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**Emerging technologies: 1st EUMEDGRID School on Application Porting
kicks-off in Cairo**

Cairo, 17 April 2007- Cairo welcomes EU and Mediterranean researchers for an international school on Grid computing.

From today till the end of the month Cairo will host EGSAP-1, an international event aiming at spreading advanced know-how on Grid computing, an emerging technology which, according to experts' view, is expected to become increasingly important for scientific and industrial applications in the next few years. EGSAP-1 (EUMEDGRID School on Application Porting #1) is organized in the framework of EUMEDGRID, an international project funded by the European Commission.

Preceded by an advanced tutorial for grid site administrators, the 15-days long EUMEDGRID 1st School on Application Porting is taking off today in Cairo. The event, which involves researchers from 7 different Mediterranean countries and aims to port 10 applications on a Euro-Mediterranean e-Infrastructure, is one of the major events in the lifetime of the project. EUN (the Egyptian University Network), the Egyptian partner in the project, played a key role in making the event possible. An important contribution was also provided from another Egyptian player, the Electronic Research Institute (ERI). Both institutes are at the forefront of technological developments in Networking and distributed computing in the Country, and collaborate with primary European and worldwide research institutions.

This event represents an important step towards the development of an advanced e-Infrastructure for distributed computing across the Mediterranean: a concrete initiative aiming at bridging the digital divide and fostering collaboration between Europe and its Mediterranean Neighbours. A number of applications will exploit the infrastructure, allowing Egyptian and Mediterranean scientists to profit of a wider pool of resources for their researches. While some of them are already operating, others will emerge from the EGSAP-1 school: 10 applications were selected amongst numerous candidates from all Countries skirting the Mediterranean and will be ported on the e-Infrastructure in the next two weeks. "This is the first time we organize such a large event in this Region: international schools are usually held in Europe, where this technology is more widespread at the moment. Attendees from 7 different countries will participate in the school, with applications belonging to different fields, such as Biology, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics and Cognitive Sciences" says Federico Ruggieri, the EUMEDGRID Project Manager.

"The response of Mediterranean scientists was very good, especially that of young researchers: more than 20 applications were proposed and we have several Ph.D. students who successfully submitted their applications: this is indeed a very good sign indicating that the new generations are very active and can play an important role in bringing the Mediterranean countries at the highest levels of innovation in the field of Information Technology" comments Dr. Omar Karam, EUN director and host of the school.

The school will begin on 17th April and end on 28th. Since the beginning, the idea was to have a two-week full immersion experience, including lectures and tutored hands-on practices. “For this reason, we paid a special attention to the didactic environment: an advanced, fully independent training Infrastructure (an exact replica of the pilot test-bed of the EUMEDGRID Project) has been created un purpose at the premises of the Pyramisa Suites Hotel***** in Cairo, location of the event. “Students, who will be accommodated in the same structure as in a campus, will have the opportunity to collaborate and discuss their progresses around the clock with the tutors and among themselves” explains Dr. Karam.

More info

Funded by the European Commission under the grant no, 026024, the EUMEDGRID Project officially started on the 1st of January 2006. It is coordinated by INFN, the Italian National Institute of Nuclear, Particle and High Energy Physics and involves several partners and third-party Organizations from Europe (i.e. GARR, INFN and ICTP from Italy, REDES from Spain, GRNET from Greece, CYNET from Cyprus, and the University of Malta) and beyond (CERIST from Algeria, CNRST from Morocco, EUN from Egypt, HIAST from Syria, MRSTDC from Tunisia, TUBITAK from Turkey, PADI2 from Palestine, IUCC from Israel, and JuNet from Jordan), plus two international organizations, CERN and DANTE, promoters and coordinators of EGEE and EUMEDCONNECT Projects, respectively.

The project, which has recently passed the review by EC experts, is considered a successful experience in the cooperation between EU and Mediterranean countries and, for many of non-EU partners, represents the first opportunity to take part as full partners in an EC research project.

For further information about EUMEDGRID please visit: <http://www.eumedgrid.eu> or contact the Project Office (po@eumedgrid.org).

For further information about EUN please visit: <http://www.eun.eg/>

For further information about ERI please visit: <http://www.eri.sci.eg>