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Academic Highlights

EVOLUTION OF DIGITAL EDUCATION IN ITALY

Twenty Years of Guglielmo Marconi University

Twenty years ago, Guglielmo Marconi University was established as the first Italian institution fully dedicated to digital education, anticipating a trend that, two decades later, became central to the global education debate.

Over these years, the university's educational offer, constantly updated to meet the demands of the job market, have prepared generations of students to effectively integrate into the contemporary professional landscape.



The expansion of the university in the past three years is evidenced not only by the increase in the number of enrolled students, which today exceeds 20,000, but also by the broadening of its educational offer into new areas. UniMarconi has consistently committed to making higher education more inclusive and accessible, also thanks to affordable tuition fees.

“UniMarconi looks to the future with a solid grounding in the present,” said the Rector Marco Abate, “Our mission, as a nonprofit university, is to offer high-quality higher education to all those who, for any reason, cannot access traditional universities, through innovative teaching tools and continuous attention to students’ needs, while also developing cutting-edge research with the impact on sustainability and inclusion in the territory.”

The international orientation pursued by Guglielmo Marconi University has also been very significant. The university has extended its influence well beyond Italian borders, reaching territories such as Africa and South America. These projects reflect an educational ambition that goes beyond mere knowledge transmission, aiming to establish a cultural and professional dialogue that values diversity and promotes Italian language and culture worldwide. This international openness not only enriches the experience of both Italian and foreign students, but has also fostered the development of transnational educational partnerships.

In an era characterized by rapid technological changes and a growing need for advanced digital skills, the example of Guglielmo Marconi University underscores the importance of adapting teaching methods to the new realities.

ADVANCING DATA PROTECTION AND CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION IN MOZAMBIQUE AND SOUTH AFRICA

In April 2024 Unimarconi team flew to Maputo, Mozambique to attend the KoM of the Erasmus+ CBHE project "A Modular Higher Education System in Data Protection and Cybersecurity for Supporting the Digital Transformation in Mozambique and South Africa (ProCyD)".

The digital transformation is a challenge that all countries around the world must face. Developing countries such as Mozambique as well as emerging countries such as South Africa can particularly benefit from the upcoming changes: digitalisation can be a successful accelerator to escape the poverty trap and reduce the gap between rich and poor. But it can also have the opposite effect and increase poverty and inequality. Above all, however, the handling of data protection and data security issues is not clarified here in many places.

The envisioned goal of ProCyD is the introduction or strengthening of data protection and cybersecurity into higher education in order to support the digital transformation in Mozambique and South Africa.

The project aims to support the people, the economy, civil society, academia, and political decision-makers of the partner countries in taking advantage of the opportunities of digital transformation, and mastering competent risks. With a modular system of courses for students and lecturers of the partner universities, the project wants to make a significant contribution here in a pilot study. The plan is to design and implement a basic course on "Data Protection and Data Security", which can be offered to all students at the partner universities, and which also lays the foundation for differentiated courses in special fields of study, such as journalism or computer science. In addition, new study programmes at the master's level will be developed.

The master's programme will be tested in a pilot project for about 15 participants, which will include semesters abroad. This will create an initial pool of specialists as well as lecturers, which will ensure the sustainability of the project results.

Digitalisation needs IT security and people who, based on data protection knowledge, can realistically assess the benefits and risks that accompany this transformation.



GUGLIELMO MARCONI UNIVERSITY EXPANDS PRESENCE IN INDIA

Guglielmo Marconi University continues to expand its presence in India through a series of strategic meetings with renowned local university and academic institutions. This initiative aligns with the university's broader strategy to enhance its international footprint and collaborate with leading educational entities worldwide.

UniMarconi's participation as the Main Global Partner at the Edutainment Show 2024 in Mumbai marks a significant milestone in this expansion. The Edutainment Show is the largest event in India dedicated to education in the fields of tech, design, fashion, and media, attracting a diverse audience of students, professionals, and industry stakeholders.

The event provides a critical platform for UniMarconi to strengthen its presence in Asia. By sharing its extensive know-how and innovative educational methodologies, the university aims to engage with a wide range of participants, fostering cross-cultural and professional exchanges.



One of the highlights of UniMarconi's participation was a speech delivered by Arturo Lavalle, Director of Research and Development. Titled "Navigating the Future: The Transformative Power of Digitalization and AI in Education," the speech addressed the pivotal role of digitalization and artificial intelligence in modern education. He emphasized how these technologies are reshaping educational landscapes, making learning more accessible, personalized, and efficient.

The strategic meetings held in India and participation in the Edutainment Show highlight UniMarconi's ongoing efforts to build strong international partnerships and enhance educational collaboration. These endeavors are aimed at fostering an inclusive and innovative educational environment that transcends geographical boundaries.

