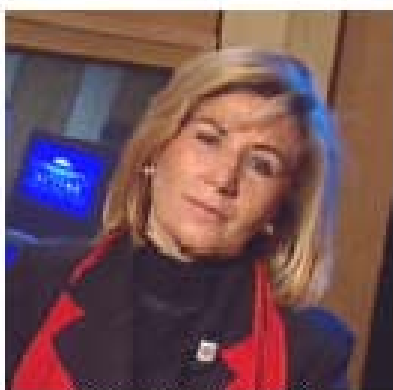


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FOCUS



Maria Amato Garito

LIVIUS : The First Programme Is Underway.

Speaking to *EducationNews*, Maria Amato Garito indicated that the long-distance European university project LIVIUS (Learning In a Virtual Integrated University System) is currently preparing complete long-distance university courses of study, in computer sciences and economics for example. Ms Garito is the director of NETTUNO (*Network per l'Università Ovunque*), an Italian televisual and telecommunications university which heads the project. Two experimental courses on programming

and signal theory, which will be included in engineering telecommunications and computer sciences programmes, are currently being developed in four versions (English, Spanish, Italian and French), explains Jean-Marie Dilhac, professor of electronics and telecommunications at the INSA (National Institute of Applied Sciences) in Toulouse. This project is a collaborative undertaking between INSA and the universities of Cambridge, Barcelona, Rome and Turin. These courses are the first in a series of thirty which will probably constitute a complete 3 year graduate course of study. The two first courses should be available by fall of 2003 as ready-to-use prototypes. Together, the partners constitute a "European centre" for the coordination between long-distance learning and "national centres" which already guarantee the coordination of university activities in their own countries. Further activities include the creation of production centres for satellite or internet multimedia content, as well "technology centres" on the lookout for pedagogically-interesting innovation, such as digital tv or satellite internet. The project LIVIUS brings together traditional universities, distance-learning institutions and companies. The partners include NETTUNO, Giunti Ricerca and Getronics in Italy; the University of Cambridge in the UK; the CNED (National Centre For Distance Learning), the Franco-Italian University, the Toulouse INSA, Eutelsat and Cybel in France; the Open University of Catalonia in Spain, the Technical University of Athens and the Democritos research centre in Greece.

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