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## 2011 eHealth Week Focus on Benefits of IT Solutions In Healthcare

The European eHealth sector's 'event of the year', jointly organised by the European Commission, HIMSS Europe (Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society Europe) and the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU has announced that eHealth Week 2011 will focus on the cost and quality benefits of IT solutions in healthcare.

The four-day event, taking place in Budapest from 10 to 12 May 2011 will bring together key stakeholders and political, hospital and IT leadership from across Europe in order to advance the continent's digital health infrastructure. The programme will feature educational sessions, an exhibition, workshops, many networking opportunities and for the first time symposia on innovation-rich subjects such as Ambient Assisted Living; Health 2.0 and a Leaders in Health IT (LHIT) symposia for hospital IT Director. The eHealth Week will also host the eHealth Government initiative, a formal body of healthcare state secretaries aimed at aligning national eHealth systems in Europe. Last year, the eHealth Week 2010, which was held in Barcelona, was attended by more than 3,000 delegates and over 100 industry exhibitors, making it the largest pan-European eHealth event ever.

The role for eHealth in times of austerity will also be a central topic of eHealth Week 2011 – to be addressed at the Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) Showcase and at the World of Health IT industry exhibition. The European Commission has funded e-health research with more than 1,182 billion Euros for more than 20 years and has supported more than 450 projects through its different framework programmes, establishing Europe as the global leader in the field. The European eHealth market is currently estimated at around 15 billion euros and growing at an annual rate of 2.9%. Among the companies that have already confirmed their participation in the eHealth Week 2011 industry exhibition are AGFA Healthcare, EPIC, Hitachi Data Systems, InterSystems, Microsoft and Oracle.

For more information, please visit: www.worldofhealthit.org

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