

PRESS RELEASE

On October the 26th 2008 an important agreement will be signed in Cairo between the first Egyptian E-Learning University (EELU) and the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO (UTIU) in the presence of the President of the Italian Republic Giorgio Napolitano.

According to Rector Garito: "For the first time Egypt establishes a distance University on Internet. A cultural operation that allows for democratising the access to knowledge and that paves the way for dialogue among the new generations of Europe and of the Arab World".

Cairo, 26th October 2008 – Studying in one's own country and getting a study title recognised in Egypt, in Europe and in Italy: a dream that comes true for many students thanks to an agreement that will be signed on October the 26th at the Egyptian Museum in the presence of Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Italian Republic, and of Minister Helal, Egyptian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, by Prof. Maria Amata Garito, Rector of the UTIU, and by Prof. Yasser Hisham Dakroury, Rector of the EELU.

For the first time, Egypt establishes a distance University on Internet and democratises the access to knowledge. A political and cultural shift of worldwide importance which has as partner of this new model of university allowing the access to education to thousands of Arab and European young people, an Italian University: the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO.

Both telematic universities will jointly implement degree courses, master's programmes and high-level education and vocational training courses. These Universities will share curricula, study programmes and teaching methods. The best Italian, Egyptian, European and Arab teachers will be involved in the project. UTIU and EELU will issue degrees officially acknowledged in Italy, Europe, Egypt and in the Arab World. The UTIU's website www.uninettunouniversity.net will be used to start the activities; it is the first website worldwide where teaching and learning are delivered in four languages: Italian, French, English and Arabic.

This important result was achieved thanks to the work that the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO has been carrying out over the last 5 years together with more than 30 traditional universities belonging to the Euro-Mediterranean area: Algeria, France, Egypt, Jordan, Greece, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey. In these universities UTIU's Technological Poles have been set up and in particular, together with the

Helwan University in Cairo and the Don Bosco Institute, distance courses for 150 students have been implemented. *”Thanks to this agreement the two Universities have jointly created not only a technological network, but a network of people, of intelligences able to share their knowledge. Thanks to the new technologies, to the actual mobility of teachers and students is added to the mobility of ideas; frontiers are crossed, culture and knowledge are internationalised, the new generations are trained for the skills required by the global market of labour and are helped to understand and respect different cultures as well.”* (Maria Amata Garito)