

The International Telematic University UNINETTUNO redoubled matriculations since 2008 and stands as reference model for e-learning international quality standards in Europe.

At the “The Challenges of Quality in e-Learning Universities” Conference that will be held on the 11th December 2009 in the premises of the Conference of the Rectors of the Italian Universities of Rome, the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO as an example of excellence in Europe.

In Europe the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO is considered as a reference model as it regards distance teaching processes: the upward trend of the latest matriculations shows a 100% increase of new matriculations dating from the 30th November 2008. This growth in enrolments results from the overall quality of the services that the UTIU offers to the students and that have given rise to a favourable grapevine that can be found in the blogs and forums of the enrolled students and of young people who exchange information about universities on the Web.

UNINETTUNO is deeply engaged in assuring the quality of its educational model by means of a continuous control over the training pathways delivered and over learning progress. Moreover, the international scope of the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO is keeping on growing: apart from the many academic agreements with several universities worldwide, every year the UTIU sees the amount of its enrolled students, coming from 34 countries of the world, growing (see enclosure).

In the framework of the “The Challenges of Quality in e-Learning Universities” Seminar that will be held on the 11th December 2009, in the premises of the Conference of the Rectors of the Italian Universities, Piazza Rondanini, 48, Rome, the results of the E-xcellence+, a project funded by the European Commission, which contributed to identify the assessment criteria and quality standards of the distance teaching system and of e-learning to be adopted at European level, will be illustrated.

This project, that involved the best European distance teaching universities and among them the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO (the only Italian distance teaching university that is member of the Association of Distance Teaching Universities, EADTU, as well as of the global board, ICDE – International Council for Open and Distance Education), allowed to lead the way for integrating e-learning quality assessment parameters at European level and to highlight the fact that distance teaching is and can be a synonym for quality in education when we follow the best practices that get established at international level. Practices that the European Universities identified in the psycho-pedagogic model adopted by the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO, born from the results of many years of research work conducted by the Rector, Prof. Maria Amata Garito and by her assistants. **The model adopted enabled to realise the first portal in the world (<http://www.uninettunouniversity.net>) where, in the didactic cyberspace, teaching and learning are carried out in 4 languages (Italian, Arabic, English and French) and where the students’ learning processes are supported by computer-based networks and in an interactive way by expert teachers/tutors.**

In the last year, thanks to this model, matriculations redoubled and over 85% of the students who enrolled in 2006 (during the experimental phase) have already successfully completed their studies almost succeeding in fully overcoming the problem of giving up studies occurring in traditional universities.

Among the participants in the conference there will be experts of quality assessment of e-learning and of both traditional and distance universities: Dr. Piet Henderikx, Secretary General of EADTU, Prof. George Ubachs, Manager of E-xcellence+ Project, Prof. Luigi Biggeri, President of the Italian National Council for the Evaluation of the University System, the Lawyer Daniela Salmi, President of the Board of Evaluation of the UTIU and Prof. Prof. Joost Lowyck, Professor at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. The Conference will be chaired by the Rector, Prof. Maria Amata Garito.

The Challenges of Quality in e-Learning Universities

At Fondazione CRUI – Conference of the Rector of the Italian Universities,
Piazza Rondanini, 48. Rome (Italy)

11 December 2009

- 10:00 -10:15 Welcome and opening address
The Challenges for Assessing Quality in Distance Universities in Europe and Worldwide
M.A. Garito – Rector of the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO (UTIU)
- 10:15 -10:30 *A European Model for Quality Assessment in Distance Universities and in e-Learning*
P. Henderikx – Secretary General of the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU)
- 10:30 -11:00 *The European Assessment Criteria in Distance Teaching Systems and in e-Learning developed for the European Commission in the framework of the E-xcellence+ Project*
G. Ubachs – Director of the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU)
- 11:00 - 11:30 **L. Biggeri** – President of the National Committee for the Evaluation of the Italian University System (CNVSU - Consiglio Nazionale per la Valutazione del Sistema Universitario)
- 11:30 -12:15 *Case Study on the Application of the Assessment Tool developed in the framework of the E-xcellence+ Project applied to the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO (UTIU)*
D. Salmi – President of the University Board of Evaluation
- 12:15 -13:00 *Discussion with the participants*
- 13:00 -13:15 *Conclusions and final remarks*
J. Lowyck – Professor of Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
- 13:15 *Lunch*