

Proposal for Cooperation

Establishment of an International Consortium on Digital and Telematic Distance Education

Virtual **University**



Synopsis

As it is mentioned in our profile in the framework of establishing global education networks and promote higher education we are in constant seek of people who share our passion for the promotion of education and knowledge.

Our Institution is successfully putting to practice innovative ideas and perspectives in the numerous fields of education. The Educational Organization Atheneum – Liberal Studies was developed in order to offer to students around the world a variety of unique educational programs that can attend in their own countries The Organization uses the most modern learning methods through educational platforms and portals with online assistance and has received an ISO 9001:2008 accreditation for the quality of its services.

In this framework, we are proposing to establish with your Institution an **International Consortium on Digital and Telematic Distance Education** that will also accommodate life - long learning and continuous education. It can start by the gradual offering of specific postgraduate programs and it will operate at a parallel level with the traditional teaching method of the University. It aims to supplement and not to substitute the existing educational structures. Our proposed Methodology is based on a 3 Pillar System of **synchronous** and **asynchronous** distant learning education which is composed of:

1. **The Learning Environment via the Internet by using an innovative and original e-learning platform which supports video lessons, live video conferences, virtual libraries and labs**
2. **The Digital Virtual Teaching in Second Life**
3. **The Development of a WEB EDU TV and of a Digital Multilingual Satellite TV Channel**

The implementation of the project could be realised in three stages from 2012 to 2016 as they are described in detail in the relevant section of the Proposal.

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CERTIFICATE

The certification Body
EQA HELLAS
certifies that

ATHENEUM LIBERAL STUDIES

52, FILOLAOU Str., GR 116 33 ATHENS

has established and applies a Quality Management System which is in conformance with

ELOT EN ISO 9001:2008
(Quality Management System)

DISTANT LEARNING, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
(E - LEARNING) - TELEMATICS & THROUGH EDUCATIONAL TV

FOR THE COMPANY
CHARALAMBOS GALATSANOS

This Certificate of Conformity Number **QMS 2931.2/11** first issued on the **15th April 2011** is valid until the **26th January 2012** and is subject to all applicable regulations within the accredited scope of EQA Hellas S.A. and under the condition of the issuing CB conducting required annual surveillance assessment visits.



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*Το παρόν έγγραφο παρέχεται για να αποδείξει το επίπεδο πιστότητας των συστημάτων πιστοποίησης.



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The Consortium

The global developments and the contemporary international setting dictate more than ever the reorientation of the existing educational structures and the creation of new ones, in order to face the new challenges that countries and students are facing.

The formulation and development of a new educational structure and mode, such as the proposed Consortium, comes to fill this gap. This new educational organisation based on the latest developments that technology currently offers will create solutions for making distance learning and e-learning more popular and applicable.

