

# HITCH

Healthcare Interoperability Testing  
and Conformance Harmonisation

Workshop wrap-up

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## Presentation summaries (1)

- ▶ The European Commissions Vision for eHealth Interoperability
  - ▶ EC has many instruments to foster eHealth interoperability at operational, organisational and political levels following the Digital Agenda and 2020 plan
  - ▶ The discussions addressed the timeframe of planned actions
  
- ▶ Best Practice: Certification and Testing in Denmark
  - ▶ 20 years of experience with credible results
  - ▶ Market of eHealth solutions affected by certification results,
  - ▶ Continuous improvement on all levels required
  - ▶ Discussion focused on success of the approach and market impact

## Presentation summaries (2)

- ▶ Interoperability Testing and Certification in the USA
  - ▶ Comprehensive vision of what US government and legislation would like to achieve to support eHealth interoperability
  - ▶ Many issues addressed: test development methodology, test labs accreditation, certification
  - ▶ Staged introduction (temporary, transition and final)
    - ▶ Strengthening requirements
    - ▶ Organisational setup
  - ▶ Linked with government incentives (users required to purchase certified products)
  - ▶ Discussion addressed programme complexity and sustainability, differences between US and Europe
  
- ▶ Establishing QMS for Interoperability Testing
  - ▶ A comprehensive guideline for Interoperability Testing of eHealth systems
  - ▶ Based on pan-European best practice
  - ▶ IHE will use it for Connectathon
  - ▶ HITCH have started the journey
  - ▶ Discussion showed interest in implementation roadmap

## Presentation summaries (3)

- ▶ Interoperability Test Tools – State of the Art and Future
  - ▶ Survey of test tools available today showing tools landscape with observations
  - ▶ Needs for future tools with a vision and identified gaps
  - ▶ No discussion
- ▶ HITCH in action (Live Tour on the European Connectathon)

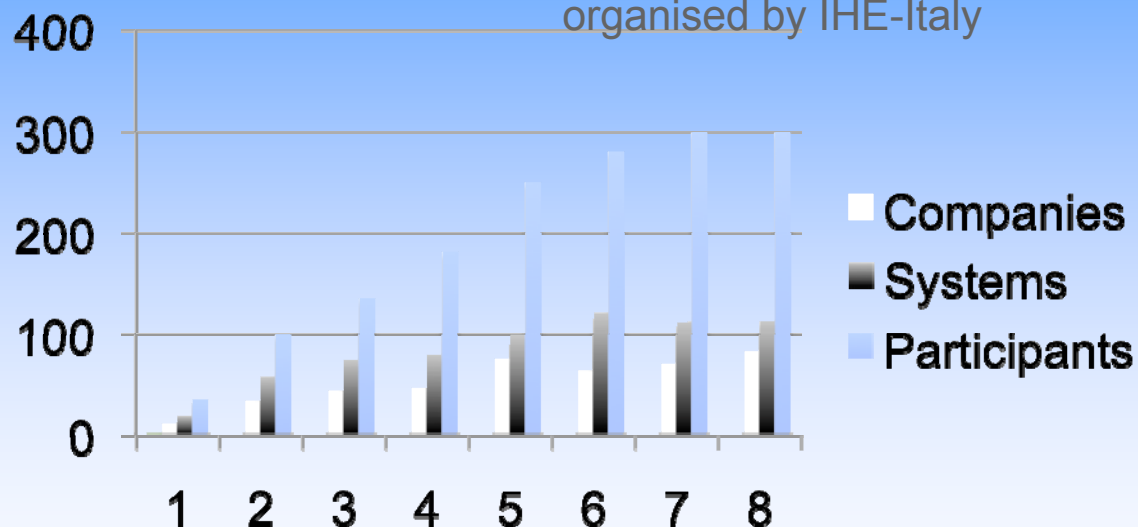
## The beginning...

- ▶ First Connectathon in Chicago, held in 1999
- ▶ First Connectathon in Europe (Paris), held in 2001

April 2011 : 80 companies  
140 systems  
400 Engineers



The event logistic is  
organised by IHE-Italy



## Presentation summaries (4)

- ▶ Roadmap to Interoperability – Certification, Labelling, Conformance testing
  - ▶ State of the art of Certification including certification scenarios
  - ▶ Scenario roadmap
  - ▶ No discussion as we moved to the open debate

## Implementing the Roadmap: Open Debate

- ▶ National level in Europe in charge of health issues
- ▶ Legal issues dictating differences in member states and may limit the flexibility
- ▶ Market competition of labs could positively affect prices
- ▶ Common tools for certification improve quality and may reduce price
- ▶ No certification process without requirement specification
- ▶ Possible regulatory over - involvement
- ▶ Regulation can support the process by setting the goals and leaving the industry to define the details
- ▶ Innovation is promoted through Connectathon events
- ▶ Dissemination of HITCH results is important
- ▶ European framework should take into account HITCH results
- ▶ Business implications should be considered in finalising HITCH roadmap

THANK YOU