

Agenda

3rd Cross-sector Symposium on Interoperability

Governance and Testing Strategies for Interoperability: Challenges and Opportunities

26th June 2025,

Vienna Allianz Stadion, Gerhard-Hanappi-Platz 1, 1140 Wien, Austria

The symposium is designed for experts and policy makers to share experiences across sectors. Learn about the importance of governance and interoperability testing for different sectors in Europe.

starting at 09.00 a.m

Moderation: Helena Lindquist, Lightswitch and Angela Berger, CETPartnership

Welcome by the organisers and framing

- CETPartnership: **Angela Berger**, Lead CETP EU Collaboration Network for Interoperability Testing
- HE project int:net: **Markus Schroot**, project int:net

9:30-10:30

The concept of an interoperability framework; **Jürgen Brandstätter**, Senior Adviser, GDHP representative

- Moving from use case definition to implementation scenarios
- Focus on the needed governance for consensus building
- Promote, co-create consensus based specifications and reusability of specifications
- Manage testable interoperability specifications

10:30-11:00

Coffee Break

11:00-13:00

Challenges for cross-sector interoperability for the different verticals

- Interoperability for the public sector: Introducing the Interoperable Europe Act, **Felicitas Bitzenhofer**, DG DIGIT
- The EU Health Data Space has come into force, **Aurora Joala**, DG SANTE
- Working towards a common European Energy Data Space, **Mark van Stiphout**, DG ENER
- From data spaces to cross-sector platforms and standards, **Rolf Riemenschneider**, DG CONNECT,

Viewpoints from customers

- Interoperability in Smart cities , a state of the art analysis from the German perspective; **Thomas Reukauf**, Smart Solutions Management Consulting
- Cross-sector interoperability and the importance of common IT-infrastructure, **Georg Hartner**, Austrian Energy Association, Entarc.eu

13:00 Lunch break

starting at 14.00 p.m

Behind the scenes tour (IHE) Connectathon test floor

- VIP Tour on IHE Connectathon test floor and Energy projectathon test floor

starting at 15.00 p.m

Interactive Session on practical views to interoperability testing

Interoperability testing in the different sectors

- InterOpEnergy – the next step for Interoperability Tests in the Energy Sector, **Rene Kuchenbuch**, **Meng Lin**, OFFIS
- Testing for energy communities, **Matthias Frohner**, Technikum Wien

Ending at 16:30 p.m.

In the evening, there will be another opportunity to network with the IHE community.

Speakers of the Symposium

Angela Berger, ERA Net Smart Energy Systems & CETPartnership



Angela Berger studied electrical engineering at the Vienna University of Technology. She has worked in various business areas at Siemens. Since 2008, Ms Berger has been involved in the development of smart grids and in the Technology Platform Smart Grids Austria, where she was Managing Director until 2022. In addition, she was also Managing Director of the Association of the Railway Industry in Austria. Since 2023, she has been working for the CETPartnership as a leading expert for integrated regional energy systems and for digitalization issues relating to interoperability. She is the driver of various activities for the cross-sector knowledge transfer for interoperability processes in Austria and on European Level. She is also the Lead of the CETPartnership Collaboration Network of Interoperability testing.

Felicitas Bitzenhofer, DG DIGIT



Felicitas Bitzenhofer studied International Relations, English and Digital Public Policy & Governance in Germany, the Netherlands and Estonia. Since 2023, she has been working at the European Commission in the field of interoperability and digital government, where she supports the implementation of the Interoperable Europe Act. Her focus is on interoperability assessments and contact with Member States in a variety of formats.

