

Venice plays host to the 17th IHE-Europe Connectathon.

Press Release – REVISED VERSION 31st March 2017

The stunning city of Venice, one of the most iconic in the world, will be hosting the 17th IHE-Europe Connectathon from 3-7 April 2017 at the Passenger Terminal in the Maritime Port. It brings this “Connectivity Test Marathon” back to Italy just 6 years after it was in Pisa.

The 2017 IHE-Europe Connectathon is jointly organised by IHE-Europe and IHE-Italy in collaboration with Arsenà.IT and the Regione del Veneto and it promises to be the most spectacular yet.

The Connectathon provides health IT companies with the opportunity to test their products in a structured environment, via the renowned Gazelle Test Bed, 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 peer vendors. Real-world clinical scenarios following IHE Integration Profile specifications are used to ensure the testing environment is as close as possible to what vendors find in the market place. This saves them time and money and provides reassurance to the procurement community. Successful testing validation of products against IHE Profiles is recorded on the IHE Connectathon Results matrix. (<http://connectathon-results.ihe.net>)

Some 90 companies will join the Connectathon this year, bringing together more than 115 systems and over 360 participants for a full week of intensive testing, an increase over previous years. This demonstrates how important interoperability is across the healthcare spectrum in Europe, especially after the European Commission’s decision to adopt 27 IHE Profiles for public procurement. Alongside the Connectathon there will be Projectathons, where European/Regional projects will test interoperability of their own real-world scenarios with their chosen vendor string. Additionally, on 4-5 April there will be an mHealth Plug-a-Thon where the Health Apps Community can innovate connecting their Apps with the APIs of health IT product solutions in a standardised way.

Commenting on the Connectathon, Lapo Bertini, Deputy Vendor Co-Chair of IHE-Europe and Vendor Co-Chair for IHE-Italy said, “IHE-Italy is proud to be hosting the 17th IHE-Europe Connectathon in Venice. It has played a leading role in the continuous expansion of the Connectathon in its position as the ‘fulcrum of interoperability’ activity in health IT solutions for vendors, users, experts and procurers alike. The Connectathon itself and the meetings/events in tandem provide an unparalleled networking opportunity for all participants and we wish them all safe travel to Venice”.

Claudio Saccavini, IHE-Italy Technical Manager and Technical General Manager of Arsenà.IT – the Veneto Centre for Research and Innovation – said, “Our Venice event provides a unique opportunity to mix the healthcare science associated with the Connectathon and the artistic splendour of this great Italian city”.

The week will also feature outstanding parallel events including an IHE-Europe Symposium on 4 April – Interoperability in eHealth Marches Ahead, which will showcase the terrific progress being made across Europe. Also, three events organised by Arsenà.IT and Regione del Veneto, with special patronage from the Italian Ministry of Health on 5 April – An overview on Health Information Exchange at the European level. Plus on 6 April – Focus on Privacy Issues in eHealth, as well as – Decision Support Systems and Artificial Intelligence applied to Healthcare Systems. The programme can be found [here](#).

The Horizon 2020 European eStandards project and the International Patient Summary project, to which IHE-Europe contributes, will provide – on 5 April – an update on their progress. More information can be found [here](#). Moreover, a number of regional deployments related to Active and Healthy Aging will converge at Venice to address the barriers to interoperability they encounter in their deployments and evaluate the solutions that IHE and PCHA may offer. You can find further information [here](#).

For more information on the IHE-Europe Connectathon 2017 please go to <http://connectathon.ihe-europe.net> or look at the IHE-Europe Connectathon White Paper on <https://www.ihe-europe.net/news/publications>

Press contact: Sandra Antoni (sandra.antoni@ihe-europe.net)

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-Italy

IHE-Italy is a not-for-profit organisation that has been promoting IHE in Italy since 2001. IHE-Italy is sponsored by SIRM, the Italian Radiologists Association. IHE-Italy supports both the vendors and users communities in their usage and implementation of IHE Profiles and as such it has hosted and organised several Connectathons over the years (2004 in Padua, 2011 in Pisa and now 2017 in Venice). IHE-Italy is a member of IHE-Europe and IHE International and IHE-Italy's leadership is prominently involved in many IHE initiatives at international level.

About Arsenà.IT

Arsenà.IT is a voluntary consortium comprising 9 Local Health Authorities and 2 Hospital Trusts of the Veneto Region and IOV. It is Veneto's Research Centre for eHealth and aiming to enhance the quality of the clinical processes and assistance offered to its regional citizens. The young and skilful team is focused on interoperability issues, studying them at the international level and applying them at a local level. Arsenà.IT provides guidelines on interoperability for healthcare information systems at regional levels based on its long-time collaboration with IHE International and IHE-Europe.

About Regione del Veneto

Regione del Veneto is a regional authority located in the north-east of Italy with a population of about 4,950,000 inhabitants organised in 7 provinces with land that widens from the Venetian seaside to the mountain-top settings in the Dolomites area. The region is one of the most industrialised both at national and European level. The regional healthcare system is based on a public system with 9 Local Health Authorities and 2 main Hospital Trusts.