



Project Number: 026024

Project Acronym: EUMEDGRID

Project Title: EUMEDGRID - Empowering
eScience Across the
Mediterranean

Instrument: Specific Support Action

Activity: Research Infrastructures

Interim Activity Report - 1st Quarter

Period covered: from 01/01/2006 to 31/03/2006

Date of preparation: 09/06/2006

Start date of project: 1 January 2006

Duration: 24 months

Project coordinator name: Federico Ruggieri

Revision: V7

Project coordinator organization name: INFN



document identifier: **EUMEDGRID-QR01-V7.doc**

date: **08/06/2006**

workpackage: **WP1: Interim Activity Report - First Quarter**

lead partner: **INFN**

document status: **Final**

document link: <http://www.eumedgrid.org/report.html>

abstract: This document describes the EUMEDGRID activities in the first quarter of the year 2006.

Copyrights © The EUMEDGRID Consortium 2006.

More details on the copyright holders can be found at the following URL: <http://www.eumedgrid.org/partners-engl.htm>

EUMEDGRID (“Empowering eScience across the Mediterranean”) is a project co-funded by the European Union in the framework of the 6FP for Research and Technological Development, as part of the specific programme “Structuring the European Research Area” within the “Research Infrastructures” activity Call name: Communication Network Development – eInfrastructure – Consolidating Initiatives. For more information on the project, its partners and contributors please see <http://www.eumedgrid.org>

You are permitted to copy and distribute verbatim copies of this document containing this copyright notice, but modifying this document is not allowed. You are permitted to copy this document in whole or in part into other documents if you attach the following reference to the copied elements: "Copyright (C) 2006. The EUMEDGRID Consortium. <http://www.eumedgrid.org>".

The information contained in this document represents the views of EUMEDGRID Consortium as of the date they are published. The EUMEDGRID Consortium does not guarantee that any information contained herein is error-free, or up to date.

THE EUMEDGRID CONSORTIUM MAKES NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS, IMPLIED, OR STATUTORY, BY PUBLISHING THIS DOCUMENT.

Delivery slip

	name	partner/activity	date	signature
from:	F. Ruggieri	INFN /WP1	02-06-2006	
reviewed by:	Moderator and reviewers			
approved by:	TB			

Document log

Issue	Date	Comment	Author
0-0	13/05/2006	First draft	F. Tanlongo
1-0	23/05/2006	Second draft	G. Di Giammarco, M. Mieli, F. Tanlongo,
2-0	24/05/2006	Third draft	R. Bruno , F. Tanlongo, K. Vella,
2-1	24/05/2006	Fourth draft	R. Barbera
3-0	25/05/2006	Fifth draft	G. Andronico, R. Bruno, F. Tanlongo
3-1	26/05/2006	Fifth draft with provisional effort tables and details on the management	M. Mieli, F. Tanlongo, K. Koumantaros
3-2	28/05/2006	Sixth draft	R. Barbera
4-0	29/05/2006	Final draft to be submitted to the review	F. Tanlongo
4-1	31/05/2006	Minor changes on worked hours and A1	F. Tanlongo
5-0	05/06/2006	Final revision	F. Ruggieri

Contents

1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD .	6
1.1. KICK-OFF MEETING.....	7
1.2. D1.1: PROJECT PRESENTATION	8
1.3. FIRST DISSEMINATION OF ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE EVENT	8
2. WORKPACKAGE PROGRESS OF THE PERIOD.....	10
2.1. ACTIVITY SUMMARY	10
2.1.1. WP1: Project Administrative and Technical Management	10
2.1.2. WP2: Requirement Capture and Analysis	14
2.1.3. WP3: Pilot Infrastructure Operational Support.....	16
2.1.4. WP4: Applications Support.....	19
2.1.5. WP5: Dissemination and Outreach.....	19
2.2. MAJOR TASKS, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES	26
2.2.1. Deliverables and milestones due this quarter	26
2.3. SUMMARY OF ISSUES	26
2.3.1. WP1	26
2.3.2. WP2.....	28
2.3.3. WP3.....	28
2.3.4. WP4.....	28
2.3.5. WP5.....	29
2.4. PLANS FOR THE NEXT REPORTING QUARTER	30
2.4.1. WP1.....	30
2.4.2. WP2.....	31
2.4.3. WP3.....	31
2.4.4. WP4.....	31
2.4.5. WP5.....	31
2.5. MAIN PROJECT ACTIVITY METRICS	32
3. CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT.....	33
3.1. CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT	33
3.2. CONTRACTORS	33
3.3. EVENTS.....	35
3.4. PROJECT AND ACTIVITY MEETINGS	36
4. OTHER ISSUES	36
4.1. REFERENCES	36
4.2. TERMINOLOGY.....	37
4.3. DOCUMENT AMENDMENT PROCEDURE.....	37
ANNEX I – USE AND DISSEMINATION.....	38
A1.1 CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED.....	38
A1.2 EXTERNAL CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS ATTENDED	38



A1.3 PUBLICATIONS, PRESS RELEASES AND DISSEMINATION MATERIALS 39

1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

The project took off officially on the 1st of January 2006, according to the EC contract n. 026024. Project activities have been focusing on two main areas:

- a) Creating a human network in Grids, eInfrastructures and eScience, assessing its needs and training the new communities, thus stimulating the creation of National Grid Infrastructures (NGI) in the Mediterranean countries; several targets were taken into account to achieve this objective, including:
 - Actors at the eInfrastructure level (i.e., actual and potential grid site administrators, network professionals, etc.)
 - Actors at the eScience level (i.e., researchers, developers of eScience applications, actual and potential advanced users)
 - Actors at the Policy level (i.e., institutions, public bodies etc)

This first set of objectives are conceived in part as an “horizontal action” of the project and an exploitation of the former human network created among a large part of the Participants within the EUMEDCONNECT framework; on the other hand, specific activities were carried out by the WP5 team to met the specific objectives fixed in this area (see below).

- b) Driving the technological developments in the field of grids across the Mediterranean Region in order to install pilot grid sites in all relevant Countries and quickly enable Grid operations on the EUMEDGRID infrastructure. This second set of objectives focused on technical aspects as follow:
 - o Capture local eScience user requirements in terms of resources needed, Grid services, and application software and provide guidelines to drive regional integration in the Euro-Mediterranean infrastructures. These objectives were especially tackled by WP2 and activities were well on by the end of the reporting period: in fact, a large survey was carried out across the Mediterranean Countries in order to discover relevant eScience applications and collect their requirements. Data are in process to be analyzed during the next reporting period and they will provide the basis to produce a technical roadmap.
 - o Carry out the Euro-Mediterranean regional integration trough supporting the installation of pilot Grid resource centres in each Country and provide them with operational support.

This action is carried out within the WP3 framework with the support of the team of tutors who will work in task A5.2. A first pilot infrastructure, composed by 5 grid sites across several participant Countries was already operating at the end of the reporting period and the installation of other grid sites was initiated in order to widen it (see the WP3 report for details and a map of the operating and foreseen sites).

Support the deployment of EGEE-compliant applications (High Energy Physics and Biomedical applications) and favour the porting of other applications of regional interest on the EUMEDGRID pilot infrastructure.

This objective is especially tackled in the framework of WP4, which aims to support not only a few of the well-known EGEE applications, but also the ones discovered by the WP2 staff through the application survey (see above). Of course, the work is still in a warm-up phase (WP4 activities have not yet officially started), as data from the survey are still being analyzed. An intense activity (in close conjunction with WP3 and A5.2) in this field is therefore expected for the next few months, when the results of the survey and the technical roadmap will be available.

1.1. Kick-off meeting

Project Milestone 1.1, due on the first Project Month (PM), was relative to the organization of an official kick-off meeting. The milestone was reached with one week delay: the meeting was successfully held in Malta on the 6th and 7th of February 2006, thanks to the commitment of the Maltese Partner: the University of Malta, who efficiently organized the meeting and the logistics in the Radisson SAS Bay Point Resort, St. George's Bay, St. Julians STJ02 Malta (see the websites for details about the selected location <http://www.baypoint.malta.radissonsas.com/>).

The agenda of the event (which is available online on the project web agenda tool, <http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/fullAgenda.php?ida=a065>) included a first public part, including as well presentations from connected projects (EGEE, EUMEDCONNECT) and a second one, closed, with technical meetings for each work package, in order to officially plan the work to be done. Besides organizational and management issues, the meeting was also a very good opportunity to disseminate the project in Malta and in the other participating Countries. Public participation in Malta was especially good: the Minister of Education, Youth and Employment gave the welcome presentation at the meeting and Maltese TV and newspapers followed the event. Also in other Countries the press coverage was satisfying (see below).



Figure 1: The EUMEDGRID team (almost) complete at the Kick-off meeting in Malta

A total number of 50 people attended the general session of the first day and about 40 attended the internal meeting of the second day. All the Contractor partners were represented¹, which was in itself a

¹ Also IUCC (Israel) and PADI2 (Palestinian Authority), two of the three Third-Parties/Third Countries (see the chapter describing the Consortium management for details) were as well represented.

big political achievement: having all the representatives of Med Countries in the same room, around the same table, discussing technical activities without any prejudice, as it was pointed out by the Minister his welcome speech.



Figure 2 - Welcome of L. Galea, Minister of Education, Youth and Employment in Malta

1.2. D1.1: Project presentation

The deliverable, due on PM1 and delivered in time to the European Commission aims to provide general information about the EUMEDGRID project and its management. It includes:

- Brief project summary;
- Project facts (Start and end date, duration, funding, etc);
- A list of project partners, third parties and contributors;
- An overview of the project work packages;
- Some information about the project management, with their roles, responsibilities and contact details.

It also gives a full account about project communication and dissemination strategies and tools, describing the first information materials on the subject and includes as annexes the Project Information Sheet and the EUMEDGRID kit of templates (see below).

