

## Implementation of ECHI Indicators has started across Europe

European Community Health Indicators and Monitoring (ECHIM) aims to consolidate and expand ECHI Indicators towards a sustainable European health information system. ECHIM has now reached the point where the emphasis is on the implementation of the 88 health indicators across Europe. The role and the main task of ECHIM are to support the Member States in this implementation work. More information can be found at [www.echim.org](http://www.echim.org).

The latest meeting in Luxembourg gathered together health indicator experts across Europe. This first Extended Core Group Meeting was successful and promising: there is a solid interest among European countries toward comparable health indicators. All the presentations, as well as minutes from the meeting are available online [here](#). The next ECHIM Core Group meeting will be held in September, 2010 in Berlin.



*ECHIM Extended Core Group Meeting: Aris Sissouras presenting the Greek implementation strategy of ECHI Indicators.*

## Metadata of ECHI Indicators being refined

Much work (led by Marieke Verschuuren) has been devoted to updating the definitions, calculations, breakdowns, source information etc. of the ECHI shortlist indicators. Indicator definition proposals by ECHIM working groups have now been finalised: on alcohol-attributable mortality (led by Emanuele Scafato and Silvia Ghirini together with Hugh Markowe), smoking-attributable mortality (led by Nils Kirsch and Jürgen Thelen) and on cause-specific mortality and hospital morbidity (led by Hugh Magee and Grainne Cosgrove).

## ECHIM pilot data collection

The first ECHIM pilot data collection has now been launched throughout Europe. It includes a set of indicators for which data are available on national level, but which are not yet covered in routine data collections by international organisations. Read more in the presentation by J. Thelen and N. Kirsch held in Luxembourg.

## Major update of the ECHIM Products website

The ECHIM Products website ([www.healthindicators.eu](http://www.healthindicators.eu)) contains all indicator related information produced by ECHIM, most notably the complete metadata for the ECHI shortlist indicators, the Documentation Sheets. A major update of the Documentation Sheets started earlier this year and is progressing well. All Documentation Sheets for the implementation section of the ECHI shortlist (64 of 88 indicators) are expected to be published until the end of August.

## Visual presentation tool for ECHI Indicator data

The European Commission (DG Sanco) has developed a [data presentation tool for the ECHI shortlist indicators](#) as well as other European indicator sets. Currently the partners of ECHIM are working together with the Commission to improve the tool, both with regards to the contents of the database and to the functionalities and layout of the data presentations. An important point of attention will be the incorporation of metadata for the indicators in the tool.

## Significant progress in ECHIM related projects

There has also been major progress in ECHIM related EU projects like EHIS (European Health Interview Survey), EHES (European Health Examination Survey), and EUHSID (European Health Survey Information Database). The first wave of EHIS has been implemented in [21 countries](#) so far; the first results will be available in 2011. The second wave is planned to start in 2014. The EHES includes an interview, clinical measurements and blood samples ([www.ehes.info](http://www.ehes.info)). The planning of the pilot survey in 14 European countries has started. EUHSID ([www.euhsid.org](http://www.euhsid.org)) project gathers information on national health surveys into the HIS/HES Database. The database is at the moment being developed; an upgraded version will be released later this year.

## ECHIM at future conferences and meetings

The next ECHIM Core Group meeting will take place in Berlin, 7–8.9.2010.

There will be an ECHIM workshop in the [next European Public Health Association \(EUPHA\) conference](#) in Amsterdam, 10–13.11.2010.

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