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PRESS RELEASE

Operations included in the 'Marevivo Foundation' and 'Soka Gakkai Institute' project

Palermo, in action at Acqua dei Corsari the Cedifop students attending the 'Technical Diving Operator' course

At a depth of 10 metres, 116 large tyres illegally abandoned were recovered



PALERMO (16 October 2024) - When it comes to lending a hand for the benefit of the ecosystem, the technical diving operators of Centro Studi Cedifop, a professional training centre for industrial diving that operates within the port of Palermo, are among the first to intervene and get into the water.

This is the case of the operations carried out in recent days in Acqua dei Corsari, an area in front of the southern area of the Gulf of Palermo, where students from the course for 'Operatore Tecnico Subacqueo' course, financed by the European Social Fund, have participated in the recovery of illegally abandoned large tyres. The project realised by the Marevivo Foundation in collaboration with the Italian Buddhist Institute Italian Soka Gakkai is called '3 R's for the sea: regenerate, recover, respect' and was set up to protect and enhance marine biodiversity.

Financed by the 'Bando Ambiente 2023 - Spazi Blu' (Environment 2023 - Blue Spaces), it has involved the students that Cedifop made available to Marevivo, a foundation with which it has already realised several underwater works.

In two separate operations, the Cedifop students, using the support boats support boats made available by the port and underwater works company ALPe Sub, collaborated in the recovery of 116 large tyres that will thus be sent for proper recycling with the involvement of the specialised Consortium EcoTyre.

For years, the urban area of Acqua dei Corsari has been the emblem of the degradation of this stretch of Palermo's coastline.

stretch of Palermo's coastline; an open-air dump, where waste materials were disposed of to create a twenty-metre pile that, as it crumbled have spilled dangerous and polluting substances into the sea.

At one time, the Acqua dei Corsari area was home to a lush Posidonia oceanica prairie that played a fundamental role in the ecosystem since, together with other marine plants, it is capable of producing more than 50% of the oxygen we breathe, absorbing carbon dioxide and ensuring life on Earth. It is estimated that, when fully grown, the 100 square metres of grassland of this aquatic plant will be able to absorb around 8 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

In order to assess whether the transplanting operations will have produced the expected recovery process, it is planned that the site will be regularly monitored until the end of the 24-month project period.

CENTRO STUDI CEDIFOP – Formazione professionale subacquea industriale

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