

Title of the initiative
E-learning course “Reporting Climate Change”
Idea origin (country) The name the country where the inspired practice came from
Italy
Idea origin (institution) The name the institution where the inspired practice came from
Università Telematica Internazionale UNINETTUNO
Brief description
UNINETTUNO and COPEAM, thanks to the support of the EIB - European Investment Bank, launched the international e-learning course “Reporting Climate Change”. This innovative training opportunity is open to TV, radio and press journalists from the MENA region, the Balkans and the sub-Saharan Africa, and it aims at reinforcing their knowledge and reporting skills about the current sustainable development challenges and the impact of climate change. Several international experts – from the academic, scientific and media sectors – are involved in the course’s modules to deliver video-lessons (available in English, French and Arabic), to talk about case-studies and in-the-field experiences, to provide a rich multimedia supporting material about key-issues such as climate change, water security, energy transition, sustainability, environmental crimes. At the end of the training programme, the participating journalists having completed the course will receive a certificate of completion co-signed by the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO, COPEAM and the European Investment Bank.
Idea focus The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Research implementation ○ Communication of research
Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?
<p>The initiative underlines the value of communicating research. It involves different professionals to stress the relevance of communicating research from several perspectives, and mainstreaming topics such as climate change and related consequences, to allow the wider public to better understand the challenges we face. Scientific communication shall be understood wider than communication between experts, granting access to information to the societies, engaging local communities and the general public into the discussion.</p> <p>Moreover “Reporting climate change” is the only online course about environment and climate related issues delivered in English, Arabic and French. Some on-line webinars are also organized to promote the networking and the exchange of experiences among the beneficiaries.</p>
Relevance of the initiative in its specific context (why was it developed, why is it important in its specific context, what type of change it generated for the target group, relevance at local / national / international)

In the last decade, environmental sustainability and climate change have increasingly become global topical issues. The Mediterranean basin, in particular, is a fragile region exposed to the consequences and the impact of the current ecological challenges. In this context, information media need to be more and more capable to effectively cover these subjects and, at the same time, to raise citizens' awareness about the risks connected to climate change. In addition to this, networking between journalists dealing with scientific and environmental questions, as well as a direct dialogue between experts/scientists and the media professional community can also contribute to a larger and better media narration of the ongoing climate crisis .

In the light of the above, COPEAM/Uninettuno/EIB "Reporting climate change" is an effective training & networking tool for journalists, able to raise awareness, to improve the quality of information and to build a transnational community of specialised journalists.

So far, more than 50 journalists have been trained though this on-line programme, so feeding an international community of information professionals able to properly tackle these issues and deliver to their audience an effective information.

Target Group of the practice

- Academic staff
- Professional Journalists

Impact

How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond

In the specific context of the action, reinforcing the journalists knowledge and reporting skills about the impact of climate change reinforce in turn their capacity to instruct and inform the people on how to react and think correctly about sustainable development challenges. If we look at the practice from a wider perspective, we can consider that training academics, administrative staff, media specialists with the Libyan institutions have the potential to widen communication of research outcomes and engage the wider community in the definition of actions to respond to the environmental challenges, for the benefit of the society.

Transferability of the initiative

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

The full online program is available on the platform 24/7; videolectures are selected from international experts (academic, scientific and media sectors) and are available in three languages (English, French and Arabic).

This kind of model can be adapted to any other context and to any other target of audience.

Sustainability of the initiative

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

Once designed, recorded and post-produced (process implying a cost, which can be contained using the university infrastructures), the course - whether it targets professionals, academics, researchers, media specialists, etc - can be made available with no additional costs over time on the institutional channels and learning platforms.

Contact and references

Nicola Paravati, Head of International Affairs Office at UNINETTUNO

nicola.paravati@uninettunouniversity.net

Link: <https://www.uninettunouniversity.net/en/reporting-climate-change.aspx#climate-1>