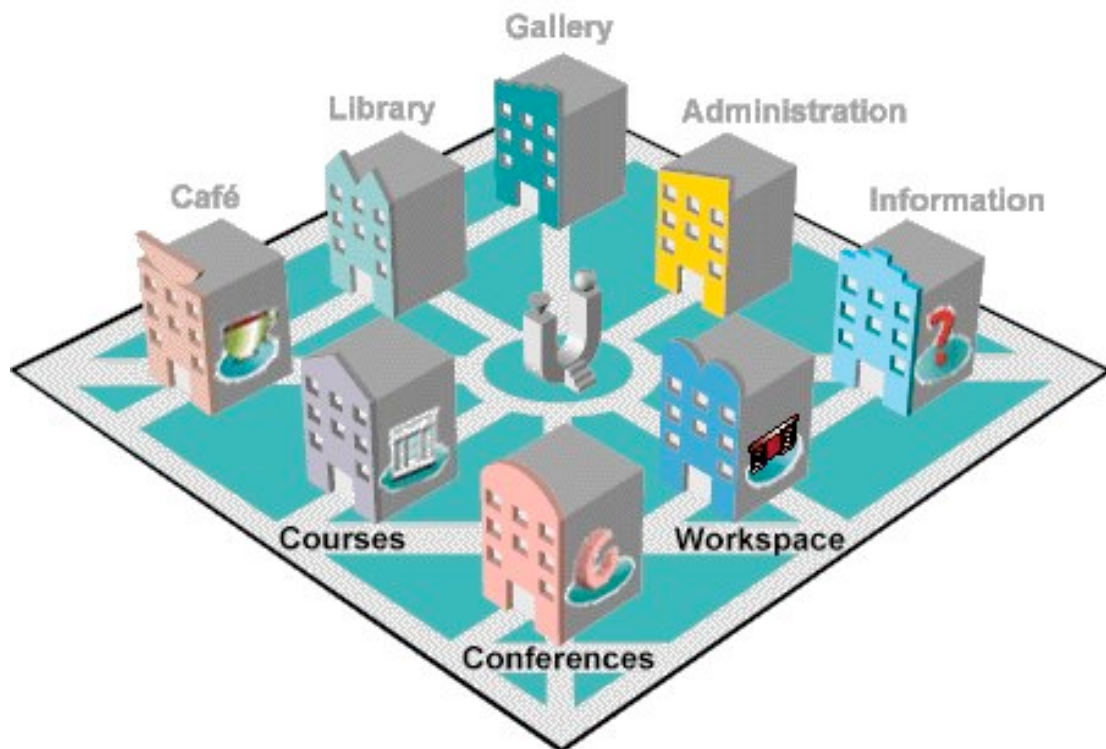
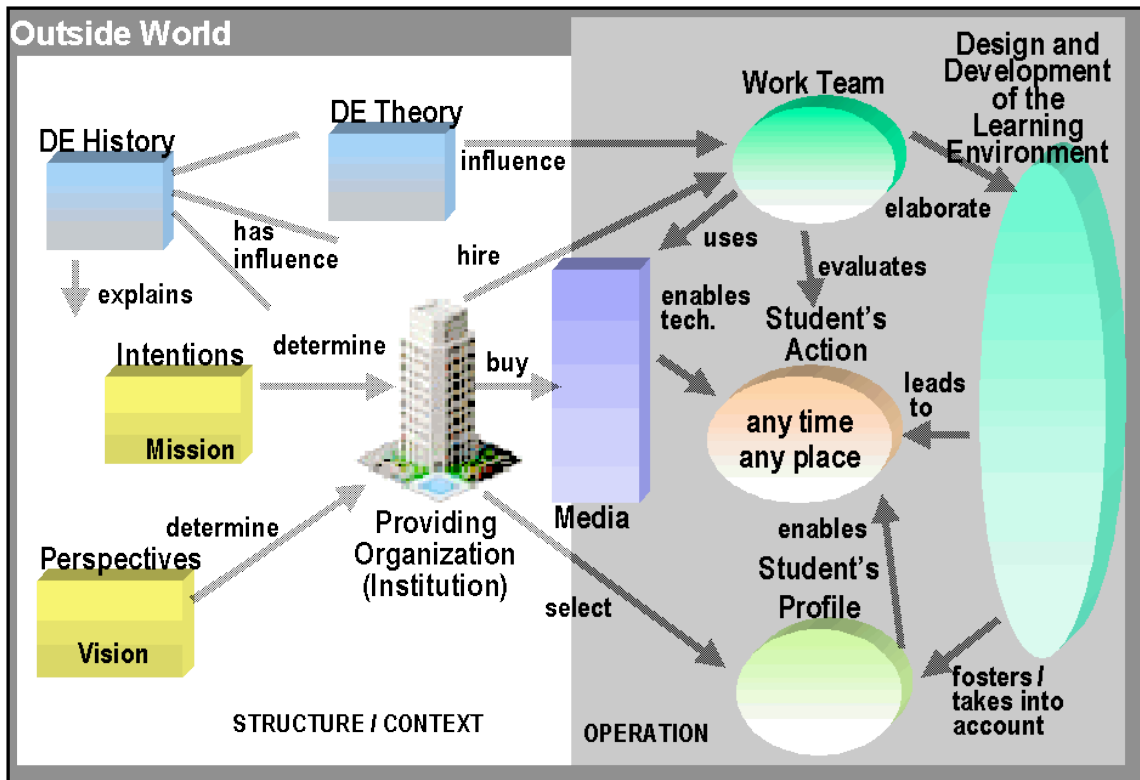
In this framework, we are proposing to establish with your Institution an **International Consortium on Digital and Telematic Distance Education** that will also accommodate life - long learning and continuous education. It can start by the gradual offering of specific postgraduate programs and it will operate at a parallel level with the traditional teaching method of the University. It aims to supplement and not to substitute the existing educational structures.

