

IHE Swiss Deployment Committee Activity Report

Nation / Region Name: **Switzerland**

Date Activity Report Issued: **January 30, 2023**

Note: To be prepared and delivered annually as scheduled by the IHE International Board and Deployment Committee Report Coordinator.

Mission of the National / Regional IHE initiative

IHE Suisse supports the implementation of the Swiss eHealth strategy – which relies on IHE integration profiles – by being the designated entity to promote IHE technical knowledge and the IHE brand in Switzerland. IHE Suisse pursues those goals by providing advice and expertise to government bodies and by helping local private sector entities to develop and adapt integration profiles. In addition, IHE Suisse promotes IHE Services / IHE Catalyst (IHE Europe's professional services organization) for larger and more complex work packages.

Proactive communication and physical presence at the main Swiss eHealth events are IHE Suisse's primary methods of educating the market about the benefits of IHE integration profiles and to create general awareness.

Among the tools to achieve the mission of IHE Suisse are:

- **Implementation guidelines** which are being developed by IHE Suisse in collaboration with other organizations;
- An open source connector library called **Husky** (Health Usability Key, successor of the eHealthConnector) for Java to facilitate integrating IHE compliant interoperability into proprietary applications (<https://github.com/project-husky>);
- A monthly **newsletter** sent to all members.

IHE Suisse interacts with policy-setting governmental entities and influential non-governmental organizations in Switzerland. It also maintains close contacts with similar initiatives (e.g. PCHA) around the world.

Year 2022 was also a special year for IHE-Suisse as it was the organizer along with eHealth-Suisse and IHE-Europe of the IHE Europe Connectathon Week in Montreux (first Europe-US Joint Connectathon).

Sponsors of the National / Regional IHE Initiative

IHE Suisse is financed through membership fees (there are both company and private memberships available). There are currently no financial sponsors. Although board members regularly use their employers' resources to support IHE Suisse operations, there is no formal sponsoring relation between those respective companies and IHE Suisse.

Sponsoring Organization: eHealth Suisse, a non-profit organization for national coordination and integration of e-health efforts.

Key role of the Sponsor: Provides non-financial (political) support for IHE Suisse and is represented on the IHE Suisse board. Works closely with IHE Suisse to create a national test facility for the national XDS-based EHR.

<http://www.e-health-suisse.ch/>

IHE International Board Representative

IHE International Board: SPAHNI Stéphane

IHE Global Deployment Committee: SPAHNI Stéphane.

National / Regional IHE Initiative Secretariat

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Date Deployment Committee was first recognized by IHE International Board:

March 2010, this is the date IHE Suisse was founded.

Organization of IHE national/regional committee:

Include list of officers and board members if applicable (whether incorporated or not, including co-chairs), overall structure and governance procedures of initiative and indicate incorporation status (if incorporated).

LÜTSCHG	Nicolai	President, user	nicolai.luetschg@ehealth-aargau.ch
BÄHLER	Thomas	Board Member, vendor	thomas.baehler@x-tention.ch
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SMOCK	Martin	Board Member, user	martin.smock@e-health-suisse.ch
SPAHNI	Stéphane	User Co-Chair	stephane.spahni@hcuge.ch

IHE Suisse is a formal non-profit organization according to §60ff of the Swiss civil code and follows all the applicable Swiss laws regarding governance for such organizations.

Members of IHE Switzerland on the 31st of December 2022 are:

- Companies: 63
- Private members: 12
- Hospitals and care providers: 6
- Associations: 9
- Cantons / regions: 7

Support and Interest by Stakeholder Groups

List any other government agencies, professional societies or other national organizations with which your committee has established relationships.

- **Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH)**, the national health agency
IHE Suisse participates in reviews and feedback that is requested on proposed new health laws and regulations. Also, IHE Suisse provides paid services and expertise for certain FOPH projects.
<http://www.bag.admin.ch/ehealth>
- **eHealth Suisse**, a non-profit organization for national coordination and integration of e-health efforts.
The Swiss e-health initiatives are based on IHE standards, so the motivation for collaboration is very high. Previous vendor- and user-chairs of IHE Suisse work at eHealth Suisse which provides a strong liaison.
<http://www.e-health-suisse.ch/>
- **HL7.ch**, the national HL7 user group
There is a constant exchange of information between HL7 and IHE Suisse due to board members that work in both organizations and certain projects are realized in collaboration between the two

organizations. IHE-Suisse is also member of HL7 Switzerland and reciprocally HL7 Switzerland is member of IHE-Suisse,
<http://www.hl7.ch/>

