



# Centro Studi "C.E. DI FO.P."

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**EVBB**  
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION  
OF INSTITUTES FOR  
VOCATIONAL TRAINING

## PRESS RELEASE

*The project, which will take place at the port of Palermo, is financed by the European Social Fund*

### Cedifop Study Centre, starting on 6 May the free course for 'Technical Underwater Operator'



PALERMO (1 May 2024) The course for 'Technical Underwater Operator', a project presented by the Cedifop Study Centre and financed by the European Social Fund from the resources of public notice no. 7/2023 of the ESF+ Sicily 2021/2027 PR, is about to start at the Port of Palermo. The Cedifop has participated in the 'over-the-counter' procedure envisaged by Phase 2 of the Notice, an operation which, for the first time, will enable training organisations, by means of an IT platform, to manage the courses financed by Notice 7/2023 through which it will be possible to enter and digitally manage the main information relating to the progress of activities, such as the number of students enrolled, student attendance, changes in the timetable of lessons or the possible replacement of teachers.

What the Cedifop is about to launch is a basic course for the issuance of the 'Reconnaissance Booklet', but it is not among those envisaged by 07/2016, the regional law that gives trainees the possibility of being enrolled in the telematic directory. The Sicilian Region, in fact, has not yet financed courses that would give trainees the chance to find employment in the industrial diving sector in a short time.

More specifically, there are four levels of training, starting with the basic level for OTS course, which requires registration with a harbour master's office and which refers to a ministerial decree of 1979. In addition to this there are three subsequent levels for Inshore Diver and two for Offshore Diver, stages that refer to the 07/2016 law that provide for registration with

the Sicilian Region's Department of Employment and that give the possibility, at the end of the training course, to enter the world of work immediately.

From 8 July 2020 to date, Cedifop has already received 141 job offers for a number of approximately 329 operators registered in the telematic directory of the Sicilian Region, requests that are more than double the number of trainees who have completed the training courses of the organisation operating within the port of Palermo.

Almost all of the courses for OTS, which the region has financed so far, reports Cedifop Director Manos Kouvakis, 'have not allowed the trainees to access the next level. This is the case of the students of the various diving schools who are forced to repeat the course for OTS because the experience they have acquired does not cover the dives required by law 07/2016. Now, it would be important to be able to fix these profiles in order to ensure that in the future the trainees will be able to attend these courses free of charge and not for payment, as is unfortunately the case at the moment with the course for OTS Inshore that is being held at our Centre, a training activity that has not been funded and that the trainees are paying for out of their own pockets in order to obtain the certificate.

The course for OTS, which will start on 6 May, will last 854 hours and will end on 13 November.

**CENTRO STUDI CEDIFOP – Formazione professionale subacquea industriale**

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IDS (International Diving Schools Association) Full Member - Diver Training n. FF 24  
Centro accreditato dalla Regione Siciliana CIR AC4847 – Affiliate Member American Welding Society (A.W.S.)  
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