The methodology of Consortium's educational services is based on the latest telematic applications on distant education and e-learning whereas, it constitutes a combination of internet and television use.

The methodology uses also all the current innovative technological educational tools such as virtual learning via **Second Life**: <http://secondlife.com> (for example: mms://83.221.120.201/streaming/mediagallery/2ndlife/2ndlifeUni_1.wmv).

A Model of Virtual University

© Stein 1999



Implementation Stages

The Consortium could be realised in 3 stages starting in September 2011.

In the first stage (2012 – 2013 / 12 months) it is proposed: the gradual offering of specific postgraduate programs of the University that will operate at a parallel level with those offered with the traditional vis-à-vis teaching method.



In this framework, other Universities could participate in the Consortium as well, either from the country or from Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

All the Educational Programs will be joined around the Consortium with students study via the distant learning route and upon successful completion of their studies they will receive their diploma directly from the University. If other institutions participate the Consortium will offer their programs on their behalf as it was the case in Italy:

<http://www.consorzionettuno.it/nettuno/english/istituzionali/info.html>

and

http://www.consorzionettuno.it/mednetu/e/skins/mednetu/home/index_1024.asp

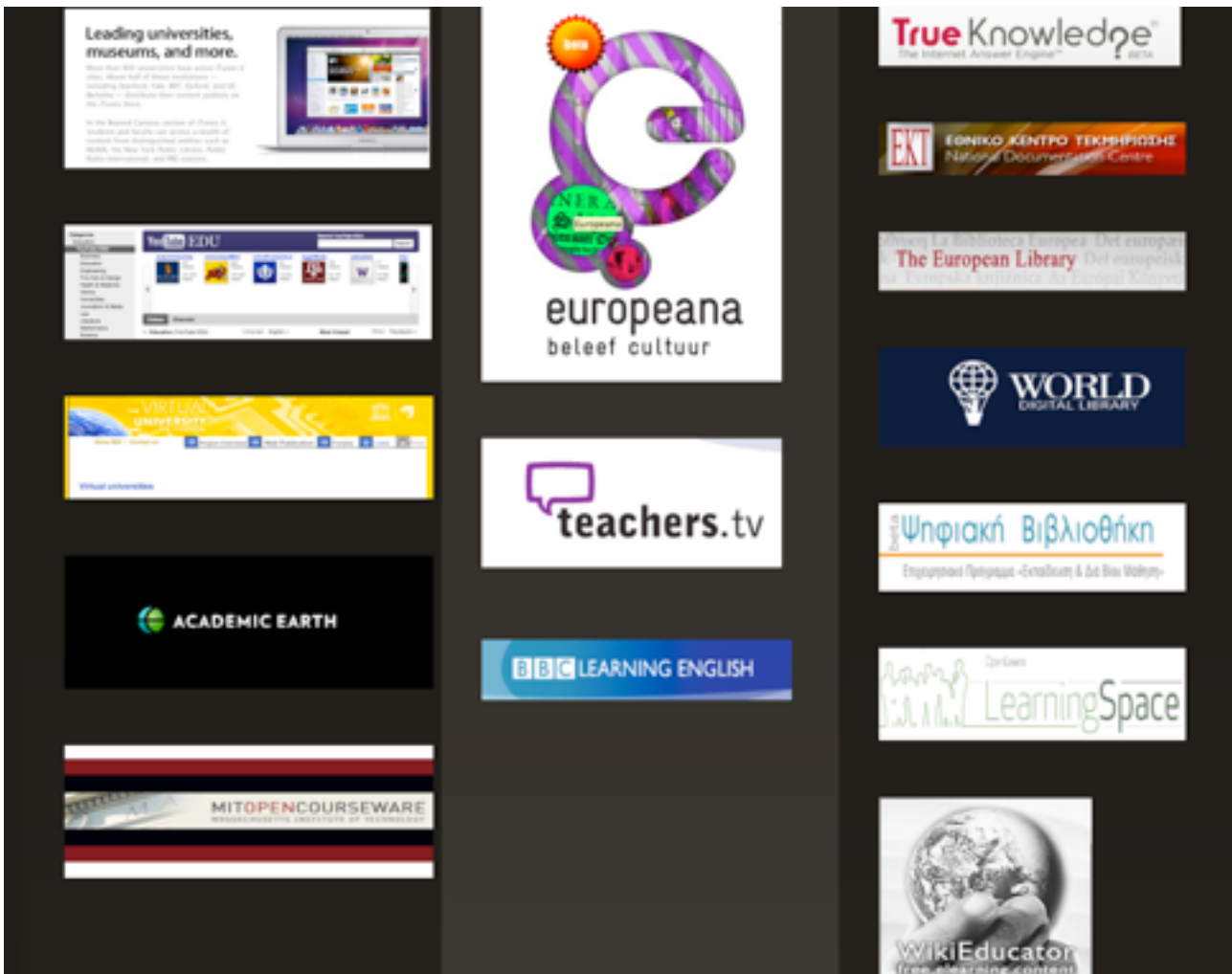
In any case, Universities will have the complete control of all the academic issues and evaluation.