The project presentation and its annexes are available online on the EUMEDGRID document server, at the URL: <http://documents.eumedgrid.org/getfile.py?recid=4>

1.3. First Dissemination of Advanced Knowledge event

The first EUMEDGRID technical training was successfully held in Athens from Monday the 27th to Tuesday the 28th of March 2006 (the agenda is available online on the project agenda tool at the URL: FP6-2004-Infrastructures-6-SSA-026024

<http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/fullAgenda.php?ida=a0613>). The Greek partner, GRNET, took care of the organization both in terms of logistics and contents (see below).

Fifteen persons from different Mediterranean Countries (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, etc) took part to the tutorial: these people are already (or plan to become in the next few months) grid site administrators and will act as the first points of reference for user training and support in their Countries.

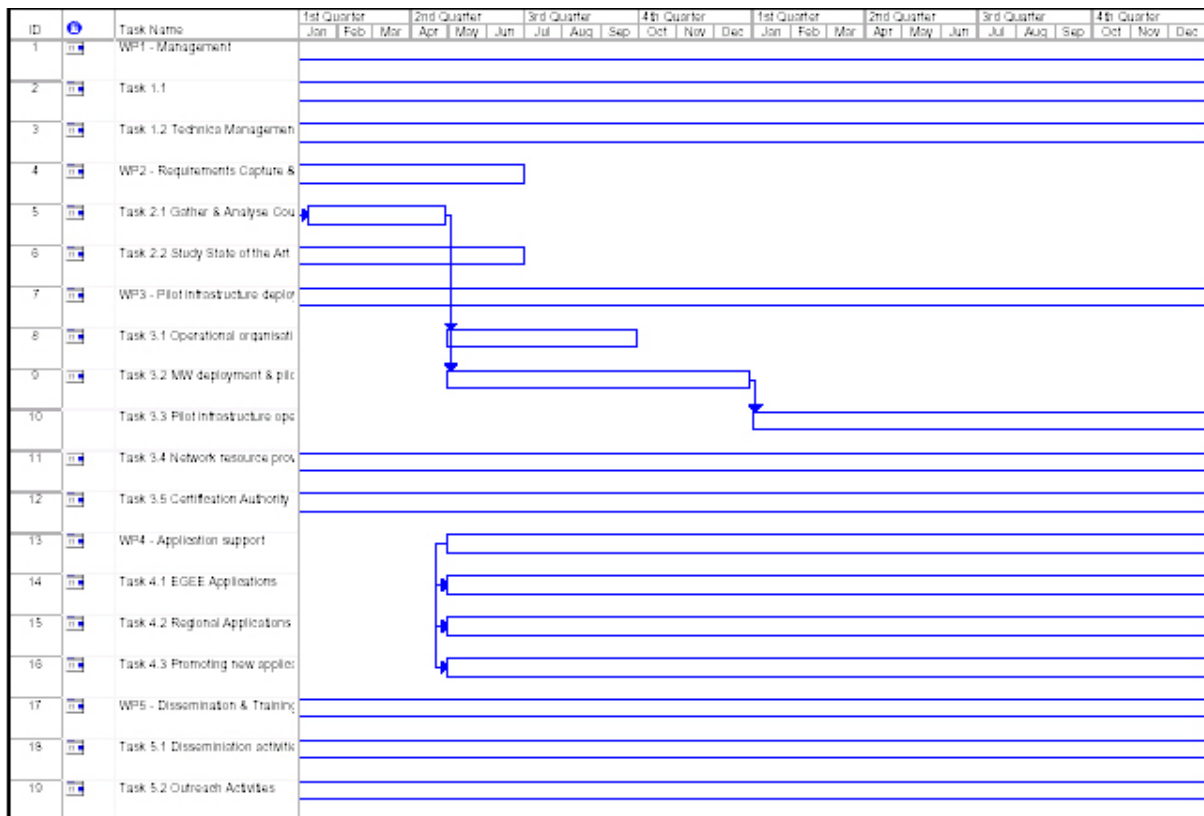


Figure 3 - Tutors and Participants at the first EUMEDGRID tutorial in Athens

2. WORKPACKAGE PROGRESS OF THE PERIOD

2.1. ACTIVITY SUMMARY

The following paragraphs provide a brief report of activities carried out during the first quarter of the project. By now, the program of activities, as described in the Technical Annex to the Contract did not undergo to any significant changes. The GANTT chart shown in the Annex is reported here as a reference.



2.1.1. WP1: Project Administrative and Technical Management

The activities related to the overall management of the project were particularly intense during this first reporting period, both on the technical and administrative side. In fact, in the early stages of the project several fundamental actions were taken in order to create an effective management thus paving the way for the creation of a flexible and effective management structure, also taking in consideration some critical issues, which are specific for EUMEDGRID (see the summary of issues for a full account).

A1.1 – Administrative Management

The Administrative Management activity was devoted to the first Project start-up and organization. The following are the main activities carried out within the framework of this activity:

- ▶ **Setup of a Project Office:** From the early stages of the project works, a Project office was created in order to facilitate communication among the Project Manager (Federico Ruggeri, who's ex officio part of the PO as well) and the Participants and to support administrative activities. Federica Tanlongo, Alessandra De Nicola and Giada Di Giammarco from GARR were the first PO members, together the Technical Manager, Roberto Barbera. INFN then selected and hired an administrative person, Marta Mieli, who will be in charge for the accounting aspects of the Project reporting. She started her contract in April, so this activity will affect the second reporting period.
- ▶ **Organization of the Project Kick-Off Meeting:** the official kick-off meeting was the first Project Milestone (marked as 1.1), due on the first Project Month. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the Maltese partners, who provided almost the total effort in terms of managing logistics and communications with invited people, including the following:
 - Finding a suitable location for the meeting, provided with all necessary facilities, both in terms of hardware and network connection) and booking convenient accommodations for participants.
 - Providing all participants with relevant information (logistics, visa procedures, transportations etc) well beforehand, thus facilitating the non-EU partners in actually taking part to the meeting.
 - Providing an English-to-French and vice-versa translation service (with all related facilities, i.e. translation rooms, headphones etc) in order to facilitate the participation of francophone partners in the discussion.
 - Issuing invitation letters on behalf of the management.

Furthermore, the staff of University of Malta also provided a high-level press office for the occasion, which strongly contributed to first disseminate the project in Malta and beyond. It must be noticed, for instance, that the Maltese Minister of Education, Youth and Employment was directly involved in the meeting and gave the welcome presentation. For detailed information about the press cut relating to the event, see A1.3.

The agenda of the event (available at: <http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/fullAgenda.php?id=a065>) was split in a public part, aiming to present EUMEDGRID outside the boundary of the Project Community and a closed one, aiming to officially start works, trough defining roles, appointing responsible persons per each role and beginning to and organize the activities to be performed during the first phases of the project.

- ▶ **Contract signature:** the contract signed by the INFN president was sent to the European Commission (EC) before Christmas 2005 and the EC signature was done on the 31

January 2006. All the Accession Forms (Form A) to the Contract were signed by the partners, countersigned by the INFN President and sent to EC on 2 February 2006.

- ▶ **Pre-financing** from European Commission was received from INFN on its bank account in Banca di Roma, which does not provide interests. A first third of the sum was distributed to Partners accordingly to the Consortium Agreement.

Amount in €	Date of EC Operation
1.105.000,00	07/02/06

Table 1 - Pre financing from EC

In the *Table 1* above the timing elements of the pre-financing are shown, while in the following *Table 2* there is a synthetic list of the first installments distributed. The EUN amount was not distributed because the Bank Account information was not received.

Partner N.	Partner short name	Amount in €	Comments
2	CERN	27.963,36	
3	CYNET	28.914,11	
4	DANTE	3.579,31	
5	GARR	35.345,68	
6	GRNET	51.452,58	
7	RED.ES	13.422,41	
8	UoM	34.842,34	
9	CERIST	18.959,16	
10	CNRST	18.959,16	
11	EUN	18.959,16	Not yet delivered
12	HIAST	18.959,16	
13	MSRTDC	18.959,16	
14	TUBITAK	15.156,14	
TOTAL		368.333,35	

Table 2 - First Instalments of the EC pre-financing

A1.2 – Technical Management

The proposed Technical Manager, Roberto Barbera, was candidate by the coordinating Partner, INFN, and officially appointed during the first PMB held in Malta.

During the first quarter, a significant amount of work was carried out by the TM, in close coordination with the Technical Board, which is composed by all the WP leaders and their deputies, who were

officially appointed in the same occasion. In fact the first months were crucial to define and organize the workplan, to be refined of course in the proceeding of the activities.

Another key point was to team up the workers spread across the different participating Organizations and often engaged on different tasks. This was done mainly at the workpackage/activity level: apposite per-workpackage mailing lists have been set up and filled with workers by and by they were involved in activities and their importance in the progress of works have constantly increased.

Partner Short Name	Name and Surname	Activity	Worked Hours during the Quarter		Total N. of Hours delivered until now		Effort in the contract (in hours) ²		Remaining Effort (in hours)	
			Total	Funded	Total	Funded	Total	Funded	Total	Funded
INFN	Total	WP1	320	(0)	320	(0)	2.470	(910)	2.150	(910)
	Roberto Barbera	A1.2	120	(0)	120	(0)				
	Federico Ruggieri	A1.1	200	(0)	200	(0)				
CERN	Total	WP1					65	(65)	65	(65)
CYNET	Total	WP1					117	(117)	117	(117)
DANTE	Total	WP1	7	(7)	7	(7)	78	(78)	71	(71)
	David West	A1.1	7	(7)	7	(7)				
GARR	Total	WP1	58	(58)	58	(58)	312	(312)	254	(254)
	Alessandra De Nicola	A1.1	15	(15)	15	(15)				
	Giada Di Giammarco	A1.1	10	(10)	10	(10)				
	Claudia Santi	A1.1	8	(8)	8	(8)				
	Federica Tanlongo	A1.1	15	(15)	15	(15)				
	Federica Tanlongo	A1.2	10	(10)	10	(10)				
GRNET	Total	WP1	47	(47)	47	(47)	273	(273)	226	(226)
	Zoi Panagiotara	A1.1	47	(47)	47	(47)				
RED.ES	Total	WP1					78	(78)	78	(78)
UoM	Total	WP1					221	(221)	221	(221)
CERIST	Total	WP1	80	(64)	80	(64)	208	(208)	128	(144)
	El-Maouhab Aouaouche	A1.1	40	(32)	40	(32)				
	El-Maouhab Aouaouche	A1.2	20	(16)	20	(16)				
	Khelladi Abdelkader	A1.1	20	(16)	20	(16)				
CNRST	Total	WP1	10	(10)	10	(10)	208	(208)	198	(198)

² The number of hours has been evaluated using 1560 effective working hours/Year. Funded Effort is in brackets.

