



Erasmus Policy Statement 2021-2027

ERASMUS STRATEGY

The International Telematic University UNINETTUNO, established by decree of 15 April 2005 by the Ministry of Education, University and Research, issues academic qualifications legally recognized in Italy, Europe and in some Mediterranean countries, related to first level degrees, specialist degrees, research doctorates and masters.

UNINETTUNO was born from the educational model of the NETTUNO Network for the University Everywhere, a Consortium of 43 Italian and foreign universities, with which, since 1992, thousands of students have graduated remotely via television and the Internet. UNINETTUNO was also born from the international success of the MedNet'U (Mediterranean Network of Universities) project, funded by the European Commission under the Eumedis Programme, for the creation of a remote Euro-Mediterranean University. Med Net'U has created a network of 31 universities from 11 countries in the Euro-Mediterranean area (Algeria, Egypt, France, Jordan, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey). Thanks to this network, unique in its kind in the Euro-Mediterranean area for distance learning, all partners were able to:

- contribute to the development of an educational platform in four languages and the availability on the satellite channel of a space entirely dedicated to the transmission of lessons recorded by teachers from different countries, including the Arab world;
- design common curricula in engineering, according to the guidelines of the Bologna process;
- train teachers, tutors and technical staff for distance teaching.

The didactic and organizational model created within the Med Net'U project contributed to the creation of the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO, which allows students from all over the world to follow distance degree courses, designed according to the Bologna Process model, and obtain recognized qualifications in Italy and Europe. Taking advantage of 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), where qualified teachers from prestigious Italian and international universities transmit their knowledge to students from over 165 countries around the world. The student of our distance teaching University is at the centre of the educational process, being guided by the new profile professor-tutor who has the task of supplying him with the tools that are best suited to make the web-based learning and communication process easier. The psycho-pedagogic and didactic model was born

from the results achieved by 25 years of international research programs, and was realized by our Rector, Prof. M. A. Garito and by her research team.

Therefore, in UNINETTUNO the internationalization is not a tool subsequently implemented for the growth of the university, but one of the key elements at the basis of the birth of the university itself. It is no coincidence that, in the [University's Strategic Guidelines](#), internationalization ranks first. Furthermore, the other pillars of the strategic guidelines (Innovation and Research, Relations with traditional universities, Relations with the business world) are also closely connected with the activities of the Programme. The participation to the Erasmus programme is strategic to pursue the objectives of such guidelines,

Among the main objectives of the University's "internationalization" pillar, there are :

- Increase of the multilingual course offer: complete the course catalogue in English, extend it to other languages, enrich and modernize the contents
- Further development of relations with the Arab world: given the pre-existing collaboration agreements with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, the Arabic language course catalogue, the double degree with Helwan University and the collaboration with the Don Bosco Institute in Cairo with almost 300 students enrolled, the southern shore of the Mediterranean is a strategic target for expanding the University's cooperation and internationalization activities
- Development of Curricula initiatives shared in areas other than the Euro-Mediterranean one: in recent years collaborations have been started, also thanks to projects financed under the Erasmus+ Programme, with Universities of Asia (Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia) and Africa (Somalia, Mozambique). In these regions the intention is to broaden the internationalization horizon of the University.
- Further development of MOOC and OER initiatives: since 2014 UNINETTUNO participates in the OpenUpEd initiative, created with the contribution of the Erasmus+ Programme. The university is committed to progressively enriching the offer of MOOCs and OERs, both in terms of type of content and variety of languages.
- International mobility: further development of student and staff mobility, expansion of the network of partner universities

Among the main objectives of the University's "innovation and research" pillar, there are

- Development of University research activities aimed at the constant evolution of UNINETTUNO psycho-pedagogic, organizational and technological models: implementation of researches dealing with the application of the new technologies to teaching and learning processes, including 3D and immersive technologies in online education, use of earning platform in an innovative way, three-dimension environment.
- Research activities dealing e-learning assessment and quality assurance models: following the success of the Excellence and Excellence+ projects, developed in the framework of the LLP Programme, carry out research and innovation on Quality Assurance

in European level, with the ultimate objective of widening the access to higher education at all level and in all fields.