Students could register completely via the internet, study at home, at their own time by using the innovative e-learning platform without having to stop their other personal or professional activities.

On a second and supplementary level, in a special web portal which will be created, students will have access to a variety of free web resources (**Open Knowledge Resources**) that will include academic lectures, electronic libraries, museums, documentation centers etc., as for example:

<http://www.atheneum.gr/OPEN%20KNOWLEDGE%20RESOURCES.html>

and <http://www.atheneum.edu.gr/> (demo version).



In the **second stage (2013 – 2014 / 12 months)** it is proposed: the increase of the number of the offered programs together with the potential addition of more institutions in the Consortium network, plus the development of new programs for life-long learning and continuous education such as:

- Electronic School for Adults
- Development of certified information technology courses for the *APPLE* 🍏 software as it is the case with Microsoft so far
- Foreign language learning via e-learning
- Special Vocational Courses, for disabled persons, unemployed people, and specific ethnic groups
- Development of a Digital Education Community under the symbolic name of "**IT**" (a form of an “educational facebook”)
- Special programs for nationals abroad
- Professional Seminars (for example a course on WEB TV)
- Creation of the first educational web channel initially via a WEB EDU TV which will include, apart from the transmission of the video lessons, other programs as well such as documentaries, cultural programs etc. as for example:
mms://streaming.uninettuno.it/streaming/mediagallery/mediag/_Spot_televisione%20della%20Conoscenza_inglese_19_08_10.wmv



In the **third stage (2014 – 2016 / 24 months)** it is proposed:

- The constant strengthening of the activities of the first two stages plus the development and support on new ones for the primary and secondary education
- The use of 3D technology
- The creation of an **INTERACTIVE EDUCATION DIGITAL SATELLITE TV CHANNEL** based to the existing WEB EDU TV
- The development of **SELF ORIENTED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS** - **“EDUCATION ON DEMAND”** where each student "builds" his/ her own studies.
- Transfer of knowledge and provision of services in other countries and organisations **“EDUCATION INTELLIGENCE - SPIN OF KNOWLEDGE”**
- Development of the **International Virtual University** and of the **"Global / International Academic Unit"** together with the drafting of a proposal so that it is adopted universally by UNESCO.

