

## Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)

The International Telematic University UNINETTUNO, established by decree of 15 April 2005 by the Ministry of Education, University and Research, delivers academic titles legally recognized in Italy, Europe and some Mediterranean countries, relating to first-level and second-level degree programs, vocational Master courses and vocational training courses.

### Institution's international strategy

The key aspect for the development of the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO is definitely constituted by its capability to get involved and quickly grow at international level, by signing important agreements with the Mediterranean countries, and also with Universities in Europe, the United States, Latin America, Russia and China.

The agreements with Mediterranean countries follow the success of Med Net'U project, funded under the European program EUMEDIS, that has involved 31 partners from 11 Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, France, Jordan, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey). The most significant result of the Med Net'U is the realization of a bi-directional technological network, based on satellite technology for transmitting and receiving, which connects 11 Production Centers and 31 Technological Poles at the facilities of the Mediterranean partners. Thanks to this network, the only one of its kind in the Euro-Mediterranean area for distance learning, all partners can produce, transmit and receive educational contents through satellite Internet and on tv on the channel RAI Nettuno Sat 1, that already transmits academic lessons of engineering degree in Arabic, English, French and Italian. In addition, the Med Net'U has led to the following important results:

- The development of a didactic platform in four languages and the availability on the satellite channel of a space entirely dedicated to the broadcast of the lessons recorded by Professors coming from different countries, including the Arab world;
- The design of common curricula in Engineering, according to the Bologna Process guidelines;
- Production in four languages of all the courses of the distance degree program in ICT Engineering and Mechanical Engineering;
- The training of teachers, tutors and technical staff for teaching at distance.

The didactic and organizational model realized in the Med Net'U project has contributed to the creation of the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO, which allows students from around the world to follow distance degree courses, designed according to the Bologna Process model, and achieve titles recognized in Italy and Europe. Taking advantage of the new technologies, UNINETTUNO has created the first online platform in the world where it is possible to teach and learn in six languages (Italian, English, French, Arabic, Greek and Polish).

Currently the enrolled students at the University come from 42 different countries around the world. The success of the Med Net'U project has allowed UNINETTUNO to establish relationships with the most prestigious Universities of the Mediterranean countries and of the Arab World. Therefore, the University has developed many of its recent international cooperation activities in these countries. This has been possible thanks to several international agreements, signed between the

Italian Ministry of the Education, University and Scientific Research of the corresponding Ministries of Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan, which have seen UNINETTUNO, represented by its Rector Prof. M.A. Garito , one of the main involved parties.

One of the most successful results in this context is the double degree program organized by UNINETTUNO and Helwan University (Cairo, Egypt). The double degree program, jointly designed by the two Universities on the Bologna Process guidelines, allows Egyptian students to study at a distance, so without leaving their country, and to achieve at the end a title recognized in Italy and Europe and another one recognized in Egypt. It is the first program of its kind in the Arab world. The program also provides for the best students a mobility period in Italy, to carry out an internship in qualified companies in the ICT sector. In October 2012 the first graduation ceremony of the course was held in Cairo, in the presence of the Egyptian Minister of University, who hoped that the cooperation model successfully implemented by UNINETTUNO and Helwan University can also be extended to other Egyptian universities.

The International Telematic University aims in the next years to export the developed cooperation model, activating new double or multiple degree programs with Universities in Egypt and other countries.

As part of its internationalization activity, the International Telematic University has set-up the International Mobility Office, responsible for managing the University mobility programs.

Among the mobility activities, the University organizes internships in Italy for its foreign students, especially those enrolled in double degree programs. It is also a partner in 2 Erasmus Mundus program, which also involve Universities from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon.

Finally, from the academic year 2013/14 Erasmus mobility for students and staff will be also active, with European universities that have a bilateral agreement with UNINETTUNO.

## Organisation and implementation of international cooperation projects

The international cooperation projects in the field of teaching and training, organized and implemented by the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO, are coordinated by the Rector Prof. M.A. Garito. They originate from the research carried out by Prof. M.A. Garito on distance learning, which then led to the creation of the video format used by the NETTUNO Consortium. The research activities then continued, as part of several international research projects, creating the basis of the psycho-pedagogical and organizational model of UNINETTUNO, developed by Prof. M.A. Garito.

At European level, the close collaboration with the most prestigious traditional and distance Universities has already led to the participation of more than 40 research projects, many of them under the Lifelong Learning Programme. This success is also due to the link with the EADTU - European Association of Distance and Teaching Universities - of which Uninettuno is the only Italian member. The reinforcement of the synergy with EADTU and the other traditional and distance European Universities will be the key aspect for the future development of cooperation programs in the field of education at European level.

Outside Europe, Uninettuno has already signed several cooperation agreements, many of which also aimed to the activation double degree programs. The University has adopted as a reference the didactic and organizational model of Med Net'U, which foresees the construction of curricula jointly done by professors and experts from Italy and the partner countries. In addition, the contents of the courses are produced in several languages, choosing for each language the country's leading experts. This allows to produce courses of international level in respect for local cultures.

A relevant example is the EDICT project, in collaboration with UNIDO, that has contributed to the training of entrepreneurship in Iraq through the distance learning model developed by UNINETTUNO.

## **Expected impact of the participation in the Programme on the modernisation of the institution in terms of the policy objectives**

The International Telematic University intends to pursue, in accordance with the Modernisation Agenda, the following objectives.

### **§ Increase the attainment level**

UNINETTUNO has the objective to provide a free and democratic access to knowledge. For this reason it has created a distance learning system that allows to provide learning contents through various ways (web platform, satellite channel, web-tv) without limits of space and time. This allows access to the University to a wider segment of the population, including working students, disabled, economically disadvantaged people and women (who are often marginalized from the academic studies in certain cultures).

Uninettuno will take initiatives to ensure a wider access to higher education and a progressive reduction of drop-out. In particular, the University will make a particular effort to establish new double degree programs.

### **§ Improving the quality and relevance**

UNINETTUNO collaborates with qualified traditional Universities and important companies for the construction and updating of its curricula and for the production of the courses' contents, in order to offer programs that are highly qualifying and responsive to the needs of the labor market. In addition, with the involvement of international partners in this process, it is able to create professional figures can spend the acquired skills in a global labor market.

### **§ Mobility & international co-operation for quality**

UNINETTUNO believes that international mobility is essential for the acquisition of additional skills and raising the quality of its educational provision. Adopts the ECTS system in order to ensure an efficient recognition of the studies abroad. Promotes all forms of participation in mobility programs, both at European and non-European, in order to annually increase the number of offered mobility

### **§ Strengthen the "knowledge triangle"**

The University is committed to sign agreements for achieving synergies with research institutions and companies. This allows the University to conduct theoretical and applied research, to develop joint research programs that have a direct impact also on the didactics. These initiatives, with the involvement of trade unions, also pursue the goal of specializing, retraining and providing lifelong learning to the workers.

### **§ Creating the right governance and funding conditions**

Excellence is a fundamental aspect for the University, as its educational products are accessible to the public on the web and on TV. UNINETTUNO is currently the only Italian distance University positively and unreservedly evaluated by the Ministry of Education, University and Research. Then, it is only Italian institution awarded of the Excellence Quality Label, created in an LLP funded project. The University is committed to adhere to the quality standards, in order to continue to have an effective governance system and a funding mechanism that can support its excellence targets.