



Outcomes and Recommendations

of the

EMISPHER International Dissemination Twin Conferences on “Infrastructures for the Virtual Euro-Mediterranean Hospital and Best Practice in real-time Telemedicine”

16-18 September 2004 in Istanbul, Turkey and Tunis, Tunisia



EMISPHER Press release, September 30, 2004

On last September 16-18, the fourth **EMISPHER International Dissemination Twin Conferences on “Infrastructures for the Virtual Euro-Mediterranean Hospital and Best Practice in real-time Telemedicine”** took place in Istanbul, Turkey (<http://www.oasis.com.tr/emispher/>), hosted by our EMISPHER partner ISTEM (“Continuing Medical Education and Research Centre”, Istanbul Medical Faculty, Istanbul University; Director Prof. Cavit Avci avcic@istanbul.edu.tr) and in Tunis, Tunisia, hosted by our EMISPHER partner the Faculty of Medicine of Tunis (Razi Hospital, Prof. Riadh Gouider rg@gnet.tn).

In the framework of these Conferences the following meetings, workshops, discussions and events took place:

Second EUMEDIS Workshop on "Infrastructures for Disease Control" (Istanbul, 16.09.04):

After the very successful first Workshop last June in Algiers that mainly focussed on infectious diseases, this second workshop, organised under the responsibility of the EMISPHER partners IsMeTT, Italy (Dr. Daniela Fili dfili@ismett.edu) and ISTEM, Turkey (Prof. Suleyman Akhan akhan93@hotmail.com), highlighted measures and strategies for cardiologic and vascular diseases using an Integrated Model Approach. Various experts from Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Turkey, Tunisia, Cyprus, Italy and Germany presented their experience and expertise to an audience of ~50 health professionals from the Euro-Mediterranean region. The various contributions will soon be available on the dedicated workshop CD and on the EMISPHER website.

Workshops and discussion rounds on "Infrastructures for the Virtual Euro-Mediterranean Hospital (VEMH)" (Istanbul, 17.09.04):

Following the success and recommendations of the EUROMED 2004 and the EMISPHER Conference in Algiers, a series of workshops & round table discussions was held on various topics, all focussing on the transition from a real hospital to a virtual hospital, thus identifying the various structures required for the VEMH:

- Medical Infrastructures
- Medical Services
- Communication Infrastructures
- Collaboration in Virtual Medical Communities
- Legal & Regulatory Aspects
- Aspects of Hospital Administration
- Business & Sustainability models
- Political Aspects.

Numerous leading experts from Turkey, Lebanon, Greece, Spain, Monaco, Switzerland, U.K., U.S.A., and Germany presented various key aspects and

requirements critical for successful development and deployment of such a Virtual Euro-Mediterranean Hospital.

The outcomes, conclusions and recommendations of these presentations and discussions among the ~75 participating health professionals from the Mediterranean region were summarised and presented during the Conference the next day (see below) by Prof. Luciano Beolchi, former representative of the EC Information Society DG. The following concrete next steps have been recommended:

- November 2004, Berlin: Meeting of all Deans from the MEDA countries in Berlin to discuss the medical content of relevant work packages of the VEMH.
- April 2005: Algiers: Creation and meeting of a high-level Steering Committee of all Ministers of Health of the Mediterranean Region for the preparation of VEMH and set clear priorities for the medical content of the work packages.
- Preparation of a technical annex for the VEMH-Project; proposal to be submitted in 2006.

EMISPHER International Dissemination Twin Conferences on "Best Practise in Real-time Telemedicine" (Istanbul and Tunis, 18.09.04):

The EMISPHER Conference in Istanbul was organised in integration with the "Third National Telemedicine Symposium of Turkey" and was attended by ~140 international health experts and decision makers. The political interest in the topics of the Conference was underlined by the participation of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Turkey Prof. Recep Akdağ, the Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in Turkey Mr. Abdelhamid Senouci Bereksi in personal representation of the Algerian Minister of Health, Population and Hospital Reformation Mr. Mourad Redjimi and the Dean of Istanbul Medical School Prof. Emin Darendeliler.

A high-level conference programme was held integrating international and Turkish key contributions with live demonstrations of real-time telemedicine services and presentations of the recommendations for the infrastructures for the Virtual Euro-Mediterranean Hospital (see above). During the Conference, live connections to various sites of the EMISPHER satellite network were performed, to demonstrate various medical services deployed on the EMISPHER platform. Also, the satellite network was used to establish a live link between the two EMISPHER Twin Conferences in Istanbul and in Tunis, taking place simultaneously.

In Tunis, conference contributions on Telemedicine and Medical E-Learning were given by various international experts to an audience of ~130 participants from the health care sector. Also in Tunis, the political interest in EMISPHER and the Virtual Euro-Mediterranean Hospital was underlined by the presence of 6 Directors of the various departments of the Tunisian Ministry of Health (Mr. Khaled Kheireddine, Director of studies and planning; Mr. Hedi Achouri, Director of Hospital Reform; Mr. Abdennaceur Ben Salem, Director of Legal Unit; Mr. Hichem Abdessalem, Director of Technical and Cooperation Unit; Mr. Khaled Salem, Director of Material Devices and Mr. Zouhair Turki, Director of Informatics Centre of the Ministry of Health), as well as representatives of the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education (Prof. Radhi Mhiri and Prof. Ridha Nadj Ali), the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Tunis (Prof. Rachid Mechmeche) and the full board of Directors of the Razi Hospital (General Director Mr. Mongi Khemiri). Also from the Conference in Tunis, live satellite connections to various EMISPHER network sites were used to demonstrate the various medical scenarios in EMISPHER.

The various contributions from the workshops and discussion rounds on the Virtual Euro-Mediterranean Hospital, as well as from the Conferences in Istanbul and Tunis will soon be available on dedicated conference CD and the EMISPHER website.

In summary, these fourth EMISPHER International Dissemination Twin Conferences have demonstrated the successful implementation of EMISPHER, as well as underlined the increased scientific and political interest of the stakeholders in the involved countries to move step by step from EMISPHER towards a Virtual Euro-Mediterranean Hospital as key structure for lasting and sustainable international co-operations for improved health care in the region.

For further information:

Dr. Georgi Grasczew
EMISPHER Coordinator
SRU OP 2000, RRK/MDC, Charité, Berlin
grasczew@mdc-berlin.de
Phone: +49 30 9417-1630