- **PERSONAL CONNECTED HEALTH ALLIANCE (formerly Continua)**

Not yet an established partnership but potential cooperation is currently being considered
<http://www.pchalliance.org/>

Activities and Achievements in the Preceding 12 Months

- **Testing events**

- Organization along with eHealth-Suisse and IHE-Europe of the 2022 IHE Europe Connectathon Week in Montreux (September 12-16, 2022);
- Support and training for Swiss vendors who participated in the IHE Europe Connectathon 2022 (2 companies), with 2 monitors;
- 6th EPR Projectathon in Bern in September 2022 (18 companies from 3 countries, 11 monitors + 8 technical staff) for testing implementation of the new Swiss eHealth Law.

- **Demonstrations**

- None.

- **Education**

- IHE Europe Experience sessions (IHE Profile development with ITI Committee, Swiss eMedication Project);
- Participation to the Swiss eHealth Summit organized by the Swiss Society for Medical Informatics during the IHE Europe Connectathon Week;
- Periodic “blog” publications on IHE-Suisse WebSite;
- 2 articles for the 10th anniversary of IHE-Suisse in “Clinicum” journal 1-20.

- **Engagement with local health IT projects**

- Godfather of the newly created Husky Expert Group (successor of the eHealth Connector);

- **Deployment Projects based on IHE Profiles**

- All regions are live with their regional XDS infrastructure (based on National EPR Law): 7 XDS Communities do implement patient and healthcare professionals onboarding and 1 implements healthcare professionals onboarding. 6 of the 8 communities are now interconnected, supporting cross-community access.

- **IHE Europe Connectathon**

- Organization with eHealth-Suisse and IHE-Europe of the IHE Europe Connectathon 2022 in Montreux on September 12-16, including support and training for Swiss vendors who participated;
- Organization in partnership with IHE Europe of the IHE Europe Experience Day (with live retransmission and recording) and additional national events during the IHE Europe Connectathon Week (VIP tours, project meetings, delegation meetings, ...);
- EPR Projectathon dedicated to national electronic patient record (tests against a reference implementation realized by IHE Services for eHealth-Suisse) during IHE Europe Connectathon.

- **Husky Expert Group**

- Godfather of the newly created Husky Expert Group (successor of the eHealth Connector), with international participation (CH, D, AT);

- 1 meeting of the Husky Expert Group in 2022;
- First Open Source release made available (<https://github.com/project-husky>). Communication layer based of IPF Open Source Framework (<https://oehf.github.io/ipf-docs/>).
- **Allianz "Digitale Transformation im Gesundheitswesen"**
 - IHE-Suisse is co-founder of the Allianz "Digitale Transformation im Gesundheitswesen" (<https://www.ig-ehealth.ch/allianz/>), which aims to catch up in the digital transformation with united forces. One of the first action of the Allianz was to make recommendations for the revision of the electronic patient dossier ordinance and law.

Marketing activities

- Periodic newsletter sent to members in 2022;
- Updated IHE-Suisse Web site;
- LinkedIn account with periodic posts (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ihe-suisse/>).

Notable Challenges

- Currently, the Swiss e-health vendors seems still to be on a "wait and see" posture regarding IHE compatibility until the EPR Platforms are really live and operational, generating a demand from healthcare professionals. We assume that this will soon shift to full endorsement once projects take up speed and IHE profiles become more common place as requirements in public tenders.
- Focus on marketing towards healthcare providers (hospitals, clinics, etc.) and EPR communities.

Planned Activities

- **Marketing / Promotion**
 - Partnership with Swiss eHealth Forum;
 - Partnership with Swiss eHealth Summit (Swiss Society for Medical Informatics) for the Swiss eHealth Summit 2023;
 - Partnership with Forum Digital Health;
 - Partnership and presentation at the 2022 HIE Leadership Summit organized by the Entscheiderfabrik (Basel, December 14-16);
 - General presence at other relevant events when performed face to face.
- **Collaboration**
 - Closer cooperation with neighboring IHE Austria.
- **Projects**
 - Medication treatment plan sharing between hospitals, GPs, pharmacists and home care is being implemented in CARA EPR Community. Data will be exchanged / shared by sending CH-EMED-EPR documents (based on CH-EMED FHIR-based resources developed by HL7 Switzerland and equivalent to IHE Pharmacy profiles MTP, PRE, DIS, PADV and PML).