Project:

**Trusted Third Party Services for Health Care in Europe**

**Partners:**
- National Technical Univ. of Athens (GR) (Co-ordinator)
- University of the Aegean (GR)
- University Hospital Magdeburg (G)
- University of Calabria (I)
- InfoProject (GR)

**Project identity:**
- Contract: ETS-I 20820
- Acronym: EUROMED-ETS

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**Source of funding:**
- European Commission
- ETS-I Programme

**Duration:**
- Twelve (12) months
- January - December 1997

**Budget** (funding):
- Consortium: 458.550 EURO
- UoA: 100.000 EURO

**Project motivation, scope and objectives**

Telemedicine is defined as the interactive audio-visual communication between healthcare providers and their patients, or other healthcare providers, regardless of geographic distance. The use of Internet, complemented by the Web, as a communication medium in telemedical applications raises several threats to security.

As the number of such applications grows over the Web, security becomes an indispensable service for exploiting and utilising them in real environments. Since sensitive data are involved in a medical environment, particular measures increasing security have to be realised. It was the project’s objective to provide such a solution.

Other European projects provided guidance and set standards for one to deal with the security issues in the healthcare sector. Their main choice was the use of Trusted Third Party services (TTPs). Such services are important for the establishment of trustworthy systems in Europe and they can provide the means for supporting the provision of high quality medical services securely.

EUROMED-ETS ensures that all healthcare actors can communicate in a secure way over the Web. The project aimed at identifying, defining and verifying the operational, organisational, technical and legal aspects of the TTPs for telemedical applications over the Web.

Most existing tools and mechanisms were systematically adjusted and modified, in order to provide an integrated solution for securing telemedicine applications over the Web. The solution was based on the establishment of a TTP infrastructure. The Secure Session Layer (SSL) was the protocol that was chosen for setting up a secure session among the end-points connected by Internet.

The motto of the UoA team, for this project, is:

“Security in healthcare applications saves human lives”