	Redouane Merrouch	A1.1	10	(10)	10	(10)				
EUN	Total	WP1					208	(208)	208	(208)
HIAST	Total	WP1	80	(80)	80	(80)	208	(208)	128	(128)
	Maher Suleiman	A1.1	50	(50)	50	(50)				
	Moutasem Shafa Amry	A1.2	30	(30)	30	(30)				
MRSTDC	Total	WP1	120	(120)	120	(120)	208	(208)	88	(88)
	Mohamed Jemni	A1.1	24	(24)	24	(24)				
	Mohamed Jemni	A1.2	24	(24)	24	(24)				
	Malika Zenati	A1.1	48	(48)	48	(48)				
	Malika Zenati	A1.2	24	(24)	24	(24)				
TUBITAK	Total	WP1					208	(208)	208	(208)

Table 3 - WP1 roundup effort

2.1.2. WP2: Requirement Capture and Analysis

During these first Project months, a large effort is ongoing in order to study the state of the art of Grid technology across the Region, develop a model for the formation of sustainable National Grid Initiatives and propose a technical roadmap to operations. At the end of the first quarter, activities were already well on: an ad-hoc questionnaire was administered across all Mediterranean Countries involved in the Project, thus paving the way to the publication of a large survey providing the current picture of eScience applications in the target Area.

The first phase of the work package was aimed at the gathering of participant information through various sources, and can therefore be regarded as introductory to the formulation of a strategy and technological roadmap for the implementation of the EUMEDGRID initiatives on the basis of this analysis (see plans for the next reporting period This first phase corresponds to A2.1 (Gather and analyse country data), commencing at PM1 and ending at PM5.

The first three project months of this activity were mainly dedicated to the information gathering exercise. A questionnaire (<https://secure.um.edu.mt/eumedgrid/questionnaire/eumedgrid.htm>) was designed in order to establish the status in each of the participant countries as regards to grid technology awareness, current use of computing or grid facilities, current and future grid application requirements, available training facilities, and existing hardware infrastructure.

The Questionnaire used for the survey splits in 7 sections:

- **Section A – General**, providing general information about the Organizations responding to the survey
- **Section B – Experience with Grid Technologies**, providing some information about the level of grid awareness, interest and competences within the responding Organization and identifies actual and potential grid users/administrators who may be involved in the project activities.

- **Section C – Applications**, providing information about actual and potential application domains for Grids in the area (High Energy Physics, Biomedicine, Earth Science, Computational Chemistry, Astronomy, Geophysics, Financial Simulation, etc) and the scope of actual/potential collaborations (national, regional, international...). In this section were also taken into account some technical aspects of applications, such as, for instance, time-criticality, environment, requirements in terms of storage and computing power.
- **Section D – Software**, providing information about type(s) of Operating System(s), job schedulers, parallel toolkits etc. used to run the mentioned applications.
- **Section E – Hardware**, getting a picture of the hardware and networking facilities available in the responding organizations. Network connections were described in terms of: speed, medium, type, bandwidth (downstream/Upstream); RAM and hard disk storage capacity and CPS architecture, models and speed were also taken into account.
- **Section F – Training**, aiming to understand whether organizations willing to host EUMEDGRID tutorials and dissemination of advanced knowledge events had adequate facilities in terms of PCs, Internet connectivity, etc.
- **Section G - Other Feedback**, aiming to collect any other relevant information or requirements.

The questionnaire was circulated among the project Partners for feedback during PM2. In the meanwhile, a system for the online submission of questionnaire responses was developed, deployed and hosted at UoM; several other partners mirrored the same questionnaire for localised monitoring, while automatically forwarding submissions to UoM. The project website was updated to link to the questionnaire, and Partners were asked to publicise the EUMEDGRID survey in their Countries. An extended deadline for questionnaire responses from institutions in beneficiary countries was set for PM4.

During PM2 and PM3, data regarding the telecommunications scene in the region, including international connectivity, was gathered from sources such as the ITU, EUMEDCONNECT, and UNCTAD.

In the same period, data about the NRENs in the beneficiary countries and their infrastructure was also collected from the NRENs themselves as well as TERENA. This information included organisational information, user community information, technological status, and services offered.

Preliminary work on the Deliverable 2.1 (User and eInfrastructure Requirements Capture and Analysis Report) was initiated during PM3.

Partner Short Name	Name and Surname	Activity	Worked Hours during the Quarter		Total N. of Hours delivered until now		Effort in the contract (in hours)[1]		Remaining Effort (in hours)1	
			Total	Funded	Total	Funded	Total	Funded	Total	Funded
INFN		Total					13	(0)	13	(0)
CERN		Total					715	(650)	715	(650)

CYNET	Total	WP2					208	(169)	208	(169)
DANTE										
GARR										
GRNET	Total	WP2	374	(374)	374	(374)	585	(468)	211	(94)
	Ioannis Liabotis	A2.1	17	(17)	17	(17)				
	Ioannis Liabotis	A2.2	101	(101)	101	(101)				
	Kostas Koumantaros	A2.1	24	(24)	24	(24)				
	Kostas Koumantaros	A2.2	144	(144)	144	(144)				
	Ognjen Prnjat	A2.1	13	(13)	13	(13)				
	Ognjen Prnjat	A2.2	75	(75)	75	(75)				
RED.ES										
UoM	Total	WP2					936	(793)	936	(793)
CERIST	Total	WP2	140	(112)	140	(112)	520	(442)	380	(330)
	Aouaouche El-Maouhab	A2.1	40	(32)	40	(32)				
	Farida Brahimi	A2.1	25	(20)	25	(20)				
	Ouafa Bentaleb	A2.1	25	(20)	25	(20)				
	Hassine Benaissa	A2.1	25	(20)	25	(20)				
	Salim Asselah	A2.1	25	(20)	25	(20)				
CNRST	Total	WP2	135	(135)	135	(135)	520	(442)	385	(307)
	Redouane Merrouch	A2.1	45	(45)	45	(45)				
	Nabil Talhaoui	A2.1	45	(45)	45	(45)				
	Youness Hamidi	A2.1	45	(45)	45	(45)				
EUN	Total	WP2					520	(442)	520	(442)
HIAST	Total	WP2	60	(60)	60	(60)	520	(442)	460	(382)
	Maher Suleiman	A2.1	60	(60)	60	(60)				
MRSTDC	Total	WP2	128	(128)	128	(128)	520	(442)	392	(314)
	Mohamed Jemni	A2.1	24	(24)	24	(24)				
	Mohamed Jemni	A2.2	8	(8)	8	(8)				
	Malika Zenati	A2.1	48	(48)	48	(48)				
	Malika Zenati	A2.2	48	(48)	48	(48)				
TUBITAK	Total	WP2	210	(105)	210	(105)	520	(442)	310	(337)
	Burcu Akcan	A2.1	210	(105)	210	(105)				

Table 4 - WP2 roundup effort

2.1.3. WP3: Pilot Infrastructure Operational Support

The activity in this field aims to assess and perform pilot Grid sites installation, validation and certification within every Country in the Region, thus creating a pilot interoperable infrastructure and related services. Studies are ongoing and focusing on EGEE middleware and architecture. Many of these objectives have already been tackled in the first project months and works were well on at the end of the reporting period.

During the 1st Quarter WP3 aimed to set up a pilot infrastructure with sites from Greece, Italy and Turkey, to be widened in the next reporting period with the installation of pilot sites in other Countries (the next site is planned to be operational in Morocco for the second quarter).



Table 5 - The EUMEDGRID pilot infrastructure at the end of the reporting period

2.1.3.1. Per Partner:

GRNET set up the primary core services for the project including a Resource Broker (RB), a Berkeley Database Information Index (BDII) and LCG File Catalog (LCG) and a secondary set of core services plus a Virtual Organization Management Service (VOMS) for the Eumed VO and extended the Scope of INFN CA to cover all EUMEDGRID Partners. HG-01-GRNET (Greece), INFN-CATANIA (Italy), INFN-CNAF (Italy), INFN-ROMA3 (Italy) and TR-01-ULAKBIM (Turkey) sites added support for EUMEDGRID.

INFN

Installation and configuration of: VOMS server, GridICE server, secondary RB, BDII and LFC Catalogue. The RAs (Registration Authorities) were established in CNRST (Morocco), CY-CYNET (Cyprus), HIAST (Syria), Islamic University of Gaza (Palestinian Authority), RicerkaNet (Malta). A

lot of preparatory actions for WP3 were performed within the scope of WP2 (see the WP2 report for further details).

Studies have started towards monitoring, helpdesk, and other Operational issues, based on the experience drawn from EGEE and SEE-GRID.

Catania site is part of the EUMEDGRID infrastructure since the beginning of the Project and the EUMed VOMS is fully supported. The site is monitored both by GridICE and GStat. Catania site is also checked by the EGEE SFT tool.

Roma Tre also started a pilot site which is monitored by GidICE.

TUBITAK:

"TR-01-ULAKBIM site has been added to EUMEDGRID infrastructure and the EUMed VO is fully supported by this site. The site has 128 nodes with LCG2.7.0 middleware installed and it is monitored both by GridICE and GStat."

