

**EUROPEAN UNION**

**DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN EGYPT**



***EU-MED Event***

***EC Strategy and Policy Directions for  
Supporting Information Society  
Cooperation in MEDA Region***

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### Presentation Structure

- Introduction
- EC Levels of Cooperation
- EC IS Regional Initiatives for Southern Region of ENPI
- EU-MED Information Society Programme (EUMEDIS)
- New Approaches for Telecommunication Policies (NATP)
- New Regional Information Society Programme-Key Elements



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### • Introduction

Stemming from Barcelona Declaration...“the traditions of culture and civilisation throughout the Mediterranean, and dialogue between these cultures and exchanges of human, scientific and technological level, are an essential factor in bringing people closer, promoting understanding between them and improving their perceptions of each other”..



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### • EC Levels of Cooperation

The Euro-Mediterranean development co-operation is taking place via following two levels:

1- At bi-lateral level: Action Plans of the ENPI.

2-At regional level: Southern Region of ENPI - Initiatives that reflect areas of common regional interests like IS, Environment, and Energy.



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- **EC IS Regional Initiatives for Southern Region of ENPI**

1- The Euro-MED Information Society Programme (EUMEDIS);

2- New Approaches for Telecommunications Policies Programme (NATP);

3- New Regional Information Society – Key Elements



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### • I. EU-MED Information Society Programme (EUMEDIS)

#### 1- Background Information

- Programme Duration: 2000-January 2007, except for EU-MED Connect, December 2007.
- Total Budget: €80 million = EC: €65 million + MEDA Partner Countries: €15 million

#### 2- General Objective

Reinforcement and support to the improvement of the quality of life as a direct consequence of the large scale deployment of regional Information Society initiatives in various fields of activity in the MED countries and territories.



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### • I. EU-MED Information Society Programme (EUMEDIS)

#### 3- Specific Objectives

- Harmonious development of ICT technologies across the MEDA region;
- Making available improved telecommunication resources available for research and academic institutions;
- Increased networking between EU and Mediterranean actors in selected sectors through updated technologies; and
- Making available new professional competencies and new electronic platforms to extend ICT applications in Mediterranean countries and territories.



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### • I. EU-MED Information Society Programme (EUMEDIS)

#### 4-Targeted Beneficiaries

- Hospitals (or other medical research Institutes)
- Chambers of Commerce and Industrial Federations
- Universities (and post Graduate/Doctoral research or professional training institutions)
- Public and Private Research Centres
- Museums (and Non Governmental Organisations active in the promotion of the Euro-Mediterranean cultural heritage)
- Non Governmental Organisations that promote tourism in the Euro-Mediterranean region.



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### • I. EU-MED Information Society Programme (EUMEDIS)

#### 5-The EUMEDIS Planned Key Results to be Achieved

- Provision of a reference framework for the harmonious development of a similar vision for the role of information society and communication technologies in the Mediterranean region
- Modernisation & upgrading of Mediterranean academic telecommunication resources
- Implementation of new co-operative work methodologies for a very large number of Euro-Mediterranean "network-supported" communities
- Creation of Euro-Mediterranean electronic Co-operation platforms conducive to the sharing of intellectual resources



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### • I. EU-MED Information Society Programme (EUMEDIS)

#### 6-Conclusions of EUMEDIS Evaluation

According to the final evaluation of the EUMEDIS programme that was made early this year 2007, the following results are concluded:

- Overall results of EUMEDIS were extremely ambitious;
- Overall the design of the programme was effective;
- The EUMEDIS initiative contributed to the achievement of overall objectives of the EC's MEDA Programmes.



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- I. EU-MED Information Society Programme (EUMEDIS)

### 6- Conclusions of EUMEDIS Evaluation...continued

- EUMEDCONNECT partners of Southern Mediterranean are very keen to see the network continue and to use it as research infrastructure for common IS projects of the EU Member States and the Mediterranean countries
- IS infrastructure of Southern Mediterranean has been enhanced; and
- New ICT skills of Southern Mediterranean have been developed and new services (such as e-learning courses) have been introduced and adopted;



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- II. New Approaches for Telecommunication Policies (NATP)

### A.NATP-I

The first phase NATP was executed during 2000–2003.

Overall Objective of NATP-I was to inform MEDA countries of the reasons why the EU had introduced its structure reform for the organisations of the telecommunications regulatory functions; and to create a forum of discussion regarding these issues between the countries of northern and southern rims of the Mediterranean.