Through these initiatives, Guglielmo Marconi University continues to demonstrate its leadership in digital education and its commitment to fostering global educational exchanges. By expanding its reach and influence in India, UniMarconi is not only contributing to the advancement of education in one of the world's most dynamic regions but also paving the way for future collaborations and innovations in the global educational arena.

Spotlight on Research

UNIMARCONI TEAM ENGAGES IN UNET PROJECT MEETING AT NTNU

The Unimarconi team participated in the UNET project meeting held from May 13 to 16, 2024, at the prestigious Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). The UNET (University Network on PhD Program in Energy Technology) project is a significant initiative aimed at enhancing taught PhD courses and laboratory capacities in the field of energy technology across Africa.

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, the UNET project addresses a critical need in African higher education: transitioning from purely research-based PhD programmes to taught-based PhD programmes that include mandatory coursework, aligning more closely with EU standards. This shift is anticipated to substantially elevate the quality of research output and facilitate the timely completion of PhD studies.

The UNET project encompasses a consortium of universities working collaboratively to develop comprehensive curricula and improve infrastructure, ensuring that African institutions can offer robust and competitive PhD programmes in energy technology. This reform not only aims to enhance academic rigor but also to produce graduates who are better prepared for both academic and industry roles.

The UNET project meeting at NTNU was a milestone event, bringing together key contributors to review and refine the efforts aimed at revolutionizing energy technology education in Africa. The Unimarconi team's involvement in the quality evaluation process highlights the collaborative spirit and shared vision driving this transformative project.



Glance at the Future

Bridging Innovation and Education: The FinTech Revolution and the Rise of Specialized Higher Education Programs

The FinTech invasive revolution, over the past years, has seen significant innovation. Digital payments have evolved, with a focus on contactless options and mobile wallets. Blockchain and cryptocurrency have gained mainstream attention, expanding beyond digital currencies into areas like DeFi & NFTs. Embedded finance and Banking as a Service (BaaS) have emerged, integrating financial services into non-financial businesses. Robo-advisors and automated investing platforms have grown, offering personalized advice at lower costs. Regulatory Technology solutions have addressed compliance challenges. Financial inclusion initiatives have focused on providing access to underserved populations. Also, there's been a rise in green finance and sustainable investing. These trends reflect ongoing innovation driven by technological advancements, evolving consumer preferences and regulatory changes within the FinTech sector.

Over the past recent years, also the Higher Education offerings in FinTech have experienced significant growth to meet the rising demand driven by the expanding FinTech industry.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Unimarconi had the chance to develop a new Master in FinTech, in the framework of the TRUST project (Erasmus+ CBHE), to answer to the emerging demand of the labour market. TRUST project successfully concluded in January 2024 reaching significant results.

Unimarconi, thanks to the TRUST project, had the chance to develop transnational cooperation with higher education institutions of other EU Member states and third countries, such as the Philippine and Vietnam, with the aim to develop an innovative master in FinTech and to modernise other already existing masters enriching them with FinTech emerging topics.

The master was developed in collaboration with experts of the financial sector and companies, such as Engineering S.p.A., that provided the needed know-how and expertise on FinTech opportunities, real-world practical cases. The master programme includes FinTech emergent contents such as: Blockchain & cryptocurrency, AI & Machine Learning in finance, Big Data, FinTech in the field of banking, insurance & asset management. The programme also includes the entrepreneurial skills. More and more than in the past, the expert of FinTech should have an entrepreneurial mindset, possessing the vision, creativity, and risk-taking ability to identify opportunities, innovate solutions, and launch successful FinTech ventures.

The master was delivered in blended modality (online and face to face) to three Vietnamese and three Philippines universities, involving 613 students enrolled in the e-learning platform. The Philippines and Vietnamese universities also had the chance to modernise other their own 22 masters by updating their contents with specific modules on the FinTech innovation topics.

The professors and other higher education staff of the involved universities were also be equipped with the needed skills on the emergent topics on FinTech focused on Financial Technology Competences (Technologies, emerging FinTech research and models, FinTech market trends), transferable competences (Divergent thinking and innovation, Entrepreneurship, Intercultural competence and educational global professionals), supporting Online Learning Experience (sandbox education, Engaging digital curriculum).

Moreover, the Vietnamese and Philippines universities had the chance to purchase pivotal equipment (hardware and software) needed for the Master in FinTech developing and delivering.

Finally, important collaboration experiences and agreements were established among the project partners by the signing of five Memorandum of Understanding.



GMU Magazine has been released with the contribution of all academic staff and partners around the world, if you wish to contribute highlighting any important news in accordance with the line of the release, please do not hesitate to contact us sending an email to d.chesheva@unimarconi.it