

DATA SHARING

At last year's HEMIS Institute in Cape Town, it was agreed that various ways of sharing information between institutions should be investigated and a report back provided at the next HEMIS Institute.

There are currently a number of ways that institutions can obtain HEMIS data:

1. The first option is to request the required information from DHET with the required clearance. Please note that no individual data can be provided.
2. The second option is to make use of the Peer Data Sharing (PDS) system developed by IDSC. The data used in this system is obtained from DHET under the first option as a regular arrangement. Institutions can then use the PDS to compare or benchmark themselves.
3. The Universities of Technology via the South African Technology Network (SATN) obtain information from DHET for indicators that are then used by the participating institutions.

One of the identified needs from last year's HEMIS Institute is to share more recent information. The Kresge Foundation is currently funding the Siyaphumelela project with four participating institutions namely Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University of Pretoria, University, the University of the Free State and the University of the Witwatersrand. This project focuses on the improvement of student success mainly through the use of evidence-based decision making. Kresge Foundation is prepared to open up the sharing of methodologies through their conferences.

Delegates are encouraged to contact DHET regarding specific requests but need to keep in mind that the data may not be very recent.

Delegates are also encouraged to approach IDSC with regard to the Peer Data Sharing (PDS) system which is available free of charge as a service by IDSC.

Rajan Naicker and David Bleazard prepared a document regarding the SATN project that will be presented by Arina Wessels on their behalf.

Kevin McLoughlin will do a short presentation on the Siyaphumelela project and how institutions and delegates can access the information.

At the moment the sharing of data between public and private institutions is still hampered by the lack of common definitions. It is anticipated that the development of HETMIS will eventually eliminate this problem and facilitate wider sharing of data.

As the neighbouring countries develop their versions of HEMIS, it should eventually be possible to also share data between countries in the region.