

April 2011

This is an internal newsletter for ECHIM experts in each participating country.

Successful meeting

Many thanks to all of you who were able to participate in the ECHIM Extended Core Group meeting in Luxembourg on 16th and 17th of March. There were participants from 26 countries, and the atmosphere was constructive and enthusiastic.



The main topics discussed in the meeting were the first results of the Pilot Data Collection, status of the ECHI shortlist, progress of national implementation and the future of ECHIM after the Joint Action. The meeting materials can be found on the [ECHIM website](#).

The implementation proceeds well

The implementation of ECHI Indicators in Member States is progressing quite well; in some countries quicker than in the others. The countries which are just starting the implementation work are recommended to first establish a National Implementation Team and fill in the Indicator Data Availability Sheet (DAS). The guidelines and template for these can be found in the ECHIM website ([Documents](#)). We would appreciate if you keep the deadline **31.5.2011**. This deadline also applies to all countries that have not yet filled in the DAS. After completion of DAS there is two months time to draft the national implementation plan. The deadline for this is **31.7.2011**. We also kindly ask countries, which have already prepared the first draft of the plan, to update it.

All the documents are reviewed by the ECHIM Partner institutes and countries will receive feedback. ECHIM Partners are also ready to help you, should you need any guidance in the implementation work. The documents are available in the [ECHIM Extranet](#) for all countries to read and learn. If you are missing the username to the Extranet, please contact anti.tuomi-nikula@thl.fi. Please send the documents to johanna.maki-opas@thl.fi or upload them straight to the Extranet

Network of expertise

ECHIM has contacts widely across Europe. It is important that the contact information is correct and up-to-date. Please check your country's contact information at [Contacts](#). If there is any incorrect information, please let us know. The list should not be too wide and the main contact person should be the one who is closely related to the implementation work in each country.

Publicity

The HEIDI data tool is an interactive application to present ECHI indicators. The recently updated HEIDI data tool is available on the [DG SANCO website](#).

An ECHIM workshop will be submitted to the next [EUPHA conference](#). The focus will be on new developments in data sources for ECHI Indicators and further results of the Pilot Data Collection.

The Final Report of the Joint Action for ECHIM will include a chapter describing the status of implementation in each country. More information and detailed instructions for your contribution will be sent later.

Is there life after 2011?

As all of us know the Joint Action for ECHIM will come to an end on December 2011. But we are applying for a 6 months extension, which the EAHC may grant. Then there will be time to work until the end of June 2012 (within the existing financial framework). Hopefully there will be ECHIM Extended Core Group meeting in spring 2012.

Currently the ECHIM Partners are planning with the DG SANCO how the indicator work will be continued after the Joint Action.

Should you have any questions related to ECHIM, please contact johanna.maki-opas@thl.fi

