



## Establishing the programme

The past couple of months have seen a lot of progress in setting up the HEDIIP programme. The Programme Board met for the first time in August and took a number of decisions about the structure and operation of the programme. An Advisory Panel is being established to advise the programme on technical and logistical issues and to oversee individual HEDIIP projects.

The HEDIIP programme is being hosted by HESA and the programme management office (PMO) is based at the HESA offices in Cheltenham. The details of a funding agreement with HEFCE and a memorandum of understanding between HESA and HEDIIP have been agreed and the PMO will shortly be advertising two posts.

## The inventory of data collections

One of the key building blocks of the HEDIIP programme is the creation of an inventory of data collections. The previous information landscape studies showed that there is a low awareness of the full range of data collections amongst the data collectors and within individual HE institutions. The inventory can be used to help us all gain a better understanding of the information landscape as it currently exists. Institutions can use the inventory to gain a better understanding of exactly which data collections they are involved with; data collectors could find out who else is collecting data and explore opportunities for data sharing. HEDIIP will be using the inventory as a basis for projects that will explore the standardisation and rationalisation of data collections.

The inventory can be downloaded from the web at <http://www.hediip.ac.uk/inventory-of-he-data-collections/>

The landscape of HE data collections is extensive and constantly evolving. If you spot any errors or omissions in the inventory please contact [info@hediip.ac.uk](mailto:info@hediip.ac.uk).

## Developing a higher education data language

HE data collectors use a range of different definitions to capture similar concepts. This increases the burden on institutions (who have to translate their data into a number of different formats) and reduces the ability to share and link data from different sources. While many of the differences in data definitions reflect real differences in processes and concepts, many are simply the result of a lack of coordination amongst the data collectors.

The HEDIIP project looking at HE data language has delivered a high-level lexicon and thesaurus to compare the different data languages in use and to provide some level of disambiguation. The lexicon and thesaurus covers the main concepts used in student data transactions by HESA, UCAS, SLC and the Research Councils and includes some of the main concepts defined by the QAA. The project has also delivered a report analysing the issues around data language in HE and making recommendations about how this work can be carried forward.

The data language work can be found at <http://www.hediip.ac.uk/data-language/>.

## Keeping in touch

You can follow [@HEDIIP](https://twitter.com/HEDIIP) on Twitter or contribute to the debate on the [HEDIIP Jiscmail list](#).