

Pop-Up Ecosystem Webinar

What our ecosystems are doing about COVID-19



Tuesday, MARCH 31
at 13:00 CET



Andy Bleaden, Director Ecosystems and Membership, ECHAlliance, opened the pop-up ecosystem webinar by sharing the foundation principles of all ecosystems as well as the real time, rapid response and agile changes being made to ecosystem delivery given we are unable to meet physically. He highlighted the member to member communications, the intention to organise webinars on a weekly basis and reinforced that, more than ever, the importance of leading with a need and sharing best practice.

Representing **Catalonia, Spain, Josep Carbó, Mediktor**, described how they have modified the AI based technology developed over 8 years to identify the risks that people affected by COVID 19 have by asking selected questions on specific criteria. This leads to conclusions and recommendations so that 80% of people who don't present with symptoms and so can avoid unnecessary phone calls to call centres and relieves pressure on the healthcare system. The tests can be carried out regularly and are being used by governments across Europe and Latin America.

Jernej Pintar, Technology Park Ljubljana, Slovenia explained how despite the relatively small size of Slovenia as a country, Ljubljana has a wealth of high tech companies. They recognised that current supply could be outstripped by demand and so have come together to work on the development of prototypes for both masks and ventilators. The masks have been fitted with appropriate filters to enable approval into the healthcare system. The respirator prototype has been developed to increase the number of ventilators available in Slovenia from 160.

Next **Margaret Whoriskey, Head of Technology Enabled Care and Digital Healthcare Innovation, Digital Health and Care Directorate, Scottish Government**, explained the background to the telehealth Near Me programme which has been in place in more remote parts of Scotland in certain disciplines. Near Me facilitates primary and secondary care via video connectivity. The initial 3 year trajectory to get the programme to scale across the country has been ramped up to cope with the increased and rapid demand for remote consultations. Margaret shared the increase in current volume of 1100 video calls per month in March to an expected 3000 calls in April.

Triin Ilves, Tehnopol, Estonia next described how Estonia is taking a global Hack-the-Crisis (HtC) hackathon approach to solving some of the issues resulting from COVID 19 including the expectations of prototypes within 48 hours. She noted the need to bring together 1000 mentors

from across the world to work together on a number of track lists including Arts & Creativity, Crisis response, Economy, Education, Empowerment and Environment. Attendees were asked to share the need across their communities for the next hackathon planned for 9-12 April 2020, see: theglobalhack.com.

Next up, **Helen Northmore, DHEW Wales, UK** drew attention to the age demographic in Wales and noted the approach to start with how they could help link the NHS to industry and academia as quickly as possible. A Zoom meeting was held on 25 March during which the 198 attendees identified 4 themes as urgent priorities including infection control, medical devices, social isolation and digital solutions. Following this over 50 offers of help were received. In order to provide structure and space to the intersection of needs and solutions an innovation portal has been set up where needs and solutions can be shared. Helen also provided the audience with information on the upsurge of online GP consultations.

The final speaker of the webinar was **Dieter Zocholl, Health Procurement Europe from Bavaria, Germany**. Dieter talked about the different dimensions of procurement, the steps being taking by larger economies such as the USA in order to obtain access to necessary equipment and the potential underlying political messages being sent by some countries through the actions they are taken to support outside their domestic needs.

A discussion among participants followed where various further examples were shared. Please see the recording of the webinar for details.

Andy closed the webinar by thanking speakers, organisers and attendees, by reinforcing the need for agility and rapid responses and by reiterating the offer for the audience to contact ECHAlliance with requests to share information, offers of help or need and emphasised that this webinar is the first of a series of weekly webinars to be held each Tuesday at 13.00 CET.