

In the frame of scientific and technological co-operation between countries of Euro-Mediterranean area, some projects on health informatics and telemedicine are in developing phase. The aim is to create and use telematics systems between hospitals, health districts, academic and research Institutions. In this way it will be possible to exchange experiences and medical knowledge among doctors, health operators and specialists in clinical treatment and in medicine preventive or epidemiology.

A specific goal of this co-operation are related to some applications of web based telemedicine systems in order to offer, by means of telecommunication and information technologies, a quick and spread access to medical knowledge for the diagnosis and treatment purposes independently from the localization of the care centres. (It will be necessary to use common, standard and accessible technologies Internet based).

Doctors can use the network to retrieve and find information by Internet connected computer regardless of regional or national boundaries and constraints.

The virtual network can facilitate accessing to clinical databases and the sharing of therapeutic/diagnostic protocols and medical guidelines, and allow specialists to discuss and examine together difficult clinical cases in order to obtain a better diagnosis and establish good therapies for their patients. It can permit also teleconsultation and telediagnosis for some major diseases in the fields of cardiology/cardiosurgery, oncology, neurology/neurosurgery, orthopedics, infectious diseases, pediatrics and other areas of medicine, and stimulate the cooperative learning and training of physicians.

Another objective of thematic network is the exchange of experience in health information systems organizations that use smart card at regional level in the countries. (That will be useful for European health policy and for enlargement of e-Europe program and e-Health Action. Health Networks can support even medicine preventive, epidemiology and statistical investigations thanks to a storing in different databases of information related to clinical studies.

So, it's possible to think to long networks care medicine between several and different health structures (hospitals, local health districts, clinics, GPs). This kind of network can be seen as a Medical Mediterranean Intranet (Intr@med) for accessing to medical information for teleconsulting and e-learning in healthcare, involving all the countries of Mediterranean basin (from Italy to Egypt, from Morocco to Malta, from Turkey to Tunisia, from Croatia to Lebanon, from Syria to Libya etc.)

The 2° EMMIT Conference , held in Alexandria (Egypt) on February 26-28, 2006 has been an important scientific appointment for many researches and specialists in different disciplines (medical informatics bioengineering, telemedicine, biomedical devices, TLC, etc.) coming not only from Mediterranean countries but even from Central Africa, USA, Eastern Europe countries, etc. During the meeting several experiences, projects and applications have been exchanged between the participants and bases for more useful cooperation have been created.

Francesco Sicurello
Chairman of EMMIT Conference