



NOTE TO EXPERTS GROUP ON HEALTH INFORMATION

Subject: Joint Action ECHIM (European Community Health Indicator Monitoring)

1. Development and documentation of ECHI Indicators: for 63 out of 64 indicators in the implementation section of the shortlist the documentation sheets have been updated and published on www.healthindicators.eu. A plan of action for the indicators in the development section was discussed during the ECHIM Core Group (CG) meeting in September last. In the coming months this plan will be elaborated. This will result in some indicators shifting from the development to the implementation section. The documentation sheets for the indicators in the development section are currently being updated as well, and will be published before the end of this year. A revised updating procedure for the shortlist was approved during the CG meeting. Application of this procedure will start soon, and should result in a new version of the shortlist in the 2nd half of 2011.
2. Development of website on European health indicators: the ECHIM partners have been supporting the Commission in the further development of their HEIDI data tool. An updated version of this tool was published in summer 2010, and the release of a next version is planned for the near future. Both functionalities and contents (i.e. data according to ECHI definitions) have been improved. Meta-data and documentation sheets are integrated in the updated version of the tool. Furthermore, the ECHIM partners will produce comparability sheets, explaining to what extent the data are comparable.
3. Implementation of health indicators: evaluation of progress during the CG meeting showed that particularly in non-CG countries there is quite some delay. In most cases this seems to be due to lack of resources or lack of good national contacts.
4. Validation of the data flow on the ECHI shortlist indicators and pilot data collection: validation of the integration of the indicators taken from international databases (Eurostat, WHO, OECD) into the database underlying the HEIDI data tool is ongoing (see point 2). For a limited set of ECHI shortlist indicators, not yet covered by routine collections, a pilot data collection is ongoing. Questionnaires have been sent to all national contact points in summer. Deadline for submission of data is by the end of November. The data collected in the pilot will be analyzed and the results will be reported. The pilot data will also be made available in the HEIDI data tool.
5. Dissemination activities: a paper on the policy relevance of ECHI has been accepted for publication by EuroHealth. There will be a workshop on ECHI during the Amsterdam EUPHA conference in November.
6. Future of ECHIM after the Joint Action: explorative discussions took place during the CG meeting. The ECHIM partners and the Commission will further discuss possible options for sustaining the system. A worked out proposal will be presented to the EGHI in the course of next year.

Action for the Committee:

X	For information
	For comments
	For agreement