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■ **UNINETTUNO** / The International telematic university points on innovation and internationalization

The present anticipating the future

It prides itself for having the first portal in world where teaching and learning are carried on in six languages

The student is the focus of the training process: it is really so and not just a slogan. The teacher becomes a tutor-facilitator of the learning process: in reality and not just in their intentions. Even as for its training model, the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO was able to innovate, since the very beginning. Its strong points are innovation (research and development), the above-mentioned psycho-pedagogic model and its

relationships with traditional universities. UNINETTUNO has always distinguished itself for its international research activities. The results of its research projects allowed it to build the theoretical foundations on which to design the psycho-pedagogic model of the cyberspace of UNINETTUNO portal, to identify new languages, new methodologies and new models of assessment to deliver courses on television and on the Internet.

Today, its portal, www.uninettunouniversity.net, is the first portal in the world where teaching and learning are carried on in six languages (Italian, English, French, Arabic, Greek and Polish) and allows to access all teaching materials (full courses including video lessons for all disciplines linked to handbooks, practice work, virtual laboratories) and therefore to attend the



Una lezione tenuta su Second Life

courses of the Faculties of Economics, Law, Engineering, Literature, Psychology, Communication Sciences and several master's courses on the Internet from anywhere in the world, with no more limits of space and time.

UNINETTUNO students come from 60 different countries of the world. The approach they adopted proved to be winning. Just consider that this year the amount of enrolled students increased compared with those of last year and, among these, the number of foreigners and youths that enrolled in the university for the first time grew up as well. If, up to some years ago, 80% of freshmen was represented by working students, today an ever increasing rate is represented by young neo-graduates who are looking for innovating features in terms of university teaching and learning process methodologies. "Our aim – the Rector, Prof. Maria Amata Garito, explains – has always been that of developing research work on new technologies and on new teaching methodologies to be ready to apply their results in our distance teaching and learning activities. We have been the first ones in the world to test the Internet via satellite and to digitise the video lessons on the Internet; already in 1998, as a trial, with Consorzio NETTUNO, and thanks to some international research projects, such as Giotto (Open and Distance

Learning for Cultural Assets) and Hermes-Giotto (High Transfer Rate Medicine and Education Services by Satellite), we digitised many video lessons and we were the first ones in Europe to create a television network of our own, RAI NETTUNO SAT on satellite, that has been airing lectures since 20 years, thus democratising the access to knowledge". At present, we are working, the Rector continues: "on the realisation of the 3D virtual university. To this end, we made a trial realisation of the campus of our university on Second Life and, for some courses, teachers and students, who come from different places in world, created their own avatars and interact in virtual classrooms jointly developing collaborative learning". In the engineering faculties two very innovative international research projects are going on: Jem-Euso (in cooperation with the Japanese Space Agency, NASA, INFN etc.) to implement a facility for the study of earthquakes from the space on the International Space Station and Limadou-Volta for the Italian-Chinese satellite, CSES. The researchers of UNINETTUNO site in Rome work with research laboratories located in China, Japan and in the U.S. through computer-networks. This year UNINETTUNO implemented a second-cycle degree course in Cognitive Processes and Technologies aimed at

creating the competences linked to the use of the Internet to meet the demands of the current labour world. These studies deal with the various aspects of the relationship between psyche and technology: psycho-social processes and networked relationships, cognitive processes and technologies, human-computer interaction, developmental psychology and technologies. UNINETTUNO is the only Italian university that is member of the portal OpenupEd in which the best MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are available. This portal was realised by the EADTU (European Association of Distance Teaching Universities) of which UNINETTUNO is the only Italian member. UNINETTUNO video courses are also available on the MOOCs portal of Open Education Europa (www.openeducationeuropa.eu), an initiative recently launched by the European Commission. At present, UNINETTUNO assets, including nearly 50,000 hours of video lessons and over 1,800,000 pages of training materials linked to the contents of the video lessons, representing the largest digitalised collection of academic contents, were realised by pre-eminent lecturers coming from Italian and foreign traditional universities.