



Progetto Mediterraneo : an Italian Cultural/Scientific project. A 5-years sailing expedition through Mediterranean, Black Sea and northern Red Sea

Progetto Mediterraneo is a Nautical, Cultural and Scientific project which ambitiously aims to build connections between Mediterranean populations. The scene of the expedition is **the Mediterranean Sea, the center of the world and of its civilization, cradle of the language, the culture, the human family and its highest thoughts**. The place where every *crisis* has ever started and every solution saw the light of the day. The right place to start from to design a new development model, a *New Civilisation*.

Progetto Mediterraneo will sail approximately 20.000 miles meeting people, discovering places and flavors, on a quest for Mediterranean insightful people and their stories. This sea has a millennial history that stems from its peculiar diversities and flourished producing an inexhaustible cultural richness. Despite Mediterranean trying to be one step ahead of his many foes, today its environment is seriously threatened. This portion of the world is still troubled by fundamentalisms and hegemonic follies. This meta-continent is plagued by growing social inequalities, discrimination and exploitation that foster rapid and violent changes, ultimately generating tragic migration flux. And yet we believe that extraordinary new ideas are sprouting throughout the Mediterranean. They shall not be missed and therefore Mediterraneo is leaving the harbor soon.

Progetto Mediterraneo carries onboard a universal message of peace. It will condemn and denounce any form of totalitarianism, violence, social inequality and injustice along its journey. It will promote environmental consciousness, respect for the diversity, dialogue and will ultimately advocate the right to freedom for each human being.

Project main objectives

The project aims to bring attention to the Mediterranean Sea, to create a stage from where speaking about the Mediterranean Sea, to connect different shores, faraway countries. The project aims to be thinking and actions of the Mediterranean Sea on the Mediterranean Sea. It will expand the Mediterranean Sea as an area metaphorically connected and homogenous by the symbolism of a sea journey that connects and unifies.

These are the project's main goals:

- **Cultural purpose** – In collaboration with many Italian Cultural institutes abroad and independent contributors, Mediterraneo will welcome on board artists, writers, philosophers, journalists, historians, sociologists, economists and people involved in the culture diffusion in each country. We will discuss with them, searching for the voices and thinking of the Mediterranean Sea as precious baselines to face this epoch of cultural, moral and civil crisis. We will quest for the best Mediterranean minds to ask them what they think about this big decadence epoch, how they perceive it and what are the solutions they have come up with. We believe it's compulsory to look for, listen to and verify the actual Mediterranean thinking, looking for possible solutions to build a new cohabitation system, cultural and relational therefore economic, political and social. The Mediterranean thinking is precious, we need to

gather it and communicate it. That's the way we intend to discover, support and diffuse the Mediterranean culture of the many Mediterranean countries and their peoples. We will collect stories, thoughts, traditions, habits and cultures. **We will slowly navigate questing for answers**. Or better to say, rephrasing and reiterating the questions. The Mediterranean Sea is the place where human race founded higher forms of thinking and where thinkers have been persecuted for centuries; where great projects have been successfully realised as well as great destructions; a place with a great heritage of errors and good practices.

Our research approach will be a truly Mediterranean one: the **Socratic dialogue**. Bringing a message of peace, we will open the boat to intellectuals, writers, artists, journalists, men of culture, to meet our fellow Mediterraneans. To learn their point of view, what they know, what they fear, what they hope. Meet their thoughts, and through them, learn about their countries.

The route is uncertain, when sailing. So will be the calendar of our culture meetings. We are aware that many unexpected and unplanned meetings are ahead of us and we are already looking forward to them. We will upload news periodically, in an unsystematic and unpredictable way, to keep all our followers updated. You can participate, but you can also follow through video, texts, and photographs. Many of our questions already resonate within us, as questions coming from a multitude. This will make them even more fascinating. Mediterranean Sea has always welcomed questions. That's why we believe our research makes so much sense.