Among the main objectives of the University's "relations with traditional universities" pillar, there are

- Development of collaborations with traditional universities aimed at educational activities: increase of the partnership with Italian, European, U.S. and Southern Mediterranean universities, for the exchange of professors finalized to the production of high quality didactic contents in multiple languages.
- Development of collaboration with traditional universities aimed at research activities: increase of the partnership with Italian and international universities, aimed at facilitating the access of students and professors to research facilities and to increase the participation into international projects in the framework of the programmes Erasmus+, Horizon 2020, Creative Europe, MED.
- Development of cooperation relations with traditional universities in order to design joint curricula: development of models for the internationalization of curricula, based on the ECTS system and the EQF framework, aimed at realizing new double or joint degree programmes.

Among the main objectives of the University's "relations with the business world" pillar, there are

- Definition and shaping of curricula according to the needs of the new employment market: further development of educational paths and curricula designed in the perspective of meeting the training needs of businesses and of the labour market.
- Enrichment of curricula and of research activities with expertise coming from the business world: implement a model for exchanging skills and teachers with companies in order to enrich its educational offer with the know-how and experiences given by professionals and experts coming from production and business environments.
- Design and realization of educational schemes meeting specific company or sector needs: realizing cooperation agreements for the design and implementation of vocational distance training and retraining courses meeting the specific needs of individual companies or associations or international networks.

Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme in the 2014-2020 period has largely contributed to pursuing the objectives of the University's strategic guidelines. The number of bilateral agreements has significantly increased and new services have been implemented for students and staff to support mobility. New mobility projects have been launched with 9 non-EU countries from 4 different continents and an annual International Erasmus Week has been established. The University had a very large participation in KA2 and KA3 projects, both as partner and as coordinator, expanding its network of contacts, acquiring new skills, developing new didactic contents and new pedagogical models, enhancing its quality assurance policies. The KA202 "IN-CLOUD" project, coordinated by UNINETTUNO, obtained the "Success Story" and "Good Practice Example" labels. Thanks to various

Programme actions, the offer of MOOCs and OERs has been significantly expanded. The University has been involved in several CBHE projects, setting-up partnerships with new countries leading to the development of new curricula and new cooperation. A set of projects have been developed in the area of social inclusion and to the categories with fewer opportunities. Another strand of projects concerned the business world and has allowed to develop new relations with the labour market, also thanks to the participation in two Sector Skill Alliances.

Analysing the achieved results, participation in the Erasmus+ Programme in the 2014-2020 period had a huge impact on the University Strategic Guidelines. Thanks to the carried out activities, the expected impact stated the Erasmus Policy Statement presented in 2013 has been met. Therefore, the University has high expectations from participation in the Programme for the next seven years, to continue developing the activities in which it already participates and start new ones (such as the European Universities initiative), all being perfectly in line with the strategic guidelines of the University

ERASMUS ACTIONS

UNINETTUNO in the previous Programme participated in practically all the actions. In the next seven years, it intends to confirm and extend this participation. In particular:

KA1: The mobility of higher education students and staff

UNINETTUNO organizes student and staff mobility both in EU (KA103) and non-EU (KA107) countries. These activities allow students and their staff to live international experiences and enrich their curricula. Pursuing its strategic lines, the University can thus expand its network of international partners, enrich its range of services and, by hosting foreign teachers, create new educational content in different languages. Activities are also important to create a precondition for the next development of new joint curricula and new research projects.

KA2: Partnerships for Cooperation and exchanges of practices

UNINETTUNO, also thanks to the participation in various projects, has gained extensive expertise in various sectors: distance learning, quality assurance, project management, new ICT technologies, management of the relationship with the world of work. The University participates in partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices, to share its know-how. For example, an important activity was carried out in CBHE projects for the diffusion of distance education in various countries of Central Asia and Latin America. Participation in these projects is strategic to activate new collaborations, functional to develop new international programs.

KA2: Partnerships for Excellence - European Universities

UNINETTUNO has long been a member of the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU), which well before the launch of the European Universities initiative promoted the creation of a network of universities to create a common European distance

learning strategy, to develop joint training programs, new OERs and virtual mobility activities. Therefore, UNINETTUNO and EADTU partner universities see the European Universities initiative as a natural evolution of the activities they already carry out. A call application has already been submitted, with the aim of developing a European University on the theme of sustainable development, also connected to the achievement of the SDG2030. The University considers this activity a priority.

KA2: Partnerships for Excellence - Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

In the 2014-20 period, UNINETTUNO did not participate in EMJMD projects, despite having an interest in this call, primarily due to the difficulty of accrediting new study courses. However, it is not possible not to highlight how the development of new international curricula is a precise point of the strategic guidelines of the university. Therefore, in a path towards excellence, the University believes that 2021-27 Programme is the right time to start participating in EMJMD projects as well, since the University now has the didactic and management maturity to carry out this activity.

