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**THE EUMEDIS INITIATIVE:
EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION SOCIETY**

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**THE EUMEDIS INITIATIVE:
EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION SOCIETY**

by

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Abstract

This presentation discusses the EUMEDIS Initiative, approved in February 1999 as part of the MEDA program, which was devised as an instrument for the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. This program also supports the reform of economic and social structures in the Mediterranean partners.

The EUMEDIS objectives encompass the acceleration of economic growth, stimulation of cooperation, improvement in quality of life, heightened internet connectivity, the creation of end-user-oriented electronic platforms, facilitation of mutual understanding across multicultural and multilingual contexts, and the promotion of innovative public services.

These objectives are to be tackled through a two-fold approach: the first being a network of national focal points and internet-based connections between EU and MED countries, the second being the implementation of pilot projects in 5 sectors of activity: healthcare, e-commerce, tourism and cultural heritage, innovation, and education and training

The EUMEDIS Initiative

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN Information Society



with the technical support of



Bruno Ferrero
EUROPEAN COMMISSION



EUMEDIS Objectives

- Accelerate economic growth
- Stimulate co-operation
- Improve quality of life
- Increase internet connectivity
- Create end-user-oriented electronic platforms
- Facilitate mutual understanding in multi-cultural/lingual context
- Promote innovative public services



Origins of the programme

- The MEDA programme : Instrument for the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
- MEDA supports the reform of economic and social structures in the Mediterranean partners.
- EUMEDIS: an initiative approved as part of MEDA in February 1999



2 strands for 3 concrete objectives

EUMEDIS includes:

Strand One

- A network of **National Focal Points** for EU and MED Countries
- An internet based **Interconnection** between EU and MED Research Networks

Strand Two

- Regional Information Society **Pilot Projects** in 5 sectors of activity

Strand One: interconnection

- Mediterranean partner countries to be connected to the GEANT European high-speed network.
- 10 M□ grant support for the connection of the 12 Mediterranean partner countries.
- Access to the network to be available for academic research institutions in EU and MED

Strand One: National Focal Points

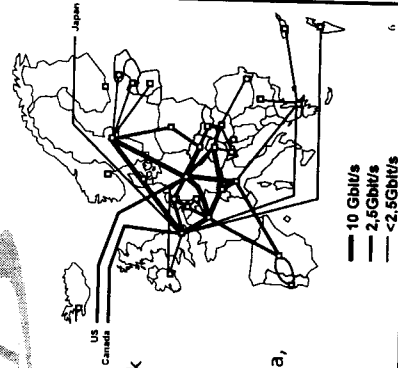
- Network of Information Society Focal Points

Role:

- Harmonise Governmental strategies
- Disseminate Information on Projects and Projects results

Strand One: interconnection

- Networks for Researchers
- Gigabit connectivity (10 Gbps in the core network from November 2001)
- Geographical coverage: EU + Associated Countries
- Extend to Mediterranean, Asia, Pacific Rim, Latin America...
- www.geant.net



Strand Two Pilot Projects

EC contribution: 49 MEuro

Regional Pilot Projects for the following sectors:

- Health Care
- Electronic Commerce
- Tourism and Cultural Heritage
- Industry, Innovation and Research
- Education and Training

Information Source

- 5

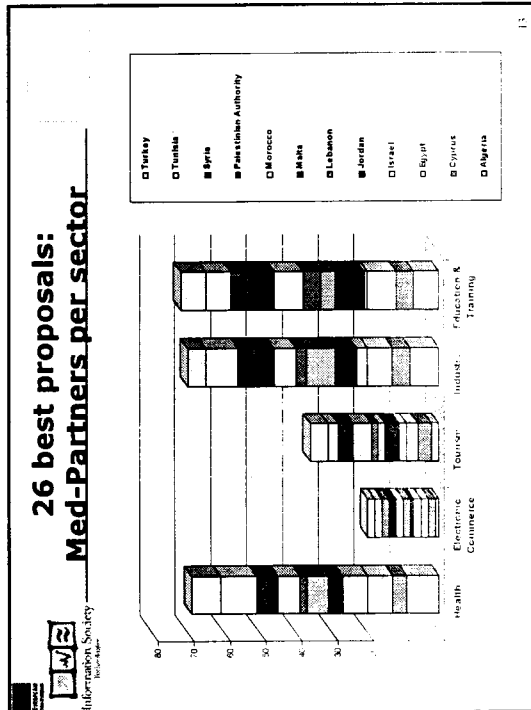


Information Series
 22
 1994



Information Society

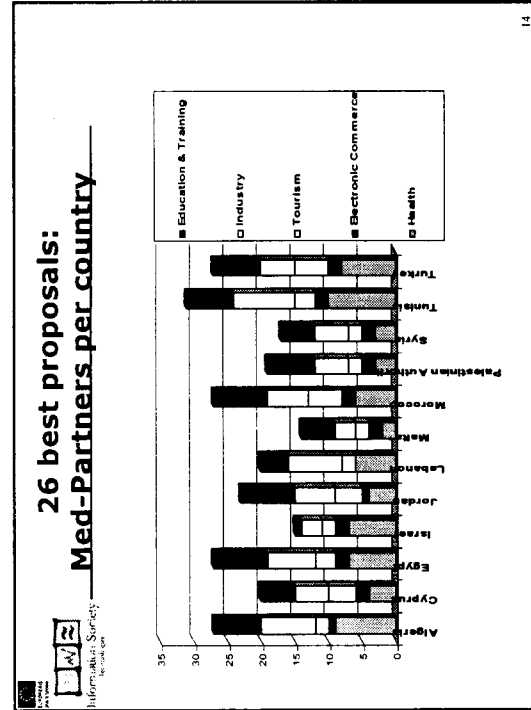




**The present situation
July 2002**

Information Society
Tuberculosis

• 16 Projects already started (179 Med-partners involved)



Health - An Example

Information Society
Tuberculosis

EMPHIS

- Objectives:
 - Surveillance of Tuberculosis, other similar infections
- Partnership:
 - Includes 4 ministries of Health, 16 other government and private partners
 - Spanning ten countries

E-Commerce : An Example

MEDCHARNET

- Objectives:
 - A Mediterranean network for exchange of hydrographic information
 - Commercial distribution of electronic navigation charts
- Partnership:
 - includes 11 Mediterranean Partner countries (led by INIO in Italy)

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Innovation : An Example

SMITE

- Objectives:
 - Support SMEs in their environmental improvement
 - Setting up environmental business plans
- Partnership:
 - 13 partners

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Tourism: An Example

NETWORK JOURNEYS

- Objectives:
 - Organise co-operation between archaeological sites based on ancient trade routes
 - Create portal to stimulate tourism along these routes
- Partnership:
 - 28 partners including universities and heritage organisations from the Mediterranean Partner countries

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Education: An Example

AVICENNA

- Objectives:
 - set up a European Network of Distance Learning Universities
 - Accelerate adoption of ICT-assisted Open Distance Learning (ODL) in Mediterranean Partner Countries
- Partnership:
 - 18 partners including UNESCO and leading ODL universities in Europe

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Information Society
Project

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