

## COLLABORATION ITALY/NORWAY IN A PILOT COURSE FOR SURFACE SUPPLIED OFFSHORE AIR DIVER (50 METRES) - TO THE IDSA LEVEL 3 STANDARD



The 4 Italian students with their staff Instructor (2nd right) at NYD.

A pilot course to establish the feasibility of running a joint course using the facilities of two schools was held late in 2011. The purpose of the course was to convert 4 existing Level 2 divers to Level 3 (Surface Supplied Offshore Air Diver). The first part of the course which focusses on Theory and Surface orientated dives to 50 metres, as required by the Level 3 syllabus, was held in Palermo by CEDIFOP a Full Member School accepted to teach to Level 2, and ran for two weeks. The second part was held at the Norwegian Commercial Diving School (NYD) in Oslo (accepted to Level 3), it lasted one week and covered the remainder of the Level 3 syllabus (the Theory & Practice of using a Wet Bell and Hot Water suits).

The course was recognised by the Regional Department of Sicily for Education and Professional Training, which accepts the IDSA qualifications, and monitored the course accordingly. This guaranteed the training and allowed Students from CEDIFOP, to take part in this type of joint course, for the first time in Italy.

The practical deep diving operations in Palermo were carried out using equipment from the school and a diving vessel equipped with a basket was hired from a local contracting company ALPE SUB (An Industrial Member of IDSA). The diving area was in the open sea about a kilometre from the coast. Dives were carried out using U.S. Navy air tables Revision 6, and training mainly concentrated on rescue from the basket and emergency procedures involving an unconscious diver or communication failure.

The deep phase of the course in Palermo was followed some two months later by the Wet Bell/ Hot-water suit phase at NYD (Oslo) which also included practical surface decompression and an experience dive outside the syllabus using NYD's T.U.P. (Transfer Under Pressure) system.

At the end of course, each student was issued with an individual certificate from NYD & CEDIFOP detailing the specific training carried out, plus an IDSA Qualification Card naming both Schools.

The outcome of this pilot course, evaluated by the IDSA Executive Board, is outlined in the chairman's message (Page 4), and is that such joint courses may only be run by two schools accepted to the same IDSA Level.

CEDIFOP's aim in planning this course in Italy, was to spearhead improvements in the quality and safety of Italian diver training, an aim which will continue as they prepare for acceptance to teach IDSA Level 3.



Students in the basket prior to a dive from the ALPE Sub Diving Vessel off Palermo

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