KA2: Partnerships for Innovation

Participation in KA2 projects for innovation has been a great success for UNINETTUNO in the 2014-20 Programme, given the high number of projects in which it participated, also compared to previous Programs. These projects are fundamental to pursue the strategic guidelines of the University, in various aspects. They allow the University to develop new collaborations, modernize curricula, develop new educational content and new services for students, also with reference to disadvantaged categories. They allow the University to develop new teaching models, test new quality assurance tools and experiment with the use of new technologies in training. Furthermore, they allow to better understand the needs of the labor market and to develop new partnerships with stakeholders.

Last but not least, they allow the University staff to acquire new technical and managerial skills. In conclusion, innovation partnerships not only allow pursuing the objectives of the University's strategic guidelines, but they are a fundamental element in supporting their continuous modernization process. For these reasons, the University aims to increase participation in this action in the 2021-27 period.

KA3: Support to policy development and cooperation

UNINETTUNO, in collaboration with EADTU, has already participated in a project in this key action, aimed at defining and implementing a teaching model based on Short Learning Programs, which are short training courses able to better respond to the needs of the labor market and training. Also because of this experience, the University considers participation in KA3 relevant for its strategic guidelines, as it allows developing new policies and frameworks to make the HE system more efficient and more responsive to the needs of the labor market.

Implementation modality

The University is organized in different structures and offices, that cooperate for the implementation of the different Erasmus actions.

KA1 are under the control of the International Mobility Office, that implements the activities according to the guidelines of the Erasmus+ Programme and the University Regulation for Management for the Erasmus Mobility. The International Mobility Office operates in close collaboration with the Faculty delegates, for the communication and dissemination of the Programme activities to students and staff, and with the Presidency secretariats for the management of the careers of students on the move. The Administrative Office is responsible for the administrative / financial part. The activity takes place under the direction of the International Affairs Office, which provides guidelines.

KA2 and KA3 are under the control of the International Projects Area, which is in charge of management. The activity is carried out in close collaboration with the Faculty staff, which contributes to the implementation of the outcomes. The Administrative Office is responsible for the administrative / financial part, the IT area of technical support. More complex initiatives that involve the University's policies, such as the possible implementation of the European Universities initiative or an EMJMD, also involve the Rectorate and the governing bodies of the university.

ERASMUS IMPACT

The qualitative and quantitative targets and indicators identified in participating in the new Programme are

1. Mobility of students and staff entering and leaving

- 20% increase in incoming and outgoing student mobility for study, study and internship, compared to the data recorded in the 2018-20 period.
- 50% increase in bilateral agreements, compared to those signed in 2020 by the University
- In study mobility, achievement of at least 90% of the credits foreseen in the Learning Agreements
- Recognizing 100% of students' studies during mobility activities
- Positive evaluation of at least 90% of students and staff on the move
- Use of at least 80% of the funds allocated in each mobility project

2. Development of innovative programs through collaboration with other universities, industries and stakeholders

- Participation in at least 15 innovation partnerships or the exchange of good practices
- Participation in at least one European Universities project
- Participation in KA2 projects with at least 5 different non-European countries
- Development of at least 5 new MOOCs or SLPs
- Test of at least 4 new innovative learning technologies / methodologies

3. Innovation in organizational models

- Adoption of the European Student Card for all students
- Internal project management in exclusively digital format

4. Recognition frameworks

- Testing of at least 2 innovative teaching models of training courses / short courses / blended courses
- Definition of at least 2 curricula shared with non-European countries that do not adopt the Bologna process

Monitoring

The Quality Assurance Body has the task of monitoring the various activities of the University. It will also monitor annually the progress of the activities within the Erasmus + Program, to identify the progress made in relation to the final objectives, identify any deviations from the planned trends and define any corrective actions.

Timeline

Some targets / indicators provide for an annual performance (e.g. Positive evaluation of at least 90% of students and staff on the move): in such cases, a timeline for achieving results is not defined, but an annual performance monitoring.

Other targets include a final goal (e.g. participation in at least 15 partnerships for innovation or the exchange of good practices): in such cases, apart from the annual monitoring, the University's Quality Assurance Body consider as acceptable milestone that by 2024 50% of the final performance is reached. After the annual monitoring, the University's Quality Assurance Body can evaluate whether to define a more accurate timeline for certain indicators, in order to have a more detailed watching.