Methodology

Our proposed Methodology is based on a 3 Pillar System which is composed of:

- 1. The Learning Environment via the Internet**
- 2. The Digital Teaching in Second Life**
- 3. The Development of a WEB EDU TV and of a Digital Multilingual Satellite TV Channel**



1. The Learning Environment via the Internet

The main didactic tool is the Internet-based learning environment, through the first original portal in the world where it is possible to teach and learn in multiple languages and accommodates both synchronous and asynchronous e-learning. As regards educational psychology, this results in the implementation of a wholly different educational psychology teaching model, which achieves the following changes in learning dynamics:

- **from teacher-centered to student-centered learning**
- **from the transmission of knowledge to the building of knowledge**
- **from passive and competitive learning to active and collaborative learning**

In this new model proposed by educational psychology, the individual student becomes the centre of the educational process. He or she is guided by a new figure: the telematic teacher/tutor who has the task of facilitating the online learning and communication process through the necessary tools. The students actively participate in the creation of their learning environments. They can thus build on their knowledge individually, instead of passively receiving information.

The approaches to teaching and learning are both synchronic and diachronic There are

video lessons, practice exercises on the Internet (also through virtual laboratories) and distance **tutoring sessions** by video and audio chat. There are also **forums**, and **video conferences**.

Video lessons are broadcasted via the Internet and on the satellite channel which will be created. The video lessons represent the focus of the learning process whereby the student can learn in a hyper-textual way. The digitalized video lessons are characterized by their content modularity, their indexing of the treated topics as well as by their bookmarks and graphic icons. Each video-lesson is divided into topics. This allows them to be exploited in a more versatile and user-friendly way. In fact, it is possible to watch the entire video lesson and/or choose a single topic for in-depth study. The slides that the teacher presented during the video lesson are also available and can be used as study support materials.

Didactic Cyberspace: in the didactic cyberspace, one may find the professor's and the tutor's pages. With these the student can access the "learning objects", or the digitalized video-lessons with bookmarks that provide the students with hyper-textual and multimedia connections to books, bibliographies, texts of exercises and website references selected by the teachers.

Distance tutoring: The online tutoring is organized in classes, with an advanced Agenda system that can recognize the single user, thus making it possible to customize functions and choose particular appointments of interest. This system involves a higher interactivity between the telematic teacher/tutor and the user/student through chat rooms, audio and video chat rooms, forums and video conferences.

Virtual Classroom: This is the 'environment' where direct interaction between teachers, students and tutors takes place. In the virtual classroom, students use interactive tools, complete practice exercises and take intermediate evaluation tests. Here the students can talk and learn in a cooperative and collaborative way. Through forum and chat rooms, knowledge can be transmitted and ideas exchanged in a way that encourages effective learning. There is a continuous flow of interrelations that result from cultural exchanges

and the comparison of ideas between teachers, tutors and students from various parts of the world.

The System of Telematic Education - Development of an Innovative and Original Educational Platform



Proposed sub-systems supported per module:

- Announcements
- Documents and Educational Material
- Videos
- Live Teleconference
- Assignments - Exercises
- Module Description
- Archive Exchange
- Calendar
- Forum
- Chat
- Pages
- Wiki

Administrative Tools:

1. Module Management
2. Users' Administration
3. Statistics and Monitoring of Activity and Progress

2. The Digital Teaching in Second Life

The Consortium will develop, on a parallel and supplementary basis via Second Life (www.secondlife.com), a special virtual educational environment, which is unique in the world (**3D – Virtual Classroom**).