Partner Short Name	Name and Surname	Activity	Worked Hours during the Quarter		Total N. of Hours delivered until now		Effort in the contract (in hours)[1]		Remaining Effort (in hours)[1]	
			Total	Funded	Total	Funded	Total	Funded	Total	Funded
INFN	Total	WP3	84	(0)	84	(0)	2,938	(2,314)	2,854	(2,314)
	Federico Bitelli	A3.2	10	(0)	10	(0)				
	Paola Celio	A3.2	10	(0)	10	(0)				
	Riccardo Gargana	A3.2	20	(0)	20	(0)				
	Roberto Cecchini	A3.5	44	(0)	44	(0)				
CERN	Total	WP3					780	(650)	780	(650)
CYNET	Total	WP3					1,365	(1,157)	1,365	(1,157)
DANTE	Total	WP3					299	(234)	299	(234)
GARR										
GRNET	Total	WP3					2,535	(2,028)	2,535	(2,028)
RED.ES	Total	WP3	5	(1)	5	(1)	390	(312)	385	(311)
	Esther Robles	A3.4	5	(1)	5	(1)				
UoM	Total	WP3					2,197	(1,859)	2,197	(1,859)
CERIST	Total	WP3					1,560	(1,326)	1,560	(1,326)
CNRST	Total	WP3					1,560	(1,326)	1,560	(1,326)
EUN	Total	WP3					1,560	(1,326)	1,560	(1,326)
HIAST	Total	WP3	87	(87)	87	(87)	1,560	(1,326)	1,473	(1,239)
	Maher Suleiman	A3.3	5	(5)	5	(5)				

Maher Suleiman	A3.4	20	(20)	20	(20)					
Maher Suleiman	A3.5	20	(20)	20	(20)					
Abdallah Issa	A3.3	32	(32)	32	(32)					
Moutasem Shafa Amry	A3.5	10	(10)	10	(10)					
MRSTDC	Total	WP3	464	(464)	464	(464)	1.560	(1.326)	1.096	(862)
Mohamed Jemni	A3.4	96	(96)	96	(96)					
Mohamed Jemni	A3.5	32	(32)	32	(32)					
Heithem Abbes	A3.1	48	(48)	48	(48)					
Heithem Abbes	A3.4	96	(96)	96	(96)					
Adel Essafi	A3.1	48	(48)	48	(48)					
Adel Essafi	A3.4	96	(96)	96	(96)					
Ahmed Elleuch	A3.4	48	(48)	48	(48)					
TUBITAK	Total	WP3	210	(105)	210	(105)	1.040	(884)	830	(779)
Kursad Yusuf	A3.2	150	(75)	150	(75)					
Kursad Yusuf	A3.3	60	(30)	60	(30)					

2.1.4. WP4: Applications Support

As results from the GANTT chart presented above, WP4 will not officially start until PM6, when final outcomes of WP2 will be available and the pilot infrastructure will be well on (for this reason, no summary table of worked hours can be provided for this reporting period).

However, it must be noticed that many of the personnel involved in Applications support are already involved in related support activities at the requirements (WP2), infrastructure (WP3) and/or transfer of advanced competences level (WP5). The close connection among all support activities, together with the fact that many people work horizontally on several connected tasks is expected to ensure a quick start of WP4.

2.1.5. WP5: Dissemination and Outreach

From the very beginning of the Project, dissemination has been regarded as a key activity for the success of EUMEDGRID. Indeed, WP5 activities had a quick start: A5.1 (Dissemination) started first, shortly followed by A5.2 (Dissemination of advanced knowledge). First results are promising and a considerable effort is expected for the next few months, in order to create a larger team in WP5, deeply involving personnel from all Partners. Another important goal is to create a peaceful and effective collaboration among all partners. Conceived as an “horizontal action”, dissemination can reach this target. At such a delicate moment for Mediterranean politics, this can easily become the most challenging aspect of the EUMEDGRID initiative, as highlighted in the article written for the EGEE newsletter and in the words of Maltese Minister Louis Galea during his opening speech at the Malta meeting.

A5.1 – Project dissemination activities

Among the first Project Deliverables and Milestones, two were related to WP5, and especially with Activity 5.1:

- Deliverable D5.1 (due on Month 1) - “Project presentation”, which was successfully submitted to the EC on 14/03/2006. The deliverable includes as annexes a Project information sheet and a kit of Project templates.

The first annex (available for the download on the EUMEDGRID website at: http://www.eumedgrid.org/documents/EUMEDGRIDproject_summary.pdf) is a typographic-quality Project presentation brochure providing general information about the project and available for printing (to give out during conferences, exhibitions and events) and downloading from the website. It was prepared both in English and French and it is currently in process of being translated in Arabic and translations in other languages are under investigation.

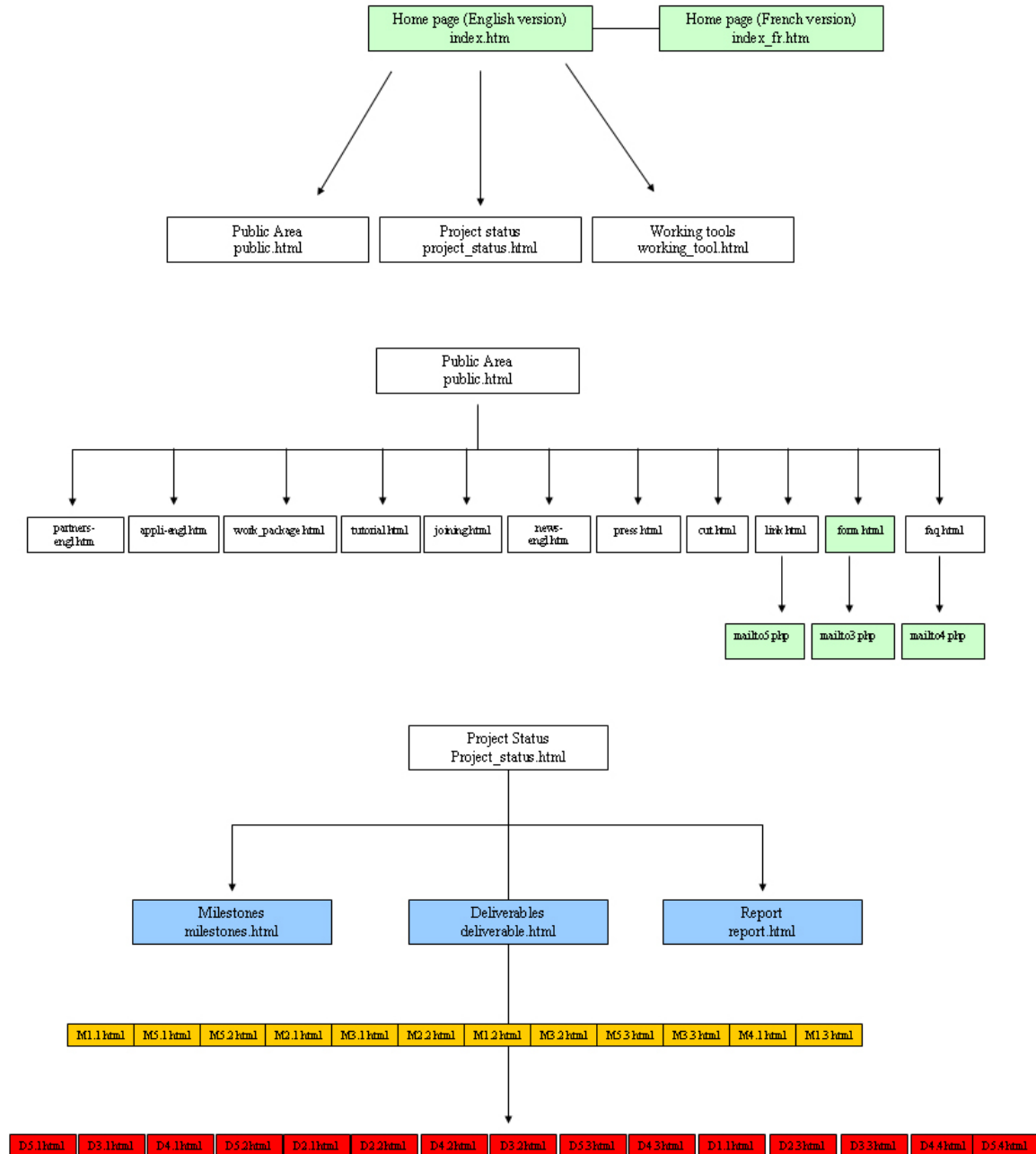
The second one, a kit of Project Templates (downloadable from the official website: <http://www.eumedgrid.org/documents/EUMEDGRID-templates-kit.zip>) provides the Project Partners with a number of templates, images and style sheets to be used in each project-related document, in order to maintain a coherent “look&feel” and ensure that all documents and materials which relate to the Project were easily recognizable and easy to remember.

The Project Templates includes the following elements:

- EUMEDGRID logo;
- EUMEDGRID headed notepaper (.doc format);
- EUMEDGRID presentation template (.ppt and .pot formats);
- EUMEDGRID web templates (.html, .css and .dwt formats);
- EUMEDGRID document templates (.doc format), including:
 - EUMEDGRID template for EU-deliverables;
 - EUMEDGRID templates for accessory documents (delivery notes, deliverable review forms etc.).
- Milestone M5.1 (due on Month 1), “Initial public website”, was met well before the deadline. The initial closed website, used in the project preparation and negotiation phases, was replaced at the very beginning of the project with a public website, expanding the original core of the old site. Now EUMEDGRID website includes more than 150 online pages (the number is of course bound to increase as soon as the Projects evolves) both in English and in French and an Arabic version is foreseen for the next few months.

Furthermore, a number of online, PHP-based tools was installed and customized in order to provide additional services to the project participants, third parties and users/contributors (Document repository: <http://documents.eumedgrid.org>, Project calendar and agenda: <http://agenda.eumedgrid.org>, User support system: <http://support.eumedgrid.org>) and links to other technical tools set-up within other work packages (GRIDICE monitoring tool, EUMEDGRID VOMS, etc).

