



Port of San Benedetto del Tronto  
Onboard of Mediterranea  
April, 10th 2014

**Press Release n.1**

**Mediterranea Project: the Italian cultural / scientific expedition will officially start on May, 17<sup>th</sup> 2014. A five-year long journey through Mediterranean, Black Sea and Red Sea and the first co-sailing experiment in the world.**

**Mediterranea**, a 60 feet (18 m), 2 masts sailing boat will set the sails from the port of San Benedetto del Tronto on May, 17<sup>th</sup> 2014. It will sail for five years along the Mediterranean, northern Red Sea and Black Sea coasts on the European, Asiatic and African continents and will be a platform for nautical, scientific and cultural research.

The project stems from an idea shared by a group of sailing enthusiasts and Mediterranean lovers. Among them **Simone Perotti**, writer and sailor. The expedition will end in Genova, in five years from now, after approximately 20.000 sailed miles (32.000 km), more than one hundred visited cities, spread across 29 countries.

**The project has three main goals:**

- **Cultural** – Mediterranea will welcome writers, philosophers, journalists, historians, sociologists, economists. The main quest is for true Mediterranean intellectuals and the expedition is established to spread their thoughts. We believe this is a much needed step to oppose the intellectual, moral and civil crises that are plaguing our times. Already confirmed are the presences of **Gianluca Solera, Daniele Biacchessi, Ersi Sotiropoulos, Petros Markaris, Sotiris Chatzakis, Denys Zacharopoulos**. Many more will join and come onboard along the journey.
- **Scientific** – Mediterranea will be a floating laboratory available for Universities and research centers, both Italian and international. The following partners are already confirmed: the **Sahfos** (*Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science*) research center; the professor **Ferdinando Boero** from the **University of Salento** and the **CNR-ISMAR**; the **University of Siena** and the **CMCC (Euro-Mediterranean Center for the study of the Climate Changes)**
- **Nautical** – a sailing journey which has never been attempted before, unique on its kind, to bring the attention on the sea, navigation and authentic seamanship.

Mediterranea has requested the sponsorship from the **Presidency of the Italian Republic** and from the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. After initial favorable opinions, both grants are expected with optimism. The expedition already features some important sponsorship like the ones from the **General Command of the Italian Coastal Guard**, the **Italian Naval League**, the **Istanbul's IIC** and many more. Project Mediterranea is member of the **Fondazione Mediterranea** and of the **RIDE** (Rete Italiana Dialogo Euromediterraneo / Italian Network for the Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue). The boat will hoist the flags of the **Municipality of San Benedetto del Tronto**, of the local section of the **Italian Naval League** and of the **Municipality of Lampedusa**.

Mediterranea is the **first co-sailing experiment** in the world. It doesn't have a main sponsor - a deliberated choice - and it is rather supported by dozens of like-minded people sharing the expedition purposes. They contribute economically and take part to the journey, both onboard and as onshore support team.

**Mediterranea is a boat with zero environmental impact** fuelled only by renewable energy sources (solar and wind power). It will share stories and images from the journey on its official website [www.progettomediterranea.com](http://www.progettomediterranea.com) as well as through its important media partners: **ANSA** (AnsaMed and AnsaMare bulletins) and **Corriere della Sera** (in the *Viaggi* section of its [www.corriere.it](http://www.corriere.it) website, by **DOVE**).



Progetto Mediterranea  
e-mail: [info@progettomediterranea.com](mailto:info@progettomediterranea.com)  
[www.progettomediterranea.com](http://www.progettomediterranea.com)

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