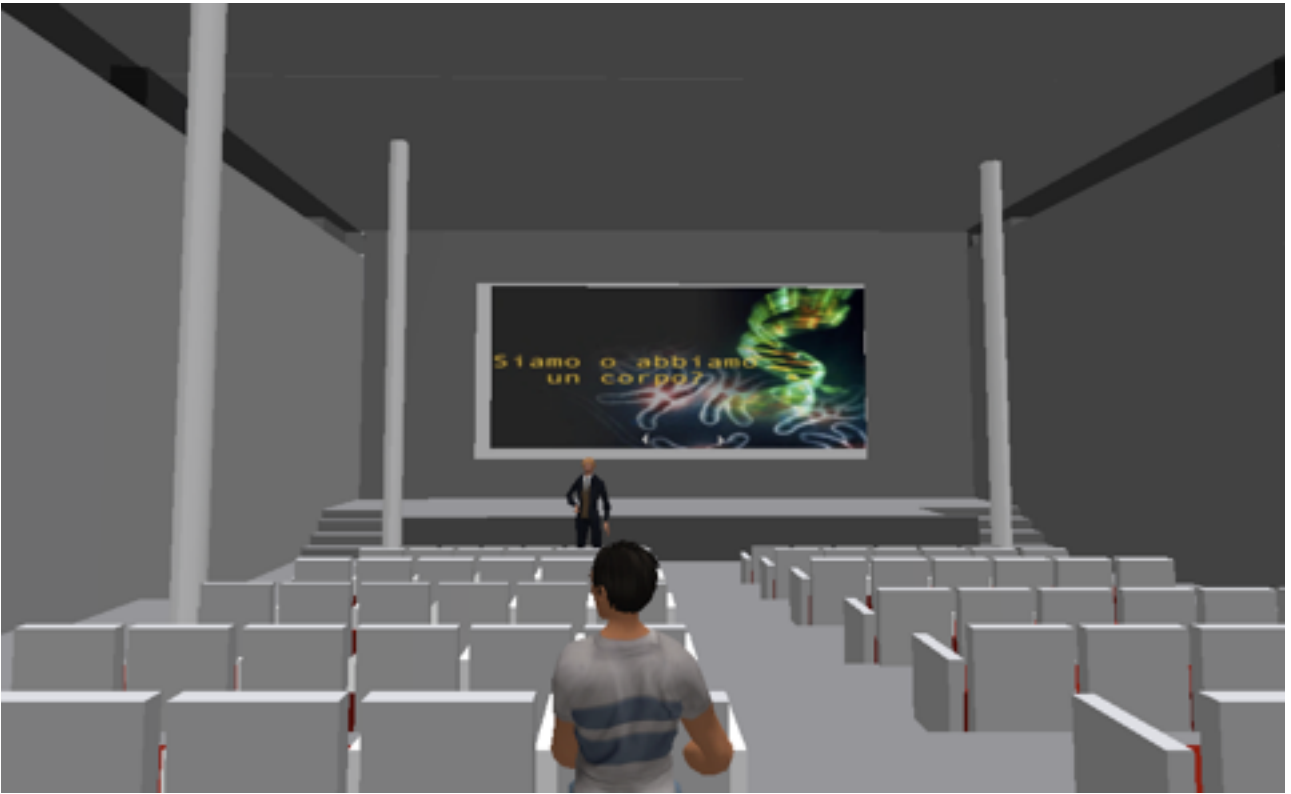


Students attend the lectures ONLINE by creating their personal digital *avatar* wherever they are whereas, via the interactive communication they could also participate in the process by making remarks or ask questions simply by using a microphone. The same application could also be used for disabled persons and for many other alternative uses.

Education through Second Life could also be applied apart from higher education to primary and secondary education as well serving remote areas or sick students that have to stay at home. All lessons in primary and high schools could be digitally prepared and pre-recorded so that they could be offered via Second Life at any time via the internet or from a hard disk.

The International Telematic University UNINETTUNO and many other prestigious universities as Harvard University and Imperial College London have adopted in their educational methodology digital teaching and learning via Second Life.





The Virtual Lecture Rooms of Harvard University



The Digital Hospital of the Medical School of Imperial College London

Imperial College
London

Imperial College
London

Virtual Hospital - Second Life

Sign Out



Copyright © Imperial College London



Teaching Simulation



3. The Development of a WEB EDU TV and of a Digital Multilingual Satellite TV Channel

The third Methodological Tool includes the development of a Digital Multilingual Satellite Education TV Channel, which will start operating firstly via the internet as a WEB EDU TV portal.

It will also include cultural and general education programs apart from the lectures and courses videos. Access could be free of charge in both the WEB EDU TV and the Digital Multilingual Satellite Education TV Channel (DIGITAL EDU TV).

The Example of the Italian Educational RAI WEB TV:



<http://www.educational.rai.it/>

The Example of the Educational WEB TV of the International Telematic University - UNINETTUNO



<http://www.uninettuno.tv/>



Additionally, all lectures / courses will be recorded with the newest 3D technology so that they could be transmitted in 3D as well when this technology becomes popular and universally applicable.



