

## PRESS RELEASE

*The decree issued by the Regional Labour Department was completed on 21 March in record time*

### Port of Palermo, great manoeuvres at Cedifop: concluded and already Held the final examinations of the course for ‘Technical Diving Operator’ have been completed and already held

An operational meeting was also held on the training body's premises to organise a blood drive on the initiative of the Italian Guardia Agroforestale Italiana, called ‘Save a life’, in collaboration with the Advs of Palermo



**PALERMO (31 March 2025)** - Big manoeuvres at the Sammuzzo quay inside the port of Palermo where, last week, the Centro Studi Cedifop, professional training centre for industrial diving, had its students take the final exams of the self-financed 500-hour course for the level of OTS (Operatore Tecnico Subacqueo - Technical Diving Operator).

Concluded last 21 March, this training course provides for the issuance of a certificate of professional qualification valid pursuant to and for the purposes of Framework Law no. 845/78, Regional Law no. 29/16 and Provincial Decree no. 6/18 classified under no. 6216 (diver) of the current codebook.

Just a few days earlier, the Sicilian Region's Department of Employment had drawn up the decree for the conduct of the final examinations, thus giving trainees the opportunity to enrol at a harbour master's office or to continue training with the next level of Inshore Diver/Diving Welders, which is scheduled to begin on 1 April.

It should be noted that, for the trainees who have already taken part in the Inshore CI course, there are already several underwater work companies that have contacted Cedifop for possible recruitment. From 8 July 2020 to date, in fact, the organisation has already received more than 400 requests from operators in the sector, a number that is more than double the number of trainees who have completed the training courses.

Last Friday, moreover, Cedifop took part in a meeting with representatives of the Italian Agroforestry Guard and its partner Advs of Palermo (Association of Voluntary Blood Donors) to plan a blood collection day called ‘Save a Life’, an initiative that will soon be held on the training body's premises.

In the meantime, the Diver Medic - First Aid course has begun, which is compulsory (per Law 07/2016 ‘Discipline of training contents for the exercise of industrial diving activities’) in order to move up to Offshore levels for the Top Up level, which is equivalent to IDSA (International Diving Schools Association) level 3, a course ‘recommended’ by IMCA (International Marine Contractors Association).

This course is carried out in accordance with the methodology of the ISO/IEC 17024 standard, with UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17024 certification from Cepas/Bureau Veritas, the Institute for the Certification of Competencies and Training. Both the ‘DiverMedic’ and Diver Welders’ certifications see Bureau Veritas involved in issuing these certifications through the Cedifop Study Centre, thanks to a collaboration that has been going on for years.

Finally, the OTS course, which was implemented with public funding and has been awaiting examinations since November last year, is also nearing completion. The Department of Training, following Regional Law 07/2016, announced on 24 March that responsibility for the Cedifop's final examinations passes to Service VI of the Department of Labour.

Thus, thanks to the reorganisation of the regional departments (provided for by Presidential Decree No. 9 of 5 April 2022), the Department of Employment will soon be able to prepare the decree appointing the exam board, thanks to which the students, who have been waiting for several months, will finally be able to complete their training and obtain the qualification of Technical Diving Operator.

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

Direttore: Manos Kouvakis – Mob. +39 338.3756051

Ufficio stampa: Michelangelo Milazzo (Tessera Ordine nazionale dei giornalisti n. 062777) Mob. +39 333 649 7773

Full member IDSA (International Diving Schools Association) - Diver Training n. FF 24

Centro accreditato dalla Regione Siciliana CIR AC4847 – SocioCamera di Commercio Italiana per la Germania

Membro EVBB (European Association of Institutes for Vocational Training)