

4th Mediterranean Conference on Information Systems

Athens, Greece, 25-27 September 2009

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Invited Panel

“Cooperation in ICT and e-Infrastructures in the Mediterranean”

The Mediterranean region is of strategic importance to the EU, in both economic (trade, energy, migration) and political (security, stability) terms. The strategic importance of the area has been recognised by Europe since many years and politically relevant initiatives have been taken, especially in the last fifteen years (Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, MEDA, ENPI). Information Society is among the priorities of the Action Plan of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENPI).

Cooperation in the field of the Information Society contributes to the sustainable economic and social development of the Euro-Mediterranean region. The fields of cooperation in ICT that need to be intensified include research and ICT for development, connectivity, multilingual e-content, e-health, e-science, e-learning, e-inclusion and e-governement.

There are several European actions towards the realisation of the abovementioned objectives, including many EU funded projects under MEDA, FP6 and currently FP7. The Mediterranean is also considered as priority for the expansion of the European Research Area (ERA) as it is demonstrated by the number of existing European initiatives and e-Infrastructure projects for the region. These projects provide the necessary research networking infrastructure along with the tools and services required by the scientific community to engage in cooperative research. In the future, as it is foreseen by the Union for the Mediterranean, ICT and e-Infrastructure cooperation are expected to be further reinforced.

Key-note Speaker: Dr. Konstantinos Glynos
Director of e-Infrastructure Unit
Directorate General for Information Society and Media
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Kostas Glinos leads the Géant & e-Infrastructures Unit of the Directorate General for Information Society and Media at the European Commission since 2009. From 2003 to 2008 he was Head of the Embedded Systems and Control unit and interim Executive Director of the ARTEMIS Joint Undertaking. Previously he was deputy head of Future and Emerging Technologies. Before Kostas worked with multinational companies and research institutes in the U.S., Greece and Belgium. He holds a diploma in Chemical Engineering from the University of Thessaloniki, a PhD from the University of Massachusetts and a MBA in investment management from Drexel University.

Key-note Panelists: **Andreas Pitsillides**, Chairman, Board of- Directors, CYNET, Cyprus
Raphael Koumeri, PLANET S.A., Greece / Belgium
Thies Wittig, IT Consult Germany , IT expert MED-IST partner