



Science Diver in the Blue Economy Era - International Conference

20-21 April 2023 – Valletta, Malta

[SESSION 1. Education and training for the next generation of scientific divers](#)

THE PILOT COURSES OF THE SCIENCE DIVER PROJECT, OVERVIEW AND FOCUS ON THE ITALIAN CASE STUDY

F. Bruno¹, A. Lagudi¹, M. Collina¹, C. Sacco Perasso¹, M. Muzzupappa¹, F. Figurella²

¹ University of Calabria, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Energy Engineering and Management, (DIMEG), Rende (CS) – Italy (fabio.bruno@unical.it)

² DAN Europe Foundation, Malta.

Keywords: Science Diver Project, Scientific diving training, Underwater technologies

ABSTRACT

The present paper describes the experiences conducted in the framework of the Science Diver Project (Cross-sectoral skills for the blue economy market - Project id: 863674 – EMFF Blue Economy 2018 – Blue Careers) related to the implementation of four Scientific Diving Pilot Training Courses organized in Italy, France, Greece and Bulgaria in 2022 to train new and experienced divers about scientific diving.

The courses capitalize on the experiences and information retrieved in the first two phases of the project, intending to harmonize training courses and understand the best practice to teach scientific diving skills. In this contribution, the organization process, the selection criteria, the contents of the courses, and analysis of the students' evaluations and the gaps are described with a focus on the course organized in Italy. The results highlighted that the interest in scientific diving is on the rise and new young students, researchers and professionals are increasingly interested in acquiring new skills in this field, even because the scientific diving training programmes can play a crucial role in supporting the field research, providing new approaches and skills to explore the marine environment and to support the evolving needs of marine research. Several hints have been collected and these could guide a review of the programme more focused on the students' specific skills and scientific background.