

alias

Alpine Hospitals Networking for Improved Access to Telemedicine Services

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF ACTIVITIES

The last six months have been dedicated to the developing key activities and to fostering the collaboration between participants in the Project . The importance of the interrelations between ALIAS central workpackages has been more clearer with regards to evident regarding the influence of each activity on the others. All Project participants have concentrated their effort on the enrichment and refinement of deliverables: legal constrains and services specifications.

Technical partners have used the output of the above mentioned activities to properly design the ALIAS Central Platform architecture and to be supported in the technical choices related to the developing of two services. All the activities related to the ALIAS Virtual Network organization and governance have started and plans for the training phase have been already proposed and shared among the participants Project.

Significant results have been achieved during the last period: the project MidTerm Workshop was successfully held in Lyon at the end of January, four hospitals out of eight are already connected to the ALIAS Central System and testing its functionalities, the Medical Specialties Catalogue on which the Second Opinion service will be based has been completed and agreed upon by all ALIAS hospitals, a first proposal for the Alias Circle of Trust, the agreement that will govern the co-operative model of data exchange between the hospitals nodes of ALIAS Virtual Hospital, has been developed and is currently being evaluated by Project participants, ALIAS Security Audit Policy is under development and will be shared among participants Project during the month of March.

ALIAS midterm workshop – what we brought home



The event took place in Lyon, hosted by INSA, on 26th January 2011. About 70 people coming from 6 different European countries attended the event.

The workshop programme covered a number of subjects related to the eHealth policies and strategies at national and regional levels in the fields of EHR and telemedicine, with the goal of explicitly demonstrating both the consistency of the ALIAS idea and objectives with the current plans in the countries involved, as well as understanding to what extent the main output of ALIAS,

the SERVICE PLATFORM, could be exploited or integrated in the relevant national/regional running projects.

Political representatives of partnering regions and countries took an active part in the discussion with the dual aim of reinforcing the political involvement in the ALIAS project and of ensuring the development and the consistency of the ALIAS approach. The political level, during the workshop, has been represented by:

- Ms. L. BENCHARIF, vice president of Rhône-Alpes Regional Council in France,
- Mr. L. BRESCIANI, Minister of Health of the Lombardy Region in Italy,
- Mr. P. KAISER, Minister of Health of the Carinthia Region in Austria.

Further, the project itself was presented focusing on results achieved so far. A demonstration of the ALIAS system functionalities took place, simulating the medical information sharing service between two hospitals of the network.

The last part of the workshop was dedicated to presenting existing regional, national and international projects that could profit from the services to be provided by the ALIAS platform, highlighting practical examples of usage. In this context, the National Association of Slopes Security Professionals, Haute Savoy, presented its ongoing experiment on telecardiology to enhance first aid in the mountains, and showed how this service could take advantage from the ALIAS platform and its future developments. The European projects AlpsBioCluster, EpSOS and Competitive Health Services also showed their connections to ALIAS.

Lessons learned, as main output of ALIAS Mid Term Workshop, are that not only is there a general interest towards the concept, organization, and type of services ALIAS is proposing, but also the project is fully aligned with a strategic and shared eHealth perspective and with the reinforcement of a better coordination among European regions through initiatives in the trans-regional healthcare services domain.



ALIAS Virtual Hospital: some of the nodes are already networked

The project has already started its testing phase: the ALIAS Central Platform is online and some nodes of the Virtual Hospital are already connected. The Central Platform already integrates the security barriers needed to assure an appropriate level of protection of sensitive data such as medical information to be shared across the network, the synchronous module is fully working, the advice query tool is being finalised and will be deployed in March to be tested at the beginning of April.

The ALIAS Central Platform will be continually tested and refined until June, to be ready for the full operational phase in July, when all the nodes of the network will be interconnected and will make use of ALIAS services in a real life scenario.

Some nodes of the the ALIAS Virtual Hospital are already networked: the Rhône-Alpes Region is fully connected in synchronous mode; the ALIAS network is accessible through SISRA's applications tool and all the documents of the regional platform are available to be shared.

Geneva University Hospital in Switzerland has connected its repository; this means that other nodes of the network can consult documents in Geneva, but the Swiss Hospital cannot yet consult external documents. Garmisch-Partenkirchen Hospital in Germany and the Villach Regional Hospital in Austria are connected to the Central Platform in asynchronous mode. The General Hospital of Izola and the University Clinic of Pulmonary and Allergic Diseases of Golnik in Slovenia are on their way and should be connected during the month of March.

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 Genève, 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

Carinthia Government;
Austrian Ministry of Research;
Rhône-Alps Regional Council.

This Newsletter is issued by the ALIAS Project dissemination team

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