and chaired by Sir Tim Wilson. A team from Deloitte was appointed to develop and negotiate a model to drive long-term strategic change across the sector. This considered the type of work that needed doing, the authority necessary to progress this and the model for delivery and coordination of this work. In March 2013 RPG received the recommendation to establish a programme of work, based on the Managing Successful Programmes (MSP) structure, to deliver the vision set out in the White Paper. The Deloitte report recommended that the programme management office should be located at HESA.

Establishing the programme

We are now well into the process of establishing the programme. A programme board has been assembled and this will be chaired by Sir Tim Wilson. The Board of HESA have agreed to host the programme management office and funding arrangements are being put in place. The first meeting of the HEDIIP Board takes place in August.

The projects

The June 2012 report made recommendations about a first tranche of projects and these have been progressing. A first version of the **inventory of data collections** has been created and will be published soon. This will provide an invaluable reference source both for data collectors (to understand who else is collecting data) and for institutions (who can use it as a check list to understand exactly which collections they are involved with). We have been doing some further research and population of the inventory over the summer, building on the links we have established with the PSRBs through HESA's work on the Key Information Set and our more recent

engagement with Health Education England. We will publish the inventory on the HEDIIP web site and take on the routine maintenance and publication of the inventory within the HEDIIP programme management office.

The initial projects that looked at the future of the **JACS subject coding system** and at the implementation of the **Unique Learner Number** have delivered their reports and we now need to define how we will carry each of these issues forward. These initial reports will be published on the HEDIIP web site.

The project that has been looking at the different **data languages** used in different sector-level systems has made significant progress looking at HESA, UCAS and SLC data definitions. It is continuing to analyse definitions used by the research councils and the QAA glossary of terms. This initial project will deliver a web-based resource that will, for the first time, provide a comparative overview of the main data interfaces that HEIs have to interact with, using both graphical models and a lexicon/thesaurus. This will mark the first step in a longer term process to gain a better understanding of the different data definitions that exist across the sector, allowing us to make real progress towards alignment and standardisation.

The HEDIIP Board will be considering other proposals for projects that help move the sector towards the objectives set out in paragraph 6.22 of the White Paper.

Staying in touch

If you have any comments or queries, please contact the HEDIIP office on info@hediip.ac.uk.

You can find HEDIIP on the web at www.hediip.ac.uk and on Twitter.com/HEDIIP