



## **IHE-Europe Connectathon 2013 enables robust, in-depth testing for HIT interoperability**

ISTANBUL, Turkey -- 06 May, 2013 -- The promise of connecting where the continents meet was successfully realized as this year's IHE-Europe Connectathon drew participants and visitors from every region of the world.

A 'connectivity marathon' for validating the interoperability of health information systems 330 engineers from 76 organizations tested 102 systems during the five-day event held April 15 to 19, 2013 at the Haliç Congress Center. By the close of the event 2,314 tests had been conducted.

The intensive testing at the Connectathon attracted representatives of eHealth initiatives from 21 countries attending the IHE World Summit, a two-day conference held in an adjacent congress center. Delegations from the Turkish Radiology Society and the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Health also visited for a first-hand experience with eHealth interoperability in action.

At a parallel Projectathon for the Europe Patient Smart Open Services (epSOS), engineers from Croatia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Switzerland tested systems, mostly based on the open NCP (National Contact Point developed on open source license), ahead of joining the large-scale pilot program supported by the European Union for cross-border exchanges of medical data for mobile patients.

Hosted and sponsored by IHE-Turkey, the Connectathon created an opportunity for a parallel symposium on interoperability organized by the Turkish Medical Informatics Association (TurkMIA).

Managed by IHE-Services, the Connectathon in Istanbul saw the first full application of the newest addition to the suite of Gazelle test management tools, the EVS Proxy, which helps audits the integrity of messages exchanged between two systems under test.

The robustness and stability of the Gazelle testing tools enable fast, efficient system testing and allow engineers to conduct in-depth tests of new systems, according to Eric Poiseau, who leads the technical team from IHE-Services.

Next year's opportunity to test HIT interoperability in this unique and inspiring setting will be in Vienna, Austria, organized by IHE Austria.

For more information please visit [www.ihe-europe.net](http://www.ihe-europe.net).

Or follow updates on LinkedIn : <http://www.linkedin.com/company/ihe-europe>.

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### **About Connectathon**

Connectathon is the healthcare IT industries largest interoperability testing event, the culmination of a detailed development process based on the IHE Technical Frameworks that promote the adoption of standards-based interoperability by vendors and users of healthcare information systems. Once each year Connectathons held in Europe, North America, Australia and Asia provide developers an opportunity to demonstrate conformance to internationally accepted integration profiles that assure any IHE-compliant system can share data and interoperate with any other IHE compliant system.

### **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. Toward 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 organizations in Europe. It also maintains close contacts with similar initiatives around the world.

### **About IHE-Services**

IHE-Services is the operational unit of IHE-Europe dedicated to the fulfillment of its mission. It's 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 customized validation and conformance test tools, the organization of test sessions and demonstrations, training and consultancy on implementation of the IHE profiles in the beneficiary's projects and programs. Beneficiaries are national or regional e-health projects, HIT users in hospitals or vendors developing new systems. IHE-Services offers a unique suite of tools and services used during the connectivity marathons, or Connectathons, worldwide.