

2nd EURO-MEDITERRANEAN International Symposium
a Pan-Mediterranean Strategy

“Regional and national action plans for the sustainable development and integrated management of the Mediterranean Sea”

Organized by

CoNISMa, CINFAl, CNR, ENEA, ICRAM, INGV, INOGS-OGS, Stazione Zoologica A. Dohrn

under the aegis of A.R.C.C.A.P.

**Assessorato Regionale Cooperazione Commercio Artigianato e Pesca
Regione Sicilia**



September 11th-12th, 2008, Portorosa (Messina) Italia



2nd EURO-MEDITERRANEAN International Symposium

a Pan-Mediterranean Strategy

In order to continue and broaden the processes opened during the TOLON EURO MEDITERRANEAN International Symposium (November 2007) the Italian Marine Scientific Community promotes, in collaboration with the Mediterranean scientific partners, on September 11-12, 2008, 2nd EURO-MEDITERRANEAN International Symposium in Portorosa (Messina).

The Mediterranean Sea and its coastal regions, one of the cradles of modern civilization, have been the object of human interest over the last 5000 years. This strong relation has given rise, through the ages, to a life style which can be defined as “Mediterranean”. This life style originates also from a peculiar geographic and climatic situation (“Mediterranean climate” is prototypical) , in which the sea acts as the principal communication pathway among the different cultures living along the shores.

The charm of the Mediterranean, a rather restricted area, lays in its potential to serve as a natural laboratory for the study and in depth examination of researches in the field of physical oceanography, marine chemistry, marine geology, marine biology, biotechnologies, fishery management, aquaculture. The fragility of the basin lays in its geographical and morphological setting: a large water mass surrounded by steep mountains, enclosed within continental areas having different climatic regimes, strongly related to the large water input from Gibraltar through a shallow sill, and whose depths (more than 5000 m) are used as the final destination for the waste and products of an industrialized civilization, which is more and more colonizing important areas on the northern Mediterranean shore. The combination of sea and surrounding mountains makes the hydrological cycle of this area an extraordinary “engine” providing water not only to the Mediterranean coastal areas, but also to the countries to the east of the basin itself: Mediterranean Sea is a “basin

of concentration” and the equivalent of about three times the total incoming water (precipitation + runoff) is “exported”.

The social and economical role of *water resource* has always been, and still is, central in human development in the area and nowadays plays a key political role.

The Mediterranean Sea represents, also in the present day, a multifaceted center of interests: it is a preferential way for the *transport* of goods and merchandises among east and west, north and south; it is a natural pathway for the transport of *energy products*, which are abundant within the surrounding area; it is a special site for *tourism*, which is oriented not only to a beautiful and mild nature, but also to a cultural growth, thanks to the presence of several archaeological sites, museums, cities of arts; it is a rich garden of marine biodiversity, an appreciated producer of high quality seafood.

All these aspects can be managed through a coordinated and cooperative effort among the countries surrounding the Mediterranean. Such cooperation should be seen within a *Mediterranean culture*, which is open to receive the best models from the outside, still keeping a link with its own origins, deriving from a long-lasting and respectful contact with the natural world.

A constructive participation for the coordination and cooperation within *research activities* in the Mediterranean area, needs the creation of international centers and laboratories, set in key areas of the basin, the plan of a shared use of naval resources for research, the direct involvement by scientific institutions of young people during their pre- and post-degree training activities .

All the proposed activities should be extended to the *Black Sea countries* that, as mentioned above, are *directly involved in the Mediterranean hydrological cycle*, besides being linked to the Mediterranean countries by common interests well rooted in all the past history of southern Europe.

2nd EURO-MEDITERRANEAN International Symposium

a Pan-Mediterranean Strategy

Purpose

The objective is to draw, in a common view, a Marine Multidisciplinary Research Programme involving the scientists from all areas surrounding the Mediterranean.

Geographical area

The exchanges will address the entire Mediterranean, with scientific stakeholders from: Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Croatia, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Monaco, Palestinian National Authority, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey.

The delegates of the Black Sea countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Russian, Ukraine, Georgia) will also be invited.

Scientific areas

Five science areas will be addressed :

1) Maritime activities; 2) Integrated Coastal Zone Management; 3) Deep Mediterranean Sea; 4) Training and research in an enlarged Mediterranean ERA-NET vision; 5) Food and Fisheries.

Workshops:

1) Maritime Activities

Maritime activities (energy facilities, ports, maritime infrastructures and structures):

- to enhance the role of maritime exchanges, improve their quality and guarantee their control;
- Safety and security of Mediterranean Ecosystem;

- to preserve the harmony in the economic, social and cultural development of the Mediterranean countries.

2) Integrated Coastal Zone Management

The ecosystem approach to a Mediterranean coastal planning and management (Protocol on ICZM, Madrid, January 21st 2008):

- to preserve and protect marine habitats
- to preserve and protect the cultural, archaeological and historical heritage;
- to encourage sustainable coastal tourism, including cultural, rural and ecotourism; to adapt the different European directives to an integrated management of the Mediterranean coastal zone.

3) Deep Sea

The Mediterranean Deep Sea Frontier in a small, complete oceanic system :

- to know for understanding;
- to understand for a sustainable use;
- to use for preserving.

4) Training and Research

Cooperation in the training of scientific, technical and administrative personnel:

- identifying and strengthening capacities;
- developing scientific and technical research;
- promoting international multidisciplinary specialized centres;
- contributing to public information and facilitating public and private decision making.

5) Food and Fisheries

- To insure food safety and high quality of Mediterranean seafood;
- To support a common policy on Mediterranean sustainable fishery development;
- to promote an higher eco-compatible fish culture.