



## **Recommendations for the Virtual Euro-Mediterranean Hospital adopted and confirmed at the EUMEDIS Conference**

EMISPHER Press release, May 4, 2005

The outcomes and recommendations of the first meeting of the High Piloting Committee for the Virtual Euro-Mediterranean Hospital (VEMH) have been adopted and confirmed during the first EUMEDIS International Conference that took place 17-18 April this year in Jordan.

Upon invitation by the Minister of Health, Population and Hospital Reform of Algeria the first meeting of the VEMH High Piloting Committee took place in Algiers, Algeria from April 8-10, 2005 (see EMISPHER Press release from 23.03.05).

One of the important outcomes of this meeting is a joint Declaration of Intention for the development and deployment of the VEMH signed by Ministers of Health, State Secretaries and official representatives of 8 countries (Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Malta, Morocco, Poland and Tunisia). Also, the formation of 4 thematic working groups was decided: Patient-oriented, Practitioner-oriented, Hospital administration-oriented and Public Health-oriented.

The VEMH builds on the successful implementation of various EUMEDIS Pilot Projects in the Health sector, like EMISPHER and EMPHIS, as well as in the Education sector, like ODISEAME. The VEMH will be the key structure for lasting and sustainable international cooperation for the improvement and globalisation of Health care. It will establish and integrate the communication and Grid infrastructures required for the deployment and implementation of Evidence-Based Medicine as basis for equal access to best medical expertise and 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 main outcomes of the first High Piloting Committee meeting were presented to the larger EUMEDIS community and the EC during the first EUMEDIS International Conference that took place 17-18 April this year in Jordan. The goals of the VEMH and the proposed approach for the next steps for the VEMH were adopted as official recommendations for the Health sector by all EUMEDIS partners and experts from the EC.

The next meeting for the VEMH is planned for the end of September this year, possibly in one of the participating Balkan countries. More detailed information will be available shortly.

### For further information:

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