



# HITCH

## Healthcare Interoperability Testing Conformance Harmonization

eHealth 2011  
26th of May 2011

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# Status Quo

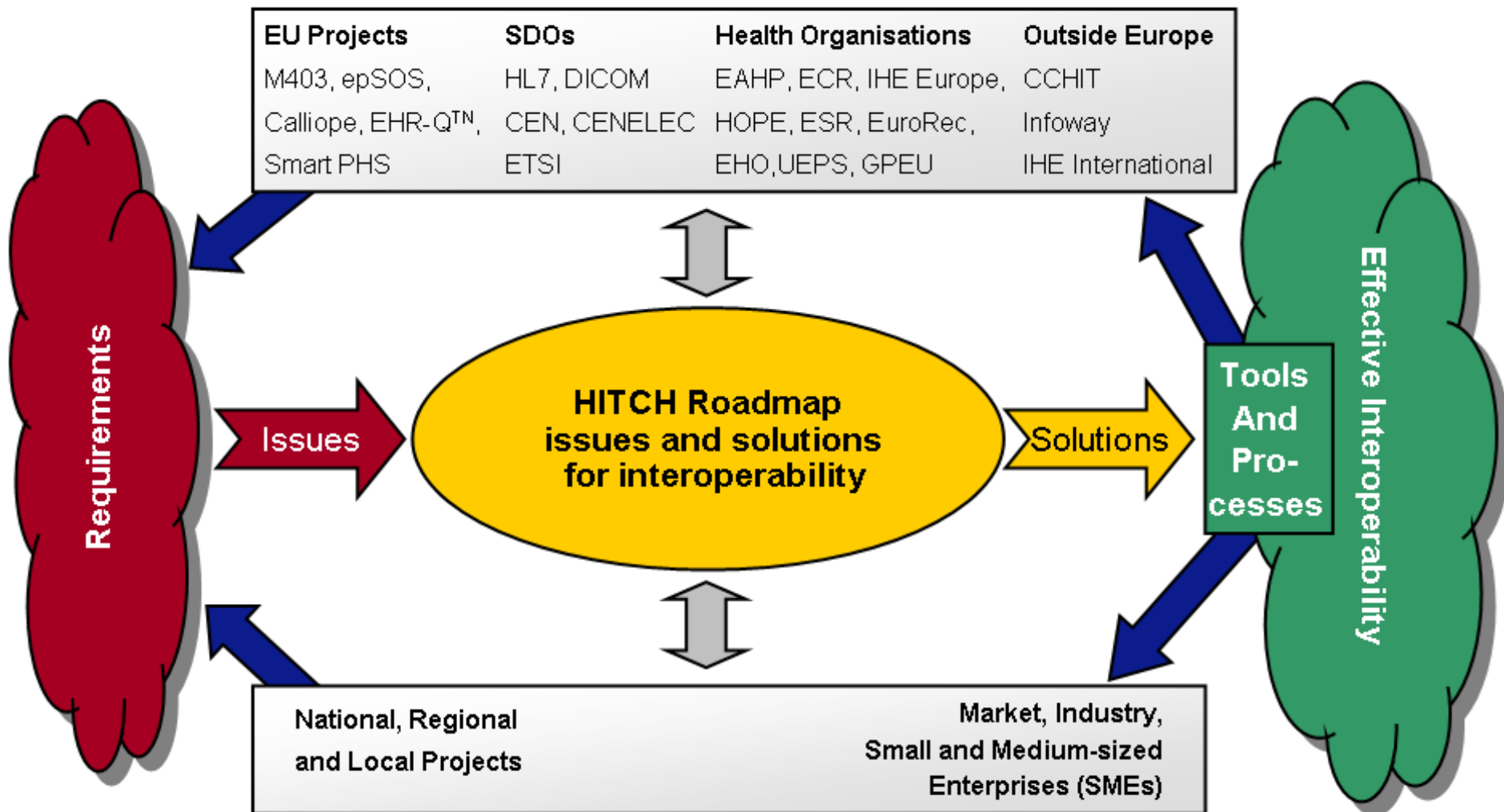
- EuroRec has good contacts with the EC (DG INFSO)
  - but no echo in markets or national projects
  - EuroRec publishes frequently, using the terms *certification* and *functional profile*
- IHE sees significant echo in the market
  - using the terms *connect-a-thon* and *interoperability profile*
- these mixed messages create uncertainty among legislators, authorities, SDOs
- EC started Healthcare Interoperability Testing Conformance Harmonization = HITCH 2010/2011



