



## Science Diver in the Blue Economy Era - International Conference

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### TITLE “Lessons Learnt from the ScienceDIVER project”

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### ABSTRACT

The ScienceDIVER project, aiming to highlight the important role of scientific diving in underwater research and blue growth, copes with the challenges towards the professional recognition of scientific divers. These include the mobility of scientific divers in the blue economy job market, as well as the inconsistencies among EU countries in training and the legislative framework. In addition, while education in scientific diving is rarely included in the university curricula in Europe and the provision of the required diving equipment for that kind of training courses is not affordable for students, more barriers arise and less career opportunities are offered for young scientists. Those challenges are addressed by proposing the development of ISO standards towards the establishment of a common training framework for scientific diving. In this way, it is expected that EU states will obtain a technical tool for mutual recognition of competencies in scientific diving, higher education institutions will be facilitated in developing of high standards curricula and the diving training organizations, such as CMAS, DAN and PADI, will be able to support global recognition of related qualifications. Furthermore, the skills acquired through that kind of standardized training will be easier matched with the job market needs. Funding solutions can further support training and the enhancement of scientific diving. The European Commission encourages the competent stakeholders at a national level to take up the necessary initiatives. To support these goals and the professional recognition of scientific diving, an independent organization as a legal entity with the involvement of key stakeholders in underwater science is also highlighted as a necessity. This paper presents the initiatives by the ScienceDIVER consortium and discusses how the proposed solutions could be implemented in practice.