Jürgen Brandstätter, IHE, Codework



Jürgen Brandstätter, Global Standards Director, IHE Catalyst, has a MSc in Information Science and serves as board member of IHE International since 2010 and was former co-chair of IHE Europe between 2016 and 2020. He is chair of various committees and was the lead of a number of IHE Profiles and Standards in the area of Pharmacy in the past. Together with Grahame Grieve he is the initiator of Gemini, the joint initiative of IHE and HL7 to advance FHIR and serves on its Steering Committee since the beginning. By profession, he works as an independent consultant in the area of eHealth

Interoperability Standards and has participated in multiple eHealth consulting projects in Europe and International e.g., for the WHO, the Asian Development Bank, the Interamerican Development Bank and a number of EU Commission projects on cross-border exchange, such as epSOS, X-eHealth, XpanDH, xShare, Xt-EHR, MyHealth@MyHands, i2X and acted as Trainer in the HaDEA Masterclass program. Additionally, he consults the Austrian government and the national eHealth Infrastructure ELGA, as well as national Digital Health agencies and ministries in Europe and internationally in terms of creating their eHealth Interoperability Framework and as SME for several areas, such as Medication, Laboratory, Image Sharing, etc. On behalf of the Austrian Ministry of Health he represents Austria in the Global Digital Health Partnership.

Matthias Frohner, UAS Technikum Wien



Matthias Frohner is a lecturer and researcher at the 'Life Science Engineering' faculty in the 'Medical Engineering & Integrated Healthcare' field of expertise. His research focuses on the field of standardised communication of medical devices and health data. He is also a core member of the research focus area 'Data-Driven, Smart & Secure Systems'. In 2008, he started his work in the field of communication of personal health devices by implementing standardised interfaces to seamlessly integrate these devices into patient-centric integrated care pathways. Mr Frohner is involved in various funded research projects, develops (mobile) software applications and passes on the knowledge gained in courses for students and industry. He is a certified software tester (Foundation Level) and has

participated in interoperability testing events organised by the IHE and the Personal Connected Health Alliance. He is actively involved in the development of HL7 CDA implementation guidelines for the Austrian electronic health record 'ELGA', the Austrian Ministry of Health and the Austrian Medical Association. In addition to the interoperability issues dealt with in the field of health IT, Matthias Frohner is investigating processes to improve interoperability in the energy sector.

Georg Hartner, Technical Coordinator Project EDDIE - European Distributed Data Infrastructure for Energy | FH Upper Austria | Austrian Energy Association | Entarc.eu



Georg is a key contributor to the European Data Interoperability Implementing Acts following Article 24 of Directive (EU) 2019/944. He is also vice-chair of EU DSO Entity's EG Data Interoperability and member of the Development Team for the SO Proposal for a new Network Code on Demand Response nominated by EG Distributed Flexibility. He contributes to continuously improving energy data exchange in Austria in co-operation with EDA GmbH. Accompanying these work streams, Georg is the initiator of Horizon Europe – funded “Project EDDIE – European Distributed Data Infrastructure for Energy”, which will make available European retail energy data easily available through a de-centralised uniform interface. Based on this foundation, Georg contributed to the design of INSIEME – an initiative to establish a holistic and standardized data exchange infrastructure for individual consumer activation and energy communities, to free their digital platforms from their national nutshell and let them grow and scale at a European level. Apart from these activities, Georg is leading Task Force 1 for Implementation of European Reference Models within the Joint Working Group Data Interoperability between EU DSO Entity and ENTSO-E.

Aurora Joala, DG SANTE



René Kuchenbuch, OFFIS



René Kuchenbuch studied Computer Science with a focus on Technical Informatics and Artificial Intelligence at the University of Applied Sciences Emden/Leer and the University of Oldenburg, Germany, from 2016 to 2022. From 2020 to 2022, he worked as a Research Assistant contributing to the further development of the Use Case Management Repository. In 2022, he took on a position as a Research Associate, expanding his responsibilities to include interoperability and its testing in the energy sector, as well as ongoing research in (AI-supported) Requirements Engineering.

Meng Lin, OFFIS



Meng Lin has a background in product development in mechanical engineering at the University of Kaiserslautern-Landau (RPTU) and later specialised in applied informatics during her master's studies. Since 2024, she has been working as a researcher at OFFIS - Institute for Information Systems in Oldenburg, focusing on Asset Administration Shell (AAS) development, interoperability in energy systems, and the digital transformation.

