



Al Akhawayn Joins Consortium in Creation of New Online University

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As technology advances, the world is becoming increasingly smaller as the barriers to global communication gradually dissolve. One area in which these new technologies are having a massive impact is education.

Mindful of these developments, Al Akhawayn University recently signed a memorandum of understanding to create a consortium that would pool resources and create a new online educational endeavor, Telematic Mediterranean University (TMU)..

Additional signatories of the memorandum included International Telematic University UniNettuno, a university employing instructors from around the world to offer language courses online and via satellite, as well as PianoDam Training, a vocational training company specializing in the field of management.

Ambitious in its scope, the memorandum calls for the consortium to utilize technology in order to disseminate e-learning and distance education programs in five languages – English, Arabic, Italian, French, and Spanish – with the idea being to make the courses available to the largest population possible.



"Today, with new technologies and the Internet, we can truly contribute to the democratization of knowledge," said Maria Amata Garito, President and Rector of International Telematic University UniNettuno. "I believe that to achieve this goal, we have to build knowledge alliances; i.e., by making the different forms of knowledge available to the different cultures and universities through publishing them online. This is what will make a difference in the accessibility of knowledge."

As part of the agreement, Al Akhawayn will contribute logistics and technology for the development of e-learning modules, engineering training and content development of specialized training, and academic and technical expertise for the development of e-learning modules, among other things.

UniNettuno will contribute technological platforms for the dissemination of e-learning modules via Internet and satellite, specialized training modules, expertise and methodologies for the development of e-learning modules, as well as solicit donations in Italy and Europe.

PianoDam will oversee the administrative and financial coordination of the consortium, conduct market analysis and identification of training needs, market development and communication initiatives, fundraise with potential stakeholders in Morocco, and supervise the activities of the consortium.

The activities of the consortium will last for three years and culminate in the establishment of TMU, at which point the consortium will be dissolved. The relationship with UniNettuno and PianoDam coincides strongly with the university's plan to accelerate internationalization on campus through collaborative partnerships with international universities.