Financing

For the realization of the 1st stage the main resources that are necessary are mainly non financial. This stage will be developed by our existing high-level expertise, namely: methodological expertise, spin of knowledge, and skilled human capital. In this framework, the Consortium could use relevant technological equipment and facilities of our institutions that are already in operation (educational platform, servers, IT support). The initial required cash flow could be provided by sponsoring, governmental funding, advertising or private financing.

Upon the start of its operation the Consortium would be completely self -financed through the symbolic and non-profit tuition fees it will charge to students. On a parallel level it could also provide its unique services to other institutions, governmental and non governmental organisations and the private sector.

The following two stages would also be self -financed whereas, funding could also be sought through European Union's programmes and initiatives. The Satellite TV Channel will have a different institutional status and a different budget. A detailed 5-year financial plan will be drafted and discussed at a later stage.

For the realization of the project we must take into consideration the following variables that will also determine the plan and course of action that we will follow:

1. We are aiming to domestic population but also to the neighboring countries
2. All the educational programs will be prepared for offering through a variety of technology means (television, Internet , DVD). In this way we guarantee access for all and they only have to be recorded once.
3. Propose an innovative methodology so as to give the chance for collaboration with other Universities.
4. The investment which is required is more expertise oriented than financial.
5. There are a lot of affiliated projects that are also attached to these proposals and will pave the way for further cooperation. For instance, the offering of a highly specialized WEB TV training program that could be realized in cooperation with domestic TV networks.

Plan Preparation

Before we jointly formulate and finalize the methodology what we suggest is to make a study case of what the country offer and what the country, and the neighboring countries, need. We need to know for example:

- Level of education of people
- How many university courses run in the country
- What are the main languages that people talk
- What are the main languages that university uses
- How many potential students there are in the country and how many are registered every year
- What kind of TV broadcasting exists in the broader geographic area: analog / digital / or satellite
- Possibility of creating an educational channel
- How many people have personal computers
- How many computer users are also internet users
- What is the cost of computer and TV equipment
- What type of internet communication it is offered in the country (PSTN / ISDN/ADSL/adsl by satellite)
- ADSL speed (512, 1000, 2000, 4000 or 20000 kb....)
- Use of fiber optics

These are some of the indicative questions that should be answered before we finalize the methodology of study.

*(We want to avoid what happened to Morocco where they wanted to teach at a huge number of population how to read and write and they prepared multimedia lessons in DVDs The result was not satisfactory because nobody noticed that someone that does not know how to write and read does not use or have a computer, whereas **nearly everybody has a Television set and this is why we have incorporated the use of TV in our methodology**).*

The Case Study of the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO



(The Institution could also participate in the Consortium)

<http://www.uninettunouniversity.net>

mms://streaming.uninettuno.it/streaming/mediagallery/mediag/promo_ING_UTIU_mix.wmv



The International Telematic University UNINETTUNO is a single institution conceived on a grand scale. At UNINETTUNO, prestigious professors from the most important universities of the world teach courses in various languages in both real classrooms and

virtual ones on the Internet.

How it is organised

The University structure includes an International Centre, Faculties, Degrees and Technological Centres. The Technological Centres, located both in Italy and abroad, are facilities available to students. These are equipped with all of the technology necessary to follow the courses at a distance. As a result, the students can take part in didactic activities by videoconference. These locations constitute an actual meeting point for students, teachers and tutors. This makes face-to-face exams, and seminars possible.

The administrative bodies are the Board of Directors, the President, the Rector, the Academic Senate, the Faculty Councils, the Evaluation Team and the Board of Auditors.

The screenshot displays the homepage of the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO. At the top, a blue navigation bar contains the following menu items: INFORMATION, EDUCATIONAL OFFERS, STUDENT SECRETARIAT, WEB-BASED DIDACTICS, RESEARCH AREA, COMMUNICATION AREA, and VIRTUAL LIBRARY. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image showing a group of people sitting on a beach, with the UTU logo and name 'UNIVERSITÀ TELEMATICA INTERNAZIONALE UNINETTUNO' overlaid. A search bar and language selection buttons (ITA, ENG, FRA, العربية) are located below the banner. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'NOTICES:' with a list of links such as 'Rector's Letter to the students' and 'Enrol in Uninettuno - Academic Year 2009/2010'; 'LAST NEWS:' with several news items including '16/12/2009 - 16/12/2009 - A dream come true' and '11/12/2009 - All the "The Challenges of Quality in e-Learning Universities" Conference'; and 'CONTENUTI:' with a video player and a list of content items like '11 December 2009 - Conference "The Challenges of Quality in e-Learning Universities"'. At the bottom, a footer contains contact information and design credits.

