

Rome, 15 September 2006:

EUMEDGRID Conference: empowering e-Science across the Mediterranean

(09/21/2006)

● **The first EUMEDGRID Conference was held the last 15th of September. It is another step towards the development of a Grid e-Infrastructure for e-Science across the Mediterranean: a concrete initiative aiming at bridging the Digital Divide and fostering collaboration between Europe and its Mediterranean Neighbors.**

Rome, 15 September 2006 - Jointly organized by INFN, GARR and the Department of Physics of the University of Roma Tre, the first EUMEDGRID Conference was held the last 15th of September.

International-level speakers presented the vision of Euro-Mediterranean collaborations in Research, Culture and Education and namely in the creation of cross-national e-Infrastructures supporting such collaborations as a driving force towards widening the European Research Area and bridging the digital divide between Europe and the neighboring Mediterranean Countries, thus bringing them closer to each other.

The implementation and use of a Grid infrastructure across the Mediterranean Area, aiming at fostering the development of e-Science applications connected with already existing activities in Europe, is regarded as a major step towards this objective.

Some of these pilot applications in different fields such as hydrogeology, archaeology and digital libraries, were described during the proceedings, thus providing some concrete examples of the possible use of such grid for the benefits of the Research and Education community and beyond: in fact, in the experts' opinion, Grids are regarded as one of the major strategic areas both for Research and Industry in the next few years.

The European approach to cooperation policies for the Mediterranean and other neighbour countries were discussed, with a special attention to the novelties introduced by the upcoming 7th Framework Program for Research and Scientific Development and European Neighborhood Programme.

Further information about the event is available on the [conference website](#) and [online agenda](#).

Funded by European Union, EUMEDGRID Project officially started on last 1 January. It is coordinated by INFN, the Italian National Institute of Nuclear, Particle and High Energy Physics and involves several partners and third-party Organizations from Europe (i.e. GARR, INFN and ICTP from Italy, REDES from Spain, GRNET from Greece, Cynet from Cyprus, and the University of Malta) and beyond (CERIST from Algeria, CNRST from Morocco, EUN from Egypt, HIAST from Syria, MRSTDC from Tunisia, TUBITAK from Turkey, PalNet from Palestinian Territories, IUCC from Israel, and Junet from Jordan), plus CERN and DANTE, promoters and coordinators of EGEE and EUMEDCONNECT Projects, respectively.

1. For further information about EUMEDGRID please visit: <http://www.eumedgrid.org> or contact the [Project Office](#).
2. For further information about INFN please visit: <http://www.infn.it>
3. For further information about the EGEE - Enabling Grids for E-science project, please visit: <http://www.eu-egee.org>

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