

Press release

Inaugurated Technological Pole of the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO in Erbil, Iraq

UNINETTUNO, UNIDO and the Republic of Iraq for training of Iraqi young entrepreneurs

Thursday, the 19th July 2012 at 11.00 am in Italy (at 9.00 am in Iraq) EDICT– Enterprise Development through Information and Communication Technology, a project funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italian Cooperation to Development and realised in cooperation with UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization), Headquarters in Vienna and the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO, was launched.

The Inauguration Ceremony of UNINETTUNO Technological Pole, established in the Iraqi town of Erbil, in the premises of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, took place on videoconferencing and represents the first step of a path that, for the first time after the war, exploits technology to connect the Iraqi people to Europe to exchange knowledge and spread competences. In Erbil the event saw the participation of representatives of the local business sector, representatives of UNIDO and of the Italian Consulate, of **His Excellency, Sinan Chalabi** – Minister Industry and Trade of Kurdistan, of **His Excellency, Nawzad Hadi** – Governor of Erbil; in Rome there were **His Excellency Saywan Barzani** – Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Italy, **Prof. Maria Amata Garito** – Rector of the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO and professors of UNINETTUNO who took part in the realisation of the project.

The new UNINETTUNO Technological Pole of Erbil will allow to train young Iraqi entrepreneurs by means of the New Information and Communication Technologies envisaging training paths tailored upon business internationalisation needs and on the marketing of products in a globalised scenario. Thanks to this project, Italy will give its contribution to re-establishing Iraq cooperating for the training and competence building of the young people of the Republic of Iraq.

“I thank you for this great opportunity that Italy, UNIDO and UNINETTUNO are offering to our youths through the EDICT Project; now we are directly connected with you and this is for us a very important day after hard times. It is easy to build a factory, however it is very difficult to transfer the competences required to make it work and I am happy that this project has precisely this aim” His Excellency Sinan Chalabi – Minister of Industry and Trade of the Governorate of Kurdistan, said.

“This Technological Pole represents a significant experience for the development of the Iraqi enterprises, but, above all, it represents a virtual window of Iraq on Europe that will help to develop cooperation and bring our cultures closer to each other” His Excellency Saywan Barzani – Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Italy, said.

“The result of two years of joint work allowed to pave a way of communication among our organisations. Today, we start a new era for the future of cooperation with Iraq and with the Governorate of Erbil and with the local universities to help develop the human resources of the country. The Pole of Erbil becomes part network of technologies and people that includes 31 Technological Poles, in the Arab World and in Europe. This project confirms the great value of technologies when they are used with the aim of jointly creating contents, transfer competences and spread knowledge and learning” Prof. Maria Amata Garito – Rector of the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO, said.

UNINETTUNO Technological Pole in Erbil is one of the three ones envisaged by the EDICT Project; the other two ones are located in Bagdad and Thi Qar (Nassirya). For the EDICT Project, UNINETTUNO realised and Internet-based e-Learning platform (<http://edict.uninettuno.org>) devoted to Iraqi students, it designed training paths, realised, in the UNINETTUNO centre in Rome, over 160 hours of videolessons in English and Arabic and the whole supplementary training material for the students; it trained the video teachers that were selected by UNIDO among the best experts in the field in the Arab World and the tutors will support the students along their whole training path; it implemented the technologies required for operating the technological poles and trained technicians and managers in Iraq to assure the fair accomplishment of the functions and distance training activities assuring a constant assistance.

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