How to study

The main didactic tool is the Internet-based learning environment www.uninettunouniversity.net, the first portal in the world where it is possible to teach and learn in five languages – Arabic, French, English, Italian and Spanish.

Who our teachers are

The lectures in the courses that the university offers are taught by professors who come from the prestigious Universities of the world as well as by researchers and high level experts.

How to obtain a degree

The final exams of every subject for a selected course of study are carried out face-to-face, following a prearranged schedule, as set by the headquarters or the branch seats of the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO. Educational university credits, studies carried out previously and the corresponding credits gained abroad, are officially taken into account.

What you can study

The University is authorized to issue academic titles that are legally recognized in Italy and abroad related to: first level degrees, specialist degrees, master's degrees and research doctorates.

In the academic year 2009-2010, six faculties for three-year degrees are active:

Economics Faculty

Economics and Business Management (Class 17)

Management of touristic enterprises (Class 17)

Law Faculty

Legal Expert in Business Development and Internationalization of Enterprises (Class 2).

Engineering Faculty

Civil and Environmental Engineering - D.M. 270/2004(Class L-7) Civil Engineering - D.M.

509/99(Class 8)

Computer Engineering (Class 9)

Management Engineering (Class 10)

Literature Faculty

Cultural Assets Operator (Class 13)

Psychology Faculty

Psychosocial Studies - D.M. 270/2004 (Class L-24)

Psychosocial Studies D.M. 509/99(Class 34)

Communication Science Faculty

Communication, Media and Advertising - D.M. 270/2004 (Class L-20)

How to enroll

The student can matriculate and enroll entirely via the Internet by paying his fees by credit card or bank transfer. For this registration, it is necessary to provide an e-mail address. The online administration form manages all the administrative activities. These include the booking of exams, degree enrolments and certificate requests both in video and printable versions. The cost of the university fees is 2.000 euros. The first installment of 1.000 euros must be paid at the moment of the matriculation. The Secretariat will confirm the enrolment with an e-mail containing the matriculation number, User ID and Password.

The University without Frontiers

The International Telematic University UNINETTUNO is a distance university without distances.

All citizens in the world can have access to knowledge without any space, time or geographic limits.

Distances are no longer an obstacle. Thanks to this new technology, the production and dissemination of knowledge can take place through collaboration with the best Universities of the world. The International Telematic University UNINETTUNO was born precisely with this spirit in mind. Students can broaden the scope of their knowledge, study and learn about different cultures. In this way, they can expand on their learning experience in a productive and cooperative way. We arrived at such an ambitious project by a series of

steps.

As a result of the first step, due to the success of the telematic didactic system of the Consorzio NETTUNO - Network per l'Università Ovunque, thousands of Italian and foreign students have obtained a degree by using modern technology (satellite television and Internet also via satellite), so gaining a qualification directly from the Consortium's Italian university members. Thanks to the second step, with the international success of the Med Net'U (Mediterranean Network of Universities) Project, funded by the European Community as part of the Eumedis Programme, a network was established among 31 partners of 11 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area. With the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO, the Universities of the different countries are now jointly creating network of shared knowledge

“To the physical mobility of professors and students, and thanks to the use of new technology, is added the mobility of ideas. Frontiers are overcome...and culture assumes an international dimension.

Universities move under open skies, without frontiers, and they establish new balances between unity and diversity. Unity of values and traditions bequeathed us by memory combines with cultural and linguistic diversity not only to disseminate new knowledge, but to create new values as well.” (M. A. Garito)

The leap in quality is evident: no longer from the teaching faculty to the student's desk at home, but from one's own computer to world's top universities.