The following diagrams show the architecture of the website.



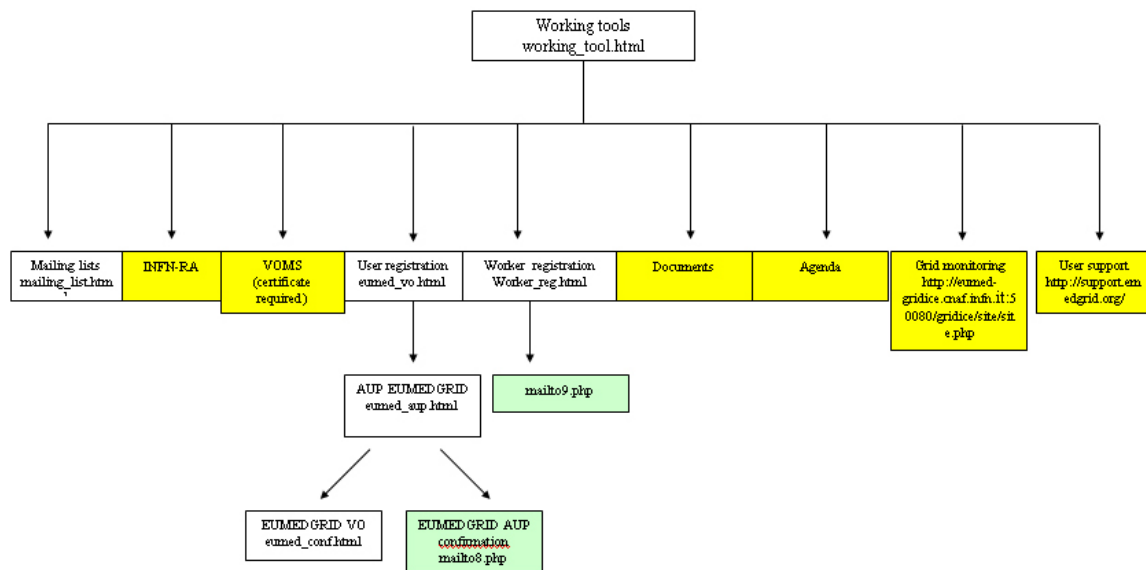


Figure 4 - Diagrams of the EUMEDGRID Web structure

All HTML pages are W3C-compliant XHTML1.0 Transitional, and can be therefore correctly displayed by the major web browsers and are accessible with special text-based and “talking” web browsers for sight impaired people.

The general architecture of the website can be regarded as “final” although new contents and tools will be added as the project goes on.

The website addresses different targets: the Project community, new potential EUMEDGRID users, public bodies, press, and the general public. This is reflected in the content architecture, organized in three main areas: Public Area, Project Status and Working Tools.

The first one provides general information about the Project (partners, applications, work packages, links, FAQ), how to get in touch with the staff and join the Community (joining, hosting a tutorial, and contacts sections) and the news about the project, press activities and coverage (press releases, press cuttings, and news). Project Status area gives the project staff as well as the larger public updates about the Project’s progresses, including milestones, deliverables and reports.

The last area conceived as a summary of all online tools supporting the collaborative day-by-day project activities (agenda, document server, mailing lists etc). Electronic tools (such as the Project web site itself, the mailing lists, the Project agenda etc) will be important in order to facilitate the exchange of information and to maintain cohesion among all Partners, Third Parties and Contributors, also taking in consideration distances and, in some cases, difficulties in travelling for some of the Countries involved.

Apart from these, other activities were carried out in A5.1, i.e. project branding creation and press activities.

a) Branding

Branding is a key point to disseminate the Project. Since the beginning of the Project steps were taken in order to ensure that all project-related documents and materials were easily recognisable. This purpose was reached through the creation of a suitable “look&feel” applied to each graphical element.

In particular, the project logo was designed in order to remind vaguely the EUMEDCONNECT Project, which will be the network (and human) infrastructure enabling EUMEDGRID.

Onto the simple elements of this logo (text and a simple circle), the EGEE colours were superimposed, to highlight the ideal continuity of intents as well as the aim to create a seamless grid infrastructure between Europe and the Mediterranean Countries, thanks to the efforts of the two projects. An orange grid pattern, and a stylized picture of the Mediterranean were selected as characterizing elements, together with some very basic lines (curves and straight lines) and connectors both orange and blue, as in the Project logo. It must be noticed that the Mediterranean stylized map does not bear Country borders, but just the Mediterranean Sea silhouette, thus symbolically highlighting the project aim to create a seamless infrastructure (as well as a human network) across the Area.

The consistent “look & feel” created through the coherent use of such graphical elements and colors was used from the early phases of the project in all project documents, brochures and materials. Furthermore, some project merchandising (pens, post-it blocks, shoppers, and other small giveaways to distribute during dissemination and training events) were ideated and will be available for the next reporting period, in order to consolidate the project branding among the public (For further details, see the plans for the next quarter).

b) Press Activities

Press activities were identified as a key point for dissemination and, according to this view, an intense work has been carried out in this field during the first quarter, including:

- Issuing and spreading news and press releases
- Contacting relevant newspapers and websites and pursuing publications of news and articles about EUMEDGRID
- Spreading the Project information sheet and other project information among the press
- Writing articles for related newsletters (EGEE)

First results in terms of coverage (visible on the project website, <http://www.eumedgrid.org/cut.html>, and in the Annex on use and dissemination to this document) were quite good, and some points can be highlighted, which could be useful to address future actions in this specific activity:

- The maximum coverage was obtained in occasion of the Kick-off-meeting Press Release, including the IST result website (see below A1.3.2 for a detailed list of all published press cuttings for the reporting period).
- Initial press coverage is various and includes technical newspapers/websites as well as national newspapers.
- The project reached an uneven distribution per Country (but some press cuts on local newspapers could be unknown).

A5.2 – Dissemination of advanced knowledge activities

Works in A5.2 started with the Organization of the first tutorial for site administrators in Athens from 27 to 28 March 2006. Fifteen participants took part in the tutorial and are expected to join the first Mediterranean group of tutors working in A5.2, thus facilitating the dissemination of advanced knowledge in their Countries.

Partner Short Name	Name and Surname	Activity	Worked Hours during the Quarter		Total N. of Hours delivered until now		Effort in the contract (in hours)[1]		Remaining Effort (in hours) ¹	
			Total	Funded	Total	Funded	Total	Funded	Total	Funded
INFN	Total	WP5	461	(396)	461	(396)	3,354	(2,106)	2,893	(1,710)
	Riccardo Bruno	A5.2	396	(396)	396	(396)				
	Federico Bitelli	A5.2	10	(0)	10	(0)				
	Paola Celio	A5.3	10	(0)	10	(0)				
	Riccardo Gargana	A5.4	10	(0)	10	(0)				
	Fulvio Galeazzi	A5.2	35	(0)	35	(0)				
CERN	Total	WP5					780	(663)	780	(663)
CYNET	Total	WP5								
DANTE	Total	WP5								
GARR	Total	WP5	435	(435)	435	(435)	3,471	(2,769)	3,036	(2,334)
	Alessandra De Nicola	A5.1	85	(85)	85	(85)				
	Giada Di Giammarco	A5.1	195	(195)	195	(195)				
	Federica Tanlongo	A5.1	155	(155)	155	(155)				
GRNET	Total	WP5	484	(484)	484	(484)	1,560	(1,248)	1,076	(764)
	Aris Sotiropoulos	A5.2	118	(118)	118	(118)				
	Fotis Karayannis	A5.2	8	(8)	8	(8)				
	Fortis Georgatos	A5.2	126	(126)	126	(126)				
	Evaggelia Athanasaki	A5.2	232	(232)	232	(232)				
RED.ES	Total	WP5	30	(8)	30	(8)	585	(468)	555	(461)
	Antonio Fuentes	A5.1	15	(5)	15	(5)				
	Alberto Perez	A5.1	15	(3)	15	(3)				
UoM	Total	WP5					1,560	(1,326)	1,560	(1,326)
CERIST	Total	WP5					1,560	(1,326)	1,560	(1,326)
CNRST	Total	WP5					1,560	(1,326)	1,560	(1,326)
EUN	Total	WP5					1,560	(1,326)	1,560	(1,326)

HIAST	Total	WP5	180	(180)	180	(180)	1.560	(1.326)	1.380	(1.146)
Maher Suleiman		A5.1	30	(30)	30	(30)				
Maher Suleiman		A5.2	30	(30)	30	(30)				
Abdallah Issa		A5.2	30	(30)	30	(30)				
Dareen Shehadeh		A5.1	80	(80)	80	(80)				
Moutasem Shafa Amry		A5.1	10	(10)	10	(10)				
MRSTDC	Total	WP5	32	(32)	32	(32)	1.560	(1.326)	1.528	(1.294)
Mohamed Jemni		A5.1	16	(16)	16	(16)				
Malika Zenati		A5.1	16	(16)	16	(16)				
TUBITAK	Total	WP5					1.040	(884)	1.040	(884)

Table 6 - WP5 roundup effort

2.2. MAJOR TASKS, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

2.2.1. Deliverables and milestones due this quarter

All the Deliverables and Milestones foreseen for this quarter were delivered on schedule and a complete list is shown in the following table:

Name	N°	Due on	Status
Kick-off meeting	M1.1	PM 01	Reached
Initial public website and project presentation	M5.1	PM 01	Reached
Project presentation	D1.1	PM01	Delivered

Table 7 - Deliverables and Milestones due for the reporting period

2.3. SUMMARY OF ISSUES

2.3.1. WP1

2.3.1.1. Lack of experience on EC funded Projects among the partners

A sensible amount of work was devoted to the support of non-experienced partners in the administrative and management aspects of the project. Several partners had indeed no previous direct experience of procedures of an European Commission funded project: in fact, although many of them had been involved in the EUMEDCONNECT project before, it was in a “mediated” framework, in which one experienced contractor managed the project and the other Participants acted as third parties or subcontractors. In this way, non-contracting Partners never handled directly the EC funding, which was distributed by the contractor itself. This situation resulted in a certain lack of experience on the administrative and financial side, which is being bridged in these first phases of the project: of course, it is of importance to provide non-experienced partners with all relevant information, in order to allow them to correctly report personnel work in the activities and claim related costs. A specific support was and will be necessary for these issues and tutorial for administrative staff are as well foreseen.