In essence, the NATP-I programme sought to answer the question ***of why*** regulatory reform is useful. This was generally successful, judging from the efforts made in Euro-Med partner countries to liberalise their telecommunications markets.



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- II. New Approaches for Telecommunication Policies (NATP)

### B. NATP-II

Liberalising the sector as supported by NATP-I was the first step, however making sure that such liberalisation leads to effectively competitive markets is second further step forward. Accordingly, NATP II programme, focused more on *the how* of this reform.

NATP-II has started on March 2005 and will be completed by March 2008, with possibility for an extension of 3-4 months i.e., till June-July 2007.



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### • II. New Approaches for Telecommunication Policies (NATP)

#### Overall Objectives of NATP-II are:

- To assist the authorities responsible for electronic communications policy to pursue common approaches leading to more harmonised regulations;
- To promote co-operation between the European Commission, and the Member States' regulators' association (ERG/IRG) and the Mediterranean regulatory with a view towards aligning the emerging electronic communications frameworks with that of the European Union;
- To facilitate the formulation of common approaches on regulatory issues in the Mediterranean region;
- To contribute to the modernisation of the electronic communications sector as a pre-requisite for the development of the Information Society by encouraging investments in the sector through the development of a comprehensive regulatory framework.



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### • II. New Approaches for Telecommunication Policies (NATP)

#### **Expected results to be achieved by NATP-II**

- The regulators in the MEDA region will be provided with first hand information of best practices for regulations, both from EU and MEDA countries. This will improve the background for making decisions on the regulations to be adopted in their own country.
- The regulators of the MEDA countries receive assistance on practical matters in regulation such as procedures, conditions and the creation of licences with appropriate legal obligations.
- Reference Guidelines in all major fields of telecommunications will be drafted that can be used by regulators as a reference for producing national regulations.



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### • II. New Approaches for Telecommunication Policies (NATP)

#### **Expected results to be achieved by NATP-II...continued**

- Regular information exchange will be set up between regulators; this will enable them to intensify their contacts and to align their positions.
- The experience with the introduction of the electronic communications regulatory framework and with the implementation of e-Government in the 25 EU Member States will be transferred to the authorities of the MEDA countries.
- Co-operation between the European Independent Regulators Group and the regulators of the MEDA countries will be established for regular exchange of information and practices on issues of common interest.



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### • III. New Regional Information Society Programme-Key Elements

#### Background Information

-The Programme still in stage of **preparation for IDENTIFICATION**

- Policy Framework: Regional Action Plan for ENPI for the ENPI – Southern Region

- Indicative Cost: € 5,000,000

-Foreseen Implementation Period: mid 2008-mid 2011

The project general objective is:

To support and further improve the mutually beneficial Information Society cooperation between Europe and the Mediterranean Partner Countries, building on the achievements of the EUMEDIS and other Regional initiatives.



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### • III. New Regional Information Society Programme-Key Elements

The project specific objectives are:

- Facilitating the adoption, implementation and monitoring of common Euro-Med strategies and policies (sector objectives, cooperation priorities, cooperation projects and initiatives) thanks to better informed and structured dialogued;
- Assisting in the implementation of a harmonized and investment friendly enabling environment in the electronic communications sector (policies, regulations, infrastructures) enabling the development of the Euro-Med Information Society; and
- Increasing the sustainability and maximise the synergies of EC national and regional supported projects (as well as and other regional initiatives in the fields of R&D, content, applications, innovation and its adoption by industry) though the integration of the key actors and articulation of initiatives



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### • III. New Regional Information Society Programme-Key Elements

The expected results are:

**R1** An enhanced cooperation, policy dialogue, and enabling background [i] harmonization for the development of the Euro-Mediterranean Information Society; and

**R2** An increased level of collaborative research activities with greater impact, to be implemented over a sustainable R&D support network [ii]

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[i] Enabling background, includes: policies, institutions, infrastructure, regulatory and legal frameworks, capacity, resources, among others.

[ii] R&D in ICTs through FP7 projects, research networking with EUMEDCONNECT



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- III. New Regional Information Society Programme-Key Elements

- **Provisional Time Table**

- Presentation of identification fiche at oQSG: November 2007
- Presentation of FP / TAPS at oQSG: May 2008
- Launch of inter-service consultation: July 2008
- Presentation to MS Committee: July 2008



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***THANK YOU***