

## **IHE-Europe Connectathon 2016 – And now for Bochum**

September 7, 2015. IHE-Europe is delighted to announce that North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany will host the sixteenth annual Connectathon from 11-15 April 2016 at Bochum in the RuhrCongress.

The IHE-Europe Connectathon 2016 follows swiftly on from the successful Luxembourg Connectathon in April 2015, which saw more than 75 companies testing some 90 plus systems with some 300 engineers, developers, implementers and marketers present plus a number of public demonstrations of interoperability covering a number of European countries and the Trillium Bridge European / US gateway testing.

Teaming up with strong partners and supporters, the organising committee for Bochum is confident of an even more impressive Connectathon week in 2016. Engagement with the State Ministry of Health in North-Rhine Westphalia will underpin much of the activity and will include comprehensive support through its competence centre ZTG (Centre for Telematics and Telemedicine). This cooperation will enable strategic meetings with appropriate Health Ministries and ensure a number of European and national events spread over the week establishing a new level of interoperability focus with both regional, national and international interest.

This annual IHE Connectathon is an invitation to **all** companies, large and small plus any other organisations to test their products and solutions, across a variety of Domains including Radiology, Cardiology, Pathology, Patient Care Devices, Patient Care Coordination, Pharmacy, Laboratory, Dental and crucially IT Infrastructure, along with those of their peers.

After the ongoing successes of previous years' events in Bern, Istanbul, Vienna and Luxembourg, Alexander Ihls - Vendor Co-Chair of IHE-Germany said "We are delighted that the IHE-Europe Connectathon is coming to Germany and particularly Bochum, famous for being close to the heartland of industrial Germany. We look forward to welcoming all delegates – vendors and users – to RuhrCongress at this important time for system interoperability, which has become an imperative for vendors to be able to demonstrate, by attending this annual event and using where appropriate the offerings of IHE-Services to enable Conformity Testing of their software".

Around the IHE-Europe Connectathon 2016, the following events are currently planned:

- IHE-Europe General Assembly and Steering Committee (closed meetings).
- Joint European Symposium: Policies and deployment initiatives for eHealth interoperability (embracing the international IHE Symposium).
- German eHealth Interoperability Symposium and affiliated meetings and assemblies hosted by IHE-Germany, ZTG and bvitg (German Health IT Vendor Association).
- Affiliated meetings of national and regional work groups involved in eHealth interoperability, the National eHealth infrastructure and related topics.
- Social events to link with many of the above.
- Guided VIP Tours visiting "Connectathon at Work" on a broader scale than before.

The last years in particular have seen national, regional and hospital tender procedures demand current independent demonstrations of IHE Profile implementation competence by vendors and an increasing number of buyers are turning to the IHE Product Registry (<http://product-registry.ihe.net>) and Connectathon results pages (<http://connectathon-results.ihe-europe.net>) which detail Connectathon results, as part of their decision making process.

For more information on the IHE-Europe Connectathon 2016 go to - <http://connectathon.ihe-europe.net>. Registration opens on December 1, 2015 and closes on January 15, 2016.

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**About IHE-Services**

*IHE-Services is the operational unit of IHE-Europe dedicated to the fulfilment of its mission. It is a professional testing team supporting IHE-Europe's members and beneficiaries that want to build trust in the deployment of IHE Profiles in their solutions and projects. Services provided are the development of customised validation and conformance test tools, organisation of test sessions and demonstrations, training and consultancy on implementation of the IHE Profiles in beneficiary's projects / programs. Beneficiaries are national or regional e-Health projects, IT users in hospitals or vendors developing new products. IHE-Services offers a unique suite of tools and services used during the Connectathons worldwide.*

**About IHE-Europe**

*The mission of IHE-Europe is to improve patient care by advancing the interoperability of healthcare IT systems and the appropriate sharing of relevant information. Towards that end, IHE-Europe conducts education, testing, demonstrations and other activities promoting the deployment within Europe of systems compliant with the IHE Technical Frameworks developed by IHE International. IHE-Europe also recruits healthcare professionals and solution developers to participate in the development of these specifications and promote their appropriate use in Europe. IHE-Europe interacts with relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations in Europe. It also maintains close contacts with similar initiatives around the world.*

**About IHE-Germany**

*Since 2004 IHE-Germany is a registered not-for-profit organisation in Germany. It stipulates the usage of IHE Profiles in Germany by supporting more than 60 members (44 companies and organisations + 17 individual members) in the implementation of these Profiles in their products and solutions. In a strong partnership with the healthcare IT vendors association (bvitg) and the German medical research platform (TMF), IHE-Germany develops national addendums and cooperates with national affiliates of several SDOs. They also consult national and federal organisations regarding the adoption of interoperability in healthcare IT.*

**About ZTG**

*The objective of ZTG is to introduce and to spread modern information and communication technologies - user-oriented into the healthcare system. The main goal is to strengthen the quality of care along with the ever increasing demands. Beside consulting services, expert opinions and projects ZTG focuses on the networking of market players. Since the establishment of the company in 1999 the competence centrum has become a solid entity in the field of health telematics.*