Because of the situation described above, quarterly reports will be drafted and submitted to the EC, even if they are not expressly required by the terms of the contract; an intermediate Auditing survey with a Certificate may be done as well, in order to check the correctness of reporting rules and avoid reporting errors.

2.3.1.2. Delay in the distribution of the pre-financing

The delay between the arrival of the pre-financing and the date of distribution of the first installment was mainly due to the lack of some banking information (SWIFT or IBAN Code, number of the bank account) relating to some partners. Due to internal delays, the EUN bank account was still missing at the end of the reporting period.

2.3.1.3. Difficulties in advancing mission expenses for some Project Partners

A delicate financial issue aroused in the first project month with one of the EUMEDGRID project partners, who was not able to advance the money to cover mission expenses to take part in a project related event. In a first moment, this difficulty was tackled as a serious but temporary problem, as at that stage the pre-financing was not yet available and it was expected that the transfer of money to Partners would settle the matter.

Afterwards, it emerged that, in most cases, this difficulty was not due to a lack of funding, but to the fact that, due to the internal regulation of some of the Partner Organizations, people could not get any earnest for mission costs such as travel, accommodation, participation fees etc or, in other cases, they could get it only for some of these items, or had a very limited plafond which was typically not enough to cover such expenses in Europe. On the other hand, they had difficulties in advancing expenses personally as, of course, such costs are often more relevant for citizens of Mediterranean Countries than for European ones.

This worrisome situation, which could severely limit the actual participation of the interested partners in the Project activities, was tackled case-by-case until now, but more organic solutions need to be decided in the next quarter. (i.e., the coordinator or another European Partner anticipated the travel expenses for partners who could not, or paid tickets and settled the hotel bill for them. Such costs, anyhow can not be claimed on their behalf.

2.3.1.4. Delay in the foreseen release for the timesheet tool

At the beginning of the project works it was decided that a timesheet online tool, based on a software already used in other Grid projects, would be installed in the first project months, in order to simplify and standardize the worked hours reporting procedure by each worker, and the approval of reports by each work package leader. A programmer was sub-contracted in order to customize the tool according to the requirements provided by the Project Office. Although the timesheet tool was delivered in time after a few interactions between the programmer and the Project Office, and it successfully underwent to an extensive testing, it could not made available immediately to workers, due to unforeseen problems in the installation on the server hosting the Project Web Site. The problems were successfully solved and the timesheet will be released to the Project workers for the next reporting period, but in the meanwhile a temporary solution was required in order to accomplish the reports. This provisional solution, based on a textual exchange of information (mainly via email) on the names of the involved personnel and their worked hours during the first three months,

could have lead to some undiscovered mistakes/incompleteness in the tables presented in this report.

2.3.1.5. Communication, mobility and other issues

Although Project Partners have generally proved to be eager to collaborate in the project works, this collaboration it was not always easy for a number of reasons which need to be taken into account for the success of the project and which resulted (and will result in the future) in an intense support activity from the side of the project office.

- **Language** – It must be noticed that several Participants are from francophone Countries, which means that, counting their national languages, English is only their third language. Although people directly involved in the project can speak and write in English, they are not always fluent English speakers, which makes more difficult for those people to take active part in discussions; the situation is even worse when dealing not directly with project workers but with their organizations. This resulted in the need for support of francophone speakers, and in the use, whenever possible, of professional translation services.
- **Geographical spread of Partners among a number of Countries** – the geographical spread of participants, together with the need to minimize time and budget dedicated to missions and the difficulty, for citizens from some of the participating Countries, to travel freely (due to long times needed to get visas, invitation letters required etc) implies of course the impossibility to organize frequent meetings in person and resulted in supplementary work, from the PO side, in order to keep communication with all Partners involved and, in some cases, to organize VCCs to discuss prominent issues or present project updates.

2.3.2. WP2

Although in this WP was concentrated a lot of effort during this quarter, especially by UoM, not all the tables related to the worked hours were complete at the time of delivery of this document (see the issue at paragraph 2.3.1.4 above). New and complete tables will be available in the next quarterly report.

2.3.3. WP3

No Issues to report at this point as the main part of the WP3 works officially start at Q2 (see Gantt chart for details).

2.3.4. WP4

This WP is divided in the following 3 activities:

A4.1: EGEE applications - During the kick-off meeting a discussion started to select a pool of EGEE applications of interest for the Mediterranean Region and that will be used

to validate the infrastructure. This is also consistent with Objective O8 of Technical Annex.

A4.2: Regional applications support - A first set of applications local to the Mediterranean Region was specified, as an example, in the TA. A discussion was started during the kick-off meeting about other applications that can be added to this set before to choose the applications to deploy.

A4.3: Promoting new applications - The WP Manager is studying the use of questionnaire to discover applications that can be deployed on the infrastructure on the territory from others projects with the objective to use a similar one for EUMEDGRID project. This possibility will be presented for a discussion during the next PEB meeting.

These activities are considered preliminary to the official start of the WP, at Project Month 6.

2.3.5. WP5

Spreading project information materials and giveaways to Partners, as described above, was a relevant part of the activity during this quarter. Some project brochures were produced so far, while gadgets and some more dissemination materials will be available for the next quarter, in order to consolidate the project branding among the public. From the experience gained in the first quarter, it appears that a critical point in this field will be to have a careful and precise planning of foreseen presences at national and international events, in order to make available in good time all the materials to the Partners that should use them. In fact, at the moment the production and distribution of items is centrally supervised by the PO, but time should be taken into account in order to deliver the goods when required. Important exceptions are printed paper materials (project brochures, block notes, posters etc), which are easier to produce, both in-house, with a good quality Post Script printer or using a print service. For these items, ready-to-print high-resolution digital copies were made available to partners, with a few instructions about the paper size and type, the layout etc. This method is expected to produce good results especially dealing with events limited in scope and/or number of the audience, where no economy of scale is envisaged, and as a backup when the participation to the event was not scheduled beforehand.

Uneven coverage for press activities – As highlighted above, a sensible amount of effort was devoted to press activities, which were identified as key issue for the early stages of the project dissemination. First results in this field are encouraging (see the “press cuts” section on the project website, although initial press coverage is characterized by an uneven distribution per Country. Of course, this could be partly due to a lack of completeness in the gathering of local press cuttings, but the general trend is unmistakable and shows that penetration in some Countries was, so far, negligible. In the short term, several actions will be aimed to improve the situation:

- Awaken project workers who are not directly involved in communication/dissemination tasks to the importance of disseminate the project, so that they can directly contribute to find out

interesting stories and case histories which could result in good dissemination opportunities and help to check if the dissemination produced results at the national/local level.

- Provide those Partner organizations which have not specific personnel devoted (only) to dissemination/communication activities with guidelines and tips to improve their relationship with the press and all related activities.
- Improve the coordination in issuing, translating and distributing press releases and press kits.

Teaming up the dissemination group - The last point is the strategic need to create a “real” dissemination team, involving workers from all Partner Organizations: in case of such large collaboration, efficiently spreading the dissemination team in each involved Country has been identified as a key for success, as a large part of the dissemination activities are normally carried out on a national basis. Furthermore, it must be taken into account that within the Project Consortium, several languages play an important role and therefore it is advisable, especially for those dissemination actions which are meant to the press and/or the general public, to issue materials in different languages, in order to maximize their penetration.

This is especially critical in a workpackage as WP5, as its action is characterized as the most “horizontal” among the technical ones’: due to this feature, it is not always easy to have evidence of all people who’s working at WP5 and actually find out all contributions which should be reported as “dissemination and Outreach activities”. On the other hand, some of the partners should increase their commitment in terms of workers focusing on this workpackage in the next period: of course, professional are needed as well in this field, not only “part-time disseminators”.

2.4. Plans for the next reporting quarter

2.4.1. WP1

Daily planning and management of project activities, both on the technical and administrative management and including PO communication and support duties, will of course be horizontal to the whole Project and are therefore expected to be a relevant part of next quarter WP1 activities. On the other hand, it is expected that specific issues described above will be tackled within this framework in order to improve the overall effectiveness of the Project Management.

Especially, the support of non-experienced partners in the administrative and management aspects of the project will continue and widen in scope: in particular, a part of the activities in this field will be dedicated to organize a possible first tutorial for administrative personnel, foreseen at PM7 (and therefore not belonging itself to the second quarter) and useful indications are expected from this first experience. The work in this sense will be intense, in order to avoid problems when finalizing the first annual report.

Another area of improvement in which works are already on, will be the registration of workers on the timesheet tool and the shift of the duty to check the correctness of reporting from the PO to the single workpackage/activity leader. This shift is expected to greatly improve the effectiveness of reports as well as their precision, as of course each leader has a clearer evidence of workers involved in their own tasks/workpackages and of the work actually performed by each one, thus allowing to avoid errors.

Finally, it is expected a significant amount of work in order to prepare and organize, in conjunction with WP5, the Project conference which will be held in Rome in September, although it does not therefore fall itself in the next reporting period.

2.4.2. WP2

The information that is being collected through the A2.1 survey as well as through other sources will be analysed during PM4 and the findings presented in Deliverable 2.1 (User and eInfrastructure Requirements Capture and Analysis Report), which will provide EUMEDGRID with a clear and detailed view of the state of the current Mediterranean grid computing, NREN and telecommunications landscape. This deliverable is expected to be submitted to the EUMEDGRID Technical Board by end PM5 for reviewing.