# HITCH Project

- The goal of this project is to give a recommendation to EC DG INFSO, explain terms and discuss benefits/drawbacks
- „Provide EC with a Roadmap on HIT Interoperability Labelling / Certification“
- Funded by DG INFSO
- Participants: ETSI, IHE EU, OFFIS, EuroRec, MEDKOM
- Duration 2010 to 2011

## HITCH Roadmap





# EuroRec

- Functional Profiles from a thesaurus of potential functional statements about an EHR system
- Parallel to ISO 10781 (HL7 EHR Functional profile)
- Issue: EHR projects are integration projects: but functional profiles do not help in integration but rather in QS and project controlling.
- No echo in the market, confusion among authorities



- Vendors and users define workflows in Integration Profiles
- Technical committees publish Transaction Specifications for free implementation
- Vendors demonstrate voluntary interoperability towards such Profiles during connect-a-thons
- Users select products based on connect-a-thon (vendor) or Integration Statements (product)
- iterated improvements, enhancement, innovation

# HITCH Outcome 1: Quality System

HITCH recommends to introduce a strict QMS for each labelling scheme, which asks standard users to

- Write profiles based on existing standards
- Label products against profiles
- Use interoperability specifications in RFPs

HITCH also points at the importance of supporting the tools and test specifications required for systematic testing



# Outcome 2: Explanation

HITCH acknowledges that 3rd party certification

- Has helped with innovation while markets are unstable / fragmented
- Avoids « standard stand-off » (eg. Blue-Ray versus HD-DVD)
- Helps supporting precise and uniform specifications
- Supports user confidence & market growth
- Has a risk of «label sclerosis»: if markets can't get rid of «old label certification»

A current example is WiMax vs. LTE, while GSM is an established label, where certification would only create obstacles.



# Outcome 3: Discussion

Approach	Third Party		Self testing with an External Reference		Self-Assessment
	Accredited	Not accredited	Accredited	Not accredited	
Granting organisation	Accredited	Not accredited	Accredited	Not accredited	None
Evaluation of the tests	Third Party		External Reference		Self
Testing organisation	Granting organ.		Self	Self	Self
	Recognised organ.		Sub-contractor	Sub-contractor	
<b>Result</b>	Certificate	Label	Certificate	Label	Document

## Outcome 4: Process

### European Level

Ehealth Governance body (TBD)

Recognises

Catalog of Profiles

Test tools and Test cases as reference

Testing and evaluation

Used to develop

Used at

### Project Level

Project

Selection of Profiles

Selection of tools and Test cases as reference

Testing and evaluation

Extension specifications

Specific Test tools and test cases

Specific profiles



# Outcome 5: Roadmap

1. **Drive adoption of HITCH proposed interoperability QMS and guidelines to interoperability testing processes. Improve with usage.**
2. **Adoption of profiles at the European level written in a comprehensive interoperability technical framework . Describes use cases**
3. **Drive closure of key gaps in interoperability testing tools building consistent test tools upon a shared management platform tool and methodology. This requires that most EU countries recognize and adopt consistent profiles (tools reuse).**
4. **Further encourage collaboration between the functionality-focused and the interoperability-focused testing/labelling initiatives to document “relationship between criteria”.**
5. **Keep flexibility across the three proposed labelling/certification schemes to facilitate evolution (reduce costs as different segments of eHealth market mature and avoid to legislate or regulate specific schemes).**
6. **Certification or QL will be valid among countries for the European profiles. Adopt common processes, tools and QMS at the national level.**