ELEARNINGNEWS ARTICLE

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eLearning: towards digital democratisation

After investing time and resources to develop eLearning solutions, it is difficult for companies and institutions to decide to dismantle online learning systems once the emergency has passed.

In the last few years there has been a real eLearning boom thanks to **LMS platforms**, effective tools for corporate and specialist education.

What are the reasons for the success of eLearning?

eLearning is the best answer to new lifestyles and corporate training, which require more and more **flexibility and cost-effectiveness**. The reasons for the success of eLearning can be summarised in two points:

- eLearning allows the student to manage the times and places of teaching independently, thus facilitating the participation of workers in company training;
- online teaching is less expensive than traditional classroom teaching, also in terms of travel and rent.

According to some, these characteristics can be summed up in a statement: "eLearning is the closest thing to the **democratization of study** and a free training experience".

In addition, today's world of work requires everyone to have constant training, with a view to **life-long learning**. This is because technologies and methodologies change quickly, so updating quickly is essential.

As a result of the worldwide experience of the last few months, given the pandemic emergency situation of the coronavirus, **online teaching** has shown its flexible nature in the field: institutes that had e-Learning tools continued to work, those that offered only courses in attendance had to revolutionize their teaching. This is also true for those who until recently claimed that e-Learning could not be a valid substitute for traditional teaching because of the "lack" of human relations between teachers and students.

Instead, the road to the future has a clear direction: it is very difficult to believe that, after having invested in the development of eLearning solutions and having touched them with hand, traditional institutions decide to dismantle everything once the emergency is over. It is more likely that they too will start offering **blended education**, or mixed online-in-presence.

As proof of this, it is also important to consider the numbers that the **telematic universities** have managed to reach over the years (even before the health crisis in Italy and in the **USA**. According to MIUR data in the Italian context, the number of members has increased from 40 thousand in 2010/11 to almost 100 thousand in 2017/18, with a growth of more than 100%.

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