The second activity of WP2, taking place between PM6 and PM7 and coordinated by CERN, will utilise as one of its inputs the above-mentioned results to formulate a strategy and a technical roadmap for EUMEDGRID. A model for the promulgation of Grid technologies to the Mediterranean region will be established to guide the formation of sustainable National Grid Initiatives and the development of regional infrastructure for integration purposes. Technical solutions will be proposed, taking into consideration the middleware (gLite from EGEE) and hardware infrastructure requirements. Additionally, a regional deployment strategy starting from site installation to operations will be developed, giving due consideration to the regional perspective in terms of financial, political, technical, managerial, and time-scale concerns. The experience gained in other European projects for the promotion of regional Grid initiatives, such as SEE-GRID, will be a primary guiding force in this activity. The strategy and technical roadmap will be documented in Deliverable 2.2 (Proposed Technical Roadmap), and will serve as an input to WP3 (Pilot Infrastructure Operational Support).

2.4.3. WP3

During the second quarter, WP3 activities will mainly focus on the transition to gLite 3.0 and on the deployment of the first EUMEDGRID pilot sites.

2.4.4. WP4

During the second quarter, depending on the outcome of the survey performed by WP2, WP4 activities will mainly focus on the identification of first applications to be deployed on the EUMEDGRID pilot infrastructure.

2.4.5. WP5

In the 2nd quarter, D5.2, “Dissemination and Outreach plan”, is expected at PM5. The document will describe the initial plan to disseminate the Project and spread advanced knowledge among the EUMEDGRID users and grid administrators and will be the basis to guide future dissemination actions. The deliverable will describe the outreach plan for the first phase of the project in terms of objectives, materials and time schedule.

A complete set of dissemination material is expected to be available at PM7 and will mark M5.3 “Dissemination material ready”.

Another important milestone will be the 1st Project Conference, which will be held in Rome from 11 to 12 September. The workshop will be one of the major events in the Project’s life and will be an important occasion to disseminate the project and contact and involve new users as well as give out project materials/giveaways and carry out a successful press campaign.

Another item will be the preparation of the next tutorial in Turkey (3-7 July 2006), which should involve both users/technical personnel and administrative staff.

Furthermore, the publication of the Arabic version of the website and leaflets are expected.

2.5. Main Project Activity Metrics

A certain number of quantifiable indicators used to measure the progress of the activities were already defined. New indicators will eventually be added if appropriate. The current list is the following:

- Number of sites joining the EUMEDGRID Pilot infrastructure at the end of the reporting period (5).
- Number of tutorial events held (1) and number of participants per event (15).
- Number of International Meetings, Workshops and Conferences organised (1).
- Number of attended Conferences or workshops with specific EUMEDGRID presentations or posters and/or other dissemination activities (3).
- Number of Groups of interested researchers contacted during the workshops and conferences (2).
- Number of applications/software adaptation and installation on the GILDA infrastructure (0).
- Number of questionnaires filled in the framework of the WP2 survey activity (about 100).
- Number of users registered as members of the EUMEDGRID Virtual Organization (23).

3. CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT

This section summarizes the status of the project and its management activity, including information on:

- Consortium management tasks and their achievement; problems which have occurred and how they were solved
- Contractors: Comments regarding contributions, changes in responsibilities and changes to consortium itself, if any
- Short comments and information on co-ordination activities in the period, such as communication between partners, project meetings, possible co-operations with other projects/programmes, etc.

Other information relating to the overall management activities can be found in the WP1 report (see above).

3.1. Consortium management

The Consortium started the project activities on 1st January 2006, as stated in the Contract n° 026024. For the reporting period, Milestone M1.1 and Del1.1 were expected.

Milestone M1.1, to be achieved on Month 1, was reached and the Kick-Off Meeting was held in Malta on the 6 of February 2006 (see above for details). The deliverable was sent to the EC in the due time as described above.

During the kick-off, the first Project Management and Technical boards were held, allowing to speed up activities and clarify technical, managerial, and administrative issues of the work plan.

3.2. Contractors

All Partners started the work from the very beginning of the Project and, after one month from the take-off, they discussed developments of the working plan during the Kick-Off Meeting. In that occasion, Partners were able to give a short presentation in order to illustrate the current situation in their Countries concerning grids and their potential applications.

In occasion of the first PMB, Partners nominated their official representative (as described in the following table).

Id	Partner	Representative in the PMB
1	Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (IT) (coordinator)	Federico Ruggieri
2	European Organisation for Nuclear Research CERN, Geneve (CH)	Florida Estrella
3	Cyprus Research and Academic Network, Lefkosia (CY)	Eftychios Eftichiou
4	Delivery of Advanced Network Technology to Europe, Cambridge (UK)	David West

5	Consortium GARR, Rome (IT)	Enzo Valente
6	Greek Research & Technology Network, Athens (GR)	Ognjen Prnjat
7	Entidad Pública empresarial RED.ES, Madrid (E)	Alberto Perez Gomez
8	University of Malta, Msida (M)	Kevin Vella
9	Centre de Recherche sur l'Information Scientifique et Technique, Alger (DZ)	Abdelkader Khelladi
10	Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique, Rabat (MA)	Redouane Merrouch
11	Egyptian Universities Network, Cairo (ET)	Omar Hassan Karam
12	Institute for Applied Sciences and Technology, Damascus (SYR)	Maher Suleiman
13	Ministry of Scientific Research, Technology and Competency Development, Tunis (TN)	Malika Zenati
14	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Ankara (TR)	Cem Sarac

Table 8 - List of the Partners' Representatives in the PMB

Besides the fourteen full contractors, several other Organizations were involved in the project as Third Parties (see * The Third Parties-Third Countries Organizations are highlighted in the *table*

Table 9 for details). These parties act as special subcontractors of a Partner, with whom they generally had previous agreements in order to collaborate. From an administrative point of view, these Parties are subject to this Partner and only indirectly to the project Consortium. In fact, those Partners who had such Third Parties under them according to the Technical Annex to the contract and to previous MoUs or other general collaboration agreements, provided to regulate rights and obligations of the contracting and subcontracting party through private agreements and/or contracts.

Accordingly, they are not directly represented in the Technical board, but they refer to the representative of the Contractor under whom they agreed to work. However, a partial exception to the rule was agreed during the first Project Management Board, held in Malta in occasion of the kick-off meeting, for those Third Parties that represent as well Third Countries towards the EUMEDGRID Consortium: the PMB members agreed to invite non-voting representatives of those third Parties (i.e. IUCC representing Israel, JUNet representing Jordan and PADI2 representing the Palestinian Authority) to each PMB meeting, and add them and their deputies (if any) to the PMB closed list.

Third Party	Country	Contracting Partner
Bilkent University	Turkey	TUBITAK
Dep. of Physics – University of Roma Tre	Italy	INFN
CRS4 – Center for Advanced Studies in Sardinia	Italy	GARR
ICTP – Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics	Italy	INFN
IUCC – Inter University Computing Center	Israel	GARR
Laboratoire Cristal – Ecole National des Sciences de l'Informatique	Tunisia	MRSTDC

JUNet	Jordan	GRNET
PADI2	Palestine	GRNET
Research Unit of ICT – University of Tunis	Tunisia	MRSTDC
University of Messina – Dep. of Mathematics	Italy	INFN

* The Third Parties-Third Countries Organizations are highlighted in the table

Table 9 - Project Third Parties

During the first PMB, responsible persons for each activity were officially appointed, as shown in the table below.

Activity	Leader/Deputy	Partner
WP1 Project administrative & technical management	Federico Ruggieri	INFN
A1.1 - Administrative management	Federico Ruggieri	INFN
A1.2 - Technical management	Roberto Barbera	INFN
WP2 Requirement capture and analysis	Kevin Vella	UoM
A2.1- Gather and analyse countries' data	Kevin Vella	UoM
A2.2 - Study state of the art and propose technical roadmap	Markus Shulz	CERN
WP3 Pilot infrastructure al support	Ognjen Prnjat	GRNET
A3.1 - Operational, organisation and policy schemes	Ognjen Prnjat	GRNET
A3.2 – Support to middleware deployment & pilot site installations	Tiziana Ferrari*	INFN-CNAF
A3.3 -Pilot infrastructure operational support	Ognjen Prnjat	GRNET
A3.4 - Network resource provision	Ester Robles	RED.ES
A3.5 - Certification authority setup & operations	Roberto Cecchini	INFN
WP4 Application support	Giuseppe Andronico	INFN
A4.1 - EGEE applications	Burku Ackan	TUBITAK
A4.2 - Regional applications support	Giuseppe Andronico	INFN
A4.3 - Promoting new applications	Roberto Barbera	INFN
WP5 Dissemination and Outreach	Federica Tanlongo	GARR
A5.1 - Dissemination activities	Federica Tanlongo	GARR
A5.2 - Outreach activities	Giuseppe Andronico	INFN

* For INFN-CNAF internal reasons, Tiziana Ferrari was afterwards replaced by her colleague Davide Salomoni.

Table 10 - List of Responsibilities in the Project

3.3. Events

A short report on the events organized and attended during the quarter can be found in the Annex I below. Other internal events and related items are discussed in the following paragraphs.