Helena Lindquist, Director LightSwitch, Symposium Moderator



Helena Lindquist is the Director and Founder of LightSwitch, a Swedish consultancy dedicated to catalyzing international knowledge sharing and co-creation in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and strategic sustainability. She specializes in designing, leading, and facilitating international partnerships to accelerate the energy transition and has 15 years of experience from multilateral collaboration initiatives involving energy stakeholders from the public sector, research community, and industry. Since 2016, Helena has been working as the National Expert for Sweden in the International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN), and she currently leads the ISGAN Lighthouse Project on Long-term Planning and Implementation of Smart Distribution Grids. She's also leading a co-creation initiative for research and innovation projects in the Knowledge Community of the Clean Energy Transition Partnership. Helena has a background in international relations and European affairs and holds a Master's Degree in Contemporary European Studies from the University of Bath, UK.

Thomas Reukauf, Smart Solutions Management Consulting



Thomas Reukauf has a master's degree in electrical engineering from RWTH Aachen and ENSAM Paris and a bachelor's degree in economics from VWA in Dusseldorf. He has worked in different utilities running IT and smart energy projects. Until 2018 he has been assigned as director of operations in a utility being responsible for managing different intercultural change management projects and SAP implementations. In 2018 he founded smart solutions targeting at the implementation of smart city strategies with the focus on building up data spaces and urban digital twins. Since July 2019 he has been involved in the BMWVB initiative "Modellkommunen Smart Cities", supporting communities in developing open-source IT solutions and understanding interoperability and the importance of building up a national once only technical system. (NOOTS).

Rolf Riemenschneider, Head of Sector "Internet of Things", DG CONNECT, European Commission



Rolf Riemenschneider drives the research and innovation agenda under the programme Horizon Europe where he coordinates the R&I agenda related to the strategy on Cloud-Edge Computing and Internet of Things. His unit is responsible for the implementation of data spaces for farming, mobility and energy as well as an Apply AI strategy in the domains of mobility, energy and farming. As senior expert, he leads the research, innovation and deployment of the next generation of the IoT with strong computing capacity at the edge exploring features like device virtualisation, interoperability, real-time, and distributed intelligence and in particular the integration of artificial intelligence at the edge. Since 2015, he coordinates the cross-cutting activities related to Internet of Things across different policy streams with DG AGRI, DG ENER and DG MOVE. In the context of the key horizontal activities related to achieving the targets of the Green Deal, he works together with DG ENERGY on the Digitisation of the Energy System with the Digitalisation of Energy Action Plan published in 2022 (COM/2022/552). Actions include an AI roadmap for energy, an energy data space, interoperable data-driven solutions, interfaces, blueprints and standards for orchestrating flexibility across different sectors like home, building, energy, and smart and bidirectional charging through emerging concepts like 'The AI-powered Digital Spine'.

Markus Schroot, Fraunhofer



Markus Schroot achieved his Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering at RWTH Aachen University and CTU Prague in 2020. Since then, he has been working as a research associate at both Fraunhofer FIT and RWTH Aachen University. Starting 2024 Markus has been the team lead for "Control and Grid Dynamics" at the Chair of Active Energy Distribution Grids at RWTH. In 2025, he changed positions to become the research coordinator for the distribution grid laboratory at the same chair. Markus has been involved in the int:net project since close to its beginning in 2022, supporting in the project coordination. In this context, interoperability with special respect to the energy domain has become one of his focus topics.

Mark van Stiphout, DC Energy, Belgium



Mark van Stiphout is currently Deputy Head of Unit in DG Energy in the unit that is responsible for Research, Innovation, Competitiveness and Digitalisation. His responsibilities include the Digitalisation of Energy Action Plan and the Net Zero Industry Act, and he is also involved in the EU's energy research and innovation agenda and the the Energy Union Competitiveness Progress Report. Until the 1st of November 2014 he was a member of the Cabinet of the Commissioner for Energy, Günther H. Oettinger, who he advised on nuclear energy and energy research, as well as smart grids, retail markets and the relations with Russia. This included for example the Commission's work on nuclear safety and the trilateral negotiations with Russia and Ukraine on gas supply. Before that he was assistant to the Director-General for Energy, and from 2006 to 2010 he was responsible for the liberalisation of the internal market for natural gas as Policy Officer in DG Energy in the Electricity and Gas Unit. Previous roles include consultancy on renewable energy projects at Ecofys and market analyst at Cogas Energie.