The ALIAS Project Participants welcome your hospital to join the Virtual Hospital Network

The ALIAS project addresses medical services and information inadequacy to ensure Health Care provisions in Alpine Space where telemedicine services are not widely exploited and linguistic barriers represent an obstacle. The Alpine Space’s touristic vocation during some periods of the year makes its Health Care structures "periodically" inadequate to face a widened request of services supply. On the other hand, a major receptivity of those structures during the rest of the year is unnecessary due to the low density of Alpine local residents. ALIAS addresses the programme objective aimed at securing fair access to Health Care public services and related communication infrastructure within the programming area. The project is aimed at linking together a number of Alpine Space hospitals enabling the creation of a network shaping the ALIAS Virtual Hospital for sharing medical information, adopting telemedicine service and exchanging best clinical practices, to improve the efficiency of hospitals.

ALIAS TIME SCHEDULE: The project started on 01/08/2009 and will end on 31/07/2012 (36 months)

ALIAS telemedicine-related services

The ALIAS project intends to deliver and pilot two telemedicine-related services, more specifically:

Information provision to healthcare professionals: this service will allow a healthcare professional of any ALIAS hospital network to access information of a patient coming from any (other) ALIAS region, upon his/her consent, and

Advice querying: this service will allow any healthcare professional of the ALIAS hospital network using telemedicine tools to require experts' advice on a patient under treatment, upon his/her consent. Telecommunication tools will be conceived to be used both in synchronous and asynchronous way.

Who can benefit?

The ALIAS project results will benefit 3 project target groups: regional/national
administrations, local hospitals, resident and non-resident citizens. Knowledge and practices gained within the project will be used by regional/national administrations for developing new eHealth policy strategies. Local hospitals will make use of results for improving HC services for resident and non-resident citizens. Moreover they will enhance capability to exploit innovation created by the establishing Network by using and sharing services and tools. Practitioners will increase capability to supply highest level of care even through better connection amongst networked hospitals. Citizens will take advantage of the enhanced HC and wellness services and this will also translate in enhanced citizens trust in local HC systems. The ALIAS project results, properly disseminated, will serve to promote the participation of additional hospitals in the Network, thus further enriching the project impact on the addressed territory.

Where ALIAS pilot sites are located

The ALIAS services will be piloted within eight hospitals that constitute the first nodes of the ALIAS hospitals network. ALIAS pilot sites are:
- Lombardia (IT): the Varese Hospital Trust;
- Friuli Venezia Giulia (IT): the Tolmezzo Hospital;
- Oberbayern (DE): the Garmisch-Partenkirchen Hospital;
- Rhône-Alpes (FR): the Grenoble Hospital;
- Slovenia (SI): the Bolninsnica Golnik hospital;
- Slovenia (SI): the Splosna Bolninsnica Izola hospital;
- Carinthia (AT): the Landeskrankenhaus Villach hospital;
- Région Lémanique (CH): the Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève.

ALIAS work to be accomplished

The ALIAS project is organised with a waterfall approach which is declined in three main operational phases: service definition and development; Network creation and training; piloting and deployment. Dissemination and coordination will cross the project execution maximising awareness creation, impact and reusability of results and ensuring a proper level of management both within the partners team and towards the Programme governing authorities.

Each of the 3 above indicated phases is organised in different workpackages in order to rationalise all activities necessary to reach project objectives.

The ALIAS workpackages are:
- WP1: Project Preparation
- WP2: Project Management
- WP3: Information&Publicity
- WP4: Services Definition
- WP5: Development&Validation
- WP6: Network Creation&Training
- WP7: Piloting&Assessment
- WP8: Deployment

What has been achieved by ALIAS so far

The project, started in August 2009, has achieved relevant results so far.
In particular three deliverables have been already finalised and approved, namely the Project Management and Quality Manual (WP2), the Project Logo (WP3) and the Users requirements specification and scenarios description (WP4).

The Project Management and Quality Manual serves to facilitate the Project Participants cooperation in the ALIAS project by defining a set of rules for the organisation of the day-to-day cooperative work.

The Project Logo, that represent the project visual identity, is currently used in all official documents and presentations related to ALIAS.

The Users requirements specification and scenarios description, providing a detailed analysis of the current state of the project partners IT systems in the healthcare sector as well as a first description of the services that will be deployed in the frame of ALIAS project, represents the first pillar on which functional and technical specification of ALIAS services platform will be shaped.

Three Project Steering Groups meetings and project Technical Meetings have been held, the first in September in Milan together with the project kick off meeting and public presentation, the second in December in Udine and the third one in March in Genève.

What is next

The next phase of the project will accompany ALIAS to a full start: the project specification phase will arrive at its end allowing the development and validation phase to properly start sketching the definition of the ALIAS services architecture, services platform development and implementation. In parallel, organisational activities devoted to the preparation of the eight ALIAS Hospitals to concretely piloting the services will be put in place so that the operational pilot demonstration of the Virtual Hospital Network can be achieved. Long lasting WPs such as Project Management and Information and Publicity will closely reflect project achievements.

The ALIAS project is also organising a round table under the frame of the Alps Bio Cluster Catalyst Event on “ICT & Care : toward personalized services” 7-8 July, 2010 – Grenoble, France. The Alps Bio Cluster project is aimed at establishing a transnational cluster network in the biotech and medtech sector by involving actors from six Alpine regions in research, training and industry, especially small and medium-sized companies, in order to boost joint economic development by reaching a critical mass of key players. The ALIAS plenary round table (7 July) “How to deliver a better medical service to European citizens ?" will focus on the priority to ensure continuity of care to European citizens in a cross-border environment through delivering of ICT based healthcare services and tools such as Electronic Healthcare Record (EHR) and telemedicine. Specific achievements resulted throughout the collaboration between Regione Lombardia and Région Rhône-Alpes will be also presented together with the experience of other transnational projects such as the Competitive Health project (Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013).

The ALIAS Project Participants
The project partnership consists of ten partners, with complementary expertise in the healthcare sector:

Regional Governmental Institutions
- Regione Lombardia (Lead partner)
- Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia
- Groupement de Coopération Sanitaire – Système d’Information de Santé en Rhône Alpes
- République et Canton Généve, Département de l’économie et de la santé

Hospitals and diagnostic centres of excellence
- Klinikum Garmisch-Partenkirchen GmbH
- Splosna Bolnišnica Izola
- Bolnišnica Golnik - Klinični oddelek za pljučne bolezni in alergijo Golnik
- Landeskrankenhaus Villach
- Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève
- Educational and Research Centre
  - Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Lyon

The ALIAS Project Observers
- Bavarian Ministry of Health
- Carinthia Government
- Austrian Ministry of Research
- Rhone-Alps Regional Council

This Newsletter has been issued by the ALIAS Project dissemination team

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