



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IHE Catalyst and CENS Establish Strategic Partnership to Advance Digital Health Interoperability across Latin America and the Caribbean

Multi-year collaboration will combine regional expertise, international standards, capacity building and interoperability testing to support sustainable digital health transformation

SANTIAGO, CHILE AND BRUSSELS, BELGIUM — [24 July 2026] — IHE Catalyst AISBL and the Chilean based Centro Nacional en Sistemas de Información en Salud (CENS) have established a strategic Global Engagement Partnership aimed at strengthening digital health interoperability, standardisation and innovation across Latin America and the Caribbean.

The multi-year partnership creates a framework through which the two non-profit organisations will collaborate, share knowledge and undertake joint activities addressing common priorities in global health and digital innovation. It brings together CENS's regional knowledge and local implementation experience with IHE Catalyst's international network of experts, interoperability methodologies and standards-based testing capabilities.

Through regular coordination and jointly agreed action plans, IHE Catalyst and CENS will identify practical opportunities to support national and regional digital health strategies across the Latin American and Caribbean region. Initial activities are expected to include regional market and needs analysis, capacity-building programmes, technical cooperation, educational activities, Interoperability specifications development, testing strategies and the development of practical solutions for real-world digital health projects.

A central objective of the partnership is to promote effective health information exchange and the adoption of internationally recognised healthcare standards, including HL7 FHIR, DICOM, SNOMED and more. The organisations will also explore the creation of interoperability and innovation laboratories that can help health authorities, healthcare providers, technology developers and other stakeholders develop, validate and test standards-based digital health solutions, always in collaboration and alignment with the Panamerican Highways for Health Initiative.

The proposed laboratories will support the responsible adoption of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, telehealth and the Internet of Things, while ensuring that these technologies can exchange trustworthy and consistent health information within existing healthcare ecosystems, empowering knowledge and capacity building for the wider region.

The partnership will also explore opportunities to extend and adapt IHE Gazelle testing tools and methodologies for the Latin American and Caribbean context. This work is intended to support the sustainability, scalability and practical validation of interoperable digital health solutions throughout the region.

“Digital health transformation requires more than technical specifications. It requires collaboration, implementation support and reliable testing in real-world environments. Through this partnership with CENS, we aim to make international interoperability methodologies and expertise more accessible and relevant to the needs of countries and organisations across Latin America and the Caribbean,”

Claudio Saccavini, Managing Director, IHE Catalyst

"Partnering strategically with IHE Catalyst allows us to combine our LAC regional expertise with further world-class standards and methodologies. By doing so, we are not just speeding up the adoption of international standards such as HL7 FHIR or SNOMED; we are equipping the region with innovation labs and sustainable technical capacities to directly elevate the quality of care for everyone"

Alejandra García, Iterim Executive Director, CENS

The collaboration will emphasise co-creation and capacity development rather than the introduction of isolated or proprietary solutions. Activities may include continuous education, technical workshops, interoperability testing events, expert exchanges, joint publications and support for national or regional implementation initiatives.

IHE Catalyst and CENS also intend to cooperate closely with PH4H and other relevant regional and international initiatives. This coordination will help avoid duplication, promote complementary action and contribute to the wider adoption of global standards and testing methodologies. The partnership is non-exclusive, allowing both organisations to continue collaborating with other institutions and initiatives.

As an initial step, each organisation will appoint representatives responsible for defining the partnership's objectives, identifying priority opportunities and preparing a joint action plan with implementation timelines.

Key Areas of Collaboration

- Supporting digital health programmes and strategies across Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Promoting health information exchange, interoperability and global standardisation;
- Exploring the establishment of regional interoperability and innovation laboratories;
- Supporting implementation and testing based on standards such as HL7 FHIR, DICOM and SNOMED;
- Expanding access to IHE methodologies and Gazelle testing capabilities;
- Building sustainable local and regional digital health capacity;
- Developing educational programmes and practical implementation guidance;
- Supporting the responsible integration of artificial intelligence, connected devices and other emerging technologies;
- Organising joint events, technical workshops and interoperability testing activities; and
- Coordinating with PH4H and other relevant regional and international initiatives.

About IHE Catalyst

IHE Catalyst AISBL is a non-profit organisation registered in Brussels, Belgium. It mobilises international expertise, IHE methodologies, IHE Gazelle testing tools, and standards-based testing approaches to support the practical implementation of interoperable health information systems and digital health services across the Globe.

www.ihe-catalyst.net

About CENS

The Centro Nacional en Sistemas de Información en Salud (CENS) is a non-profit organization funded by five Chilean Universities, based in Santiago. CENS provides regional knowledge, expertise and support for the development and implementation of health information systems and digital health initiatives.

www.cens.cl

Media Contacts

IHE Catalyst AISBL	Centro Nacional en Sistemas de Información en Salud (CENS)
Name: Alexander Berler	Name: Carolina Nahuelpi
Title: Strategic Business Development Director	Title: Communications Officer
Email: aberler@ihe-catalyst.net	Email: cnahuelpi@cens.cl