3.4. Project and activity Meetings

Date	Location	Meeting	Attendees	Outcome
03/01/06	VCC	Project Office meeting	Project Office	General plan of dissemination and training actions; web services to support the PO, VOMS policies
18/01/06	VCC	EUMEDGRID VCC meeting	Project Office, participants and Third Parties	Early arrangements of activities, administrative issues
06/02/06	Malta	Kick-off meeting	Partners/Third Parties representatives, Project Office	Presentation of the project, general plan of activities for the first months
06/02/06	Malta	PMB	PMB representatives	Schedule of events for the first project year, official appointments of wp leaders and PMB representatives
07/02/06	Malta	TB	WP leaders	Schedule of early activities per workpackage

Table 11 - Internal meetings for the reporting period

4. OTHER ISSUES

4.1. references

- [R1] Project website <http://www.eumedgrid.org/>
- [R2] Project leaflet http://www.eumedgrid.org/documents/EUMEDGRIDproject_summary.pdf
- [R3] Project templates kit <http://www.eumedgrid.org/documents/doctemplates-EUMEDGRIDv2.zip>
- [R4] EGEE website <http://public.eu-eg ee.org/>
- [R5] SEEGRID website <http://www.see-grid.org/>
- [R6] BalticGrid website <http://www.balticgrid.org/>
- [R7] EELA website <http://www.eela-grid.org/>
- [R8] EU eInfrastructures initiatives <http://www.einfrastructures.org/>
- [R9] EUMEDCONNECT website <http://www.eumedconnect.net/>
- [R10] GEANT2 website <http://www.geant2.net/>
- [R11] LCG webpage <http://www.cern.ch/lcg/>
- [R12] gLITE webpage <http://www.cern.ch/glite/>
- [R13] GILDA website <https://glida.ct.infn.it/>
- [R14] IST website <http://www.cordis.lu/ist/home.html>

4.2. Terminology

Glossary

CA	Certification Authority.
Cluster	The term describes a cluster is a group of machines that are networked together and used as a single unit to run parallel programs.
Grid	The term designates a distributed infrastructure of computation and storage resources, which can be used by a VO in a transparent way (i.e. without need to know about the location of the resources etc).
GILDA	Grid Infn Laboratory for Dissemination Activities
gLITE	Codename of the Middleware software suite developed by EGEE JRA1.
Globus	“Globus Toolkit” is the name of all software components for Grid Computing platforms available under an open-source license from the consortium Globus Alliance.
LCG	LHC Computing Grid
Middleware	Generic terms defining a communications layer that allows applications to interact across hardware and network environments.
NGI	National Grid Initiative
ROC	Regional Operation Centre
VO	Virtual Organization: a Virtual Organization, or Application Community, is a geographically dispersed group of collaborating scientists.
VOMS	VO Management Service

4.3. Document amendment procedure

In order to amend the document, please contact the Project Office at: po@eumedgrid.org.

ANNEX I – USE AND DISSEMINATION

A1.1 Conferences/workshops organized

No Conference or Workshop has been organized yet, but the schedule for the whole duration of the project has been discussed during the Malta Kick-Off Meeting and is shown in the following table.

Location	Date	Target
Greece (Athens)	27-28 March 2006	Tutorial - Technicians
Turkey (Istanbul)	3-7 July 2006	Tutorial - Technicians and Users
Rome (Italy)	11-12 September 2006	First Project Conference and Tutorial
Tunisia (Tunis)	Autumn 2006	Tutorial - Technicians and Users
Algeria (Algiers)	June 2007	TBD
Israel (Tel Aviv)	July 2007	TBD

Table 12 – Project Conferences and workshops scheduled

A1.2 External Conferences/Workshops attended

Date	Location	Title	Participants	Purpose
30/01/06	Madrid	EELA Kick-Off Meeting	50	Presentation of EUMEDGRID Project and round table on “Foster synergies and collaborations among EGEE, EELA and Sister Projects”.
16/02/06	Trieste (Italy)	ICTP/INFM-Democritos Workshop on Porting Scientific Applications on Computational GRIDs	60	Presentation: “The EUChinaGrid and EUMEDgrid project
13/02/06	Athens	GGF16 Meeting	410	Presentation of INFN GRID Activities.
13/02/06	Athens	GGF16 Meeting	100	Presentation: “Deploying Grids in Greenfield regions”
03/03/06	Geneva	EGAAP Meeting	240	Presentation: "EUMEDGRID Status report"
08/03/06	La Thuile (Aosta, Italy)	Les Rencontres de Physique de la Vallee d’Aoste	109	Presentation: “GRID: from HEP to science ”
27/03/06	Bologna	EGEE-SA1 Italy Meeting	20	Presentation: "EUMEDGRID Status"

Table 13 – External Conferences and workshops attended during the quarter

A1.3 Publications, Press Releases and Dissemination Materials

4.3.1.1. A1.3.1 Press releases

A **Project Kick-off Press Release** about the official kick-off for the EUMEDGRID project (see above for the details) was issued on 6th February in English, French and Italian, published on the official website and released to the Project Office press list and to each Partner's contacts. The press release is downloadable at: <http://www.eumedgrid.org/documents/EUMEDGRID-PR060206-en.pdf> (English version), <http://www.eumedgrid.org/documents/EUMEDGRID-PR060206-fr.pdf> (French version) and <http://www.garr.it/documenti/EUMEDGRID-PR060206-it.pdf> (Italian version).

4.3.1.2. A1.3.2 Dissemination materials

- **Project information sheet** providing general information about the project (objectives, Partners and Third Parties, Activities etc) and available for printing and downloading from the website (at: http://www.eumedgrid.org/documents/EUMEDGRIDproject_summary.pdf)
- **Project public website and online dynamic tools** (<http://www.eumedgrid.org>). See above for further details).
- **Presentation given during internal/attended events.** In the following table we make an exhaustive list of all the materials available by now.

Title	Author	Delivered on	Link to materials
GRID Technology and Projects	F. Gagliardi	EUMEDGRID kick-off meeting 06/02/06	http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a065&id=a065s0t10/moreinfo
Project Presentation	R. Barbera	EUMEDGRID kick-off meeting 06/02/06	http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a065&id=a065s0t3/transparencies
The EUMEDCONNECT Project	D. West	EUMEDGRID kick-off meeting 06/02/06	http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a065&id=a065s0t6/moreinfo
The EGEE Project	O. Keeble	EUMEDGRID kick-off meeting 06/02/06	http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a065&id=a065s0t7/moreinfo
A real application already running on the grid infrastructure	G. Andronico (on behalf of G. Lecca)	EUMEDGRID kick-off meeting 06/02/06	http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a065&id=a065s0t8/transparencies
PMB meeting (restricted)	PMB Members	EUMEDGRID kick-off meeting 06/02/06	http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a065&id=a065s0t9/agenda
Introduction to EUMEDGRID Project	O. Prnjat	EUMEDGRID 1st Technical Training 27/03/06	http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a0613&id=a0613s0t1/moreinfo

Title	Author	Delivered on	Link to materials
Introduction to Grid	A. Assiki	EUMEDGRID 1st Technical Training 27/03/06	http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a0613&id=a0613s0t2/transparencies
Laboratory on the Grid	F. Georgatos	EUMEDGRID 1st Technical Training 27/03/06	http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a0613&id=a0613s0t4/documents http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a0613&id=a0613s0t4/moreinfo http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a0613&id=a0613s0t4/transparencies
E-Science and Grid	F. Georgatos	EUMEDGRID 1st Technical Training 27/03/06	http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a0613&id=a0613s0t6/transparencies
Laboratory: installing SL305	F. Georgatos	EUMEDGRID 1st Technical Training 27/03/06	http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a0613&id=a0613s0t8/document http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a0613&id=a0613s0t8/documents http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a0613&id=a0613s0t8/moreinfo
Joining EUMEDGRID	K.Koumantaros F. Georgatos	EUMEDGRID 1st Technical Training 28/03/06	http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a0613&id=a0613s7t8/transparencies http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a0613&id=a0613s7t9/moreinfo
System Administration 1 - Middleware Installation	F. Georgatos	EUMEDGRID 1st Technical Training 28/03/06	http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a0613&id=a0613s7t3/transparencies
System Administration 2 - Operational Experience	F. Georgatos	EUMEDGRID 1st Technical Training 28/03/06	http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a0613&id=a0613s7t5/moreinfo

Table 14 - List of presentations and dissemination materials

4.3.1.3. A1.3.3 Press cuts

All press cuts relating to EUMEDGRID are available on the official website, at the URL: <http://www.eumedgrid.org/cut.html> (with a pdf version of the article and, whenever possible, the link to the online article). The following is a list of the ones included in this quarter:

- 20/02/2006 - La Repubblica on line
“Un ponte di bit sul Mediterraneo” (Italian)
- 09/02/2006 - TR-Grid
“EUMEDGRID (Empowering eScience Across the Mediterranean)” (English)

- 07/02/2006 - AGI
“Mediterraneo: da Malta parte l'e-Science con fondi UE” (Italian)
- 09/02/2006 - ANSAmed
“EUMEDGRID research project launched in Malta” (English)
- 09/02/2006 - ANSAmed
“Euromed: EUMEDGRID inaugura e-Science mediterranea a Malta” (Italian)
- 06/03/2006 - DANTE
“EUMEDCONNECT supports EUMEDGRID project” (English)
- 21/02/2006 and 23/02/2006– e-News Jiltaqua’ (Maltese)
Interview to K. Vella
- 06/02/2006 - Department of Information Malta
“Diplomazija ta’ l-edukazzjoni għall-paċi u żvilupp” (Maltese)
- 06/02/2006 - Di-Ve.com
“Diplomacy of Education for Peace and Development” (English)
- 06/02/2006 - EGEE
“Official Kick-off Meeting of the EUMEDGRID Project” (English)
- 18/03/2006 - EGEE Newsletter
“EUMEDGRID: Mediterranean e-Science takes off from Malta” (English)
- 06/02/2006 - GARR
Inizia il Progetto EUMEDGRID (Italian and English)
- 06/02/2006 - IST



“Grid Network enhance Mediterranean cooperation” (English)

- February 2006 - Renater

“The EUMEDGRID Project Begins: Supporting The Creation of a Grid Infrastructure Across the Mediterranean” (English)

- 08/02/2006 - Science Grid

“Empowering e-Science across the Mediterranean” (English)

- 06/02/2006 - TERENA Community

“The EUMEDGRID Project Begins: Supporting The Creation of a Grid Infrastructure Across the Mediterranean” (English)

- 05/02/2006 - The Sunday Times of Malta

“Information session on grid computing” (English)

- 06/02/2006 - UoM

“EUMEDGRID Information Session on Grid Computing” (English)