



EMISPHER's Virtual Euro-Mediterranean Hospital wins first prize in "Best Practice Projects" contest

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During the ATVN-EU-GP Conference, 1-3 December 2005 in Pultusk near Warsaw (Poland) the EMISPHER Project (EUMEDIS 110) was awarded the first prize in the "e-health" category of the contest of "Good Practice Projects" funded by the European Commission called "The Best 2005". The Conference and corresponding contest was organised by the EU-funded ATVN-EU-GP project (IST Programme; see <http://www.atvn-eu-gp.pl/contest/index.htm>) that aims to identify, promote and showcase the best of good practice activities in EU-funded project with special emphasis on activities in New Member States (NMS), Associated Candidate States (ACC) and New Independent States (NIS).

The winning projects in the four categories e-business, e-government, e-health and e-learning have been selected by an international Contest Commission, composed of over 20 international leading ICT experts, using a multi-criteria procedure for the evaluation (addressing achieved impact, innovative technology used, deployment of results, involvement of SME & Industry, continuity of sustainable activities), judging the project paper, poster presentation during the exhibition as well as the oral presentation during the conference. The first prize awarded to EMISPHER for its contribution "EMISPHER and the Virtual Euro-Mediterranean Hospital – VEMH – as Best Practice for Bridging the Digital Divide in Healthcare" comes with the production of an audio-visual project presentation to be broadcasted together with the winning projects in the other categories by the Academic Internet Television Network ATVN (www.atvn.pl), giving the IST community a perfect resource and guidelines for new project ideas and creation.

The Virtual Euro-Mediterranean Hospital - VEMH - builds on the successful implementation of EMISPHER (www.emispher.org) and integrates best practices established in various other EUMEDIS Pilot Projects in the Health and Education sectors. The VEMH will be the key structure for lasting and sustainable international cooperation for the improvement and globalisation of Health care (see www.rrk-berlin.de/op2000/). It will establish and integrate the communication and Grid infrastructures (based on EGEE-Grid: <http://public.eu-egee.org/>, GÉANT(2): <http://www.geant2.net/>, EUMEDCONNECT: <http://www.eumedconnect.net/>, etc.) required for the deployment and implementation of Evidence-Based Medicine as basis for equal access to best medical expertise. This will also boost the establishment and spread of best medical practise throughout the EU and its neighbours, not only in the South (Mediterranean, Adriatic and Black Sea) but also in the East.

The award of the first price to EMISPHER and its VEMH is seen as a recognition of its global and integral approach for the implementation and integration of modern ICT for improved healthcare crossing regional and programmatic borders, thus contributing to global healthcare improvements.

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