



PRESS RELEASE

Rome, 15 September 2006 – EUMEDGRID 1st Conference: empowering e-Science across the Mediterranean

The first EUMEDGRID Conference has just begun. 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 Neighbours.

Rome, 15th September 2006 – Jointly organized by INFN, GARR and the Department of Physics of the University of Roma Tre, the **first EUMEDGRID Conference** has just begun. International-level speakers will present the vision of Euro-Mediterranean collaborations in Research, Culture and Education and namely in the creation of cross-national eInfrastructures supporting such collaborations as a driving force towards widening the European Research Area and bridging the digital divide between Europe and the neighbouring 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, will be 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 will be as well discussed, with a special attention to the novelties introduced by the upcoming 7th Framework Program for Research and Scientific Development and European Neighbourhood Programme.

Further information about the event is available on the conference website (<http://www.eumedgrid.org/Conf-Roma06/>) and online agenda (<http://agenda.eumedgrid.org/fullAgenda.php?id=a0658>).

Funded by European Union, EUMEDGRID Project officially started on last 1st 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 (po@eumedgrid.org).
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>