



Aboard *Mediterranea*
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Press release no.8

Mediterranea Project: Scientific and cultural events sailing along the Apulian shore. The writer Nicolò Carnimeo talks about “his” Mediterranean at Bari Sailing Club. On board Plastic Busters researchers started taking samples. In Otranto a scientific event with Professor Ferdinando Boero and the oceanographer Nadia Pinardi at Lega Navale involved CMCC (Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change), Plastic Busters and Sahfos.

“Why don’t we build a mosque where is now the Fiera del Levante in Bari to give a clear indication of reception and integration to our eastern neighbours?” Those words introduced the speech by the writer **Nicolò Carnimeo**, the author of *“Come è profondo il mare”* (*How deep is the sea*, published by Chiarelettere, 2014), at the **kick-off meeting of the Mediterranean Project** that was held at **Bari Sailing Club** two days ago. Among the other speakers the writer **Simone Perotti** and **Professor Cristina Fossi**, researcher at the **University of Siena**. *“We need to rediscover our propensity to reception and openness to Eastern countries that belong to the grandeur of our historic city”*, Carnimeo said; then he interviewed Simone Perotti on the meaning, reasons and ambitions of Mediterranean Project and Professor Cristina Fossi on microplastics.

On the following day, sailing southward, **Mediterranea started its scientific activity by Professor Fossi** and his team of **researchers of the “Plastic Buster”** project, that collects microplastics in order to study the pathogens, pollutants and effects on marine organisms and human health. First they took samples of muscle, gills, and entrails of three different fish species, then they dipped a “fragment buster” landing net, and immediately detected microplastics presence. *“It is a state of emergency”* - said **Cristina Fossi**, **associated professor at the University of Siena and scientific coordinator of the Plastic Busters project** – *“today it is a most serious problem: a plastic bag in sea water pollutes but what we cannot see, that is microfragments into which that same bag deteriorates as time passes, can have the most toxic effects on living organisms, and potentially on human beings. That is the subject of our study”*. The collected samples will be analysed in the labs of the University of Siena in the next few weeks.

Later in **Otranto** the boat will be hosted by the local **Lega Navale** and today at 17.30 a **kick-off meeting of the Mediterranean Project** is taking place with the participation of the oceanographer **Nadia Pinardi**, **CMCC**, the researcher **Priscilla Licandro** of the British **Sahfos** foundation, **Plastic Busters** researchers, and **Professor Ferdinando Boero (Unisalento ISMAR-CNR)** together with a number of researchers and coordinators of marine reserves.

Mediterranea Project is the first *co-sailing* experience in the world. It has no main sponsors and is supported by dozens of Mediterranean sea and culture enthusiasts who will join the 5-year journey throughout the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and the Northern Red Sea.

Thanks to the support of the **Association Paea e al Per**, the boat is eco-friendly and autonomous as for energy production. Media partner of Mediterranean Project are the press agency ANSA with its bulletins **AnsaMed** and **AnsaMare**, and the newspaper website **Corriere.it** with its travel section DOVE, and web TV **Saily.it**.



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