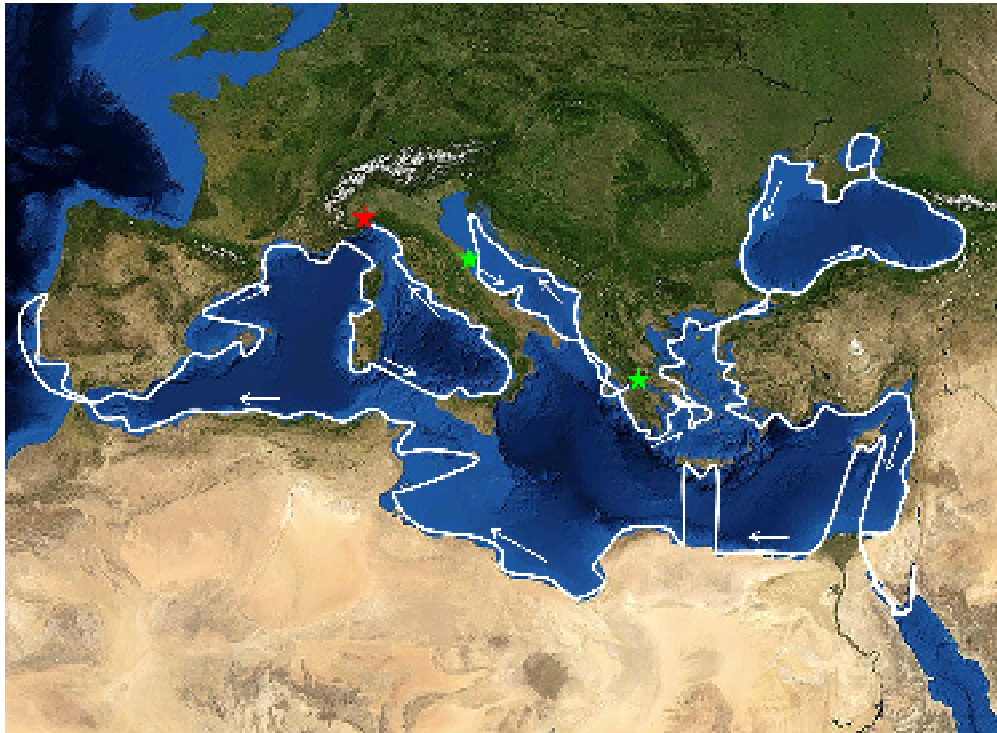
- **Scientific Purpose** – Mediterraneo will be a floating laboratory, collaborating with Italian and international Universities and research centers. We will follow researches and experiments like the plankton monitoring (it has never been done for the Mediterranean Sea) or the study of the Mediterranean diet. We will work directly and with third party for the sea and Mediterranean sea life defense, since 50% of the Mediterranean coast is in danger of uncontrolled overbuilding. Our boat is available to scientists, researchers, and students of public and private centers, universities and laboratories that focus on subjects like sea, air, and ichthyic pelagic and insular fauna.
- **Nautical Purpose** - we want to give visibility and promote the dissemination of sailing culture, one of the authentic roots of the Mediterranean culture. We will meet expert sailors and sea enthusiasts, we will photograph and tell stories about sea and boats, we will give sailing and navigation courses, promote visits on board, training, seminars all along the coasts of the Mediterranean. We want to help each of the Mediterranean countries re-discovering and taking ownership of the relationships with navigation, boats and sea, Mediterranean crafts, adventures and myths. Therefore work on what the Anglo-Saxons call the *Seamanship*, a term that has never had a proper translation in Italian and many of the others Mediterranean languages.

The Route

From Latakia to Gibraltar, from Marseille to Tunis, from Genoa to Istanbul, from Crimea to Alexandria Governorate, from Cagliari to Trieste, from Portopalo di Capo Passero to Rhodes, from Tel-Aviv to Athens, from Tripoli to Castellorizo, from Port Said to Georgia, from Varna to the Danube delta.

As any experienced sailor knows, a nautical course cannot be described in detail before it is actually covered. Before the departure it is merely a theory and a great deal of decisions will ultimately be dictated by the sea. Sailing along Mediterranean Sea means mainly respecting the sea, being patient, and expressing gratitude for every given shelter. The only real route for a sailing boat is the one that has been covered so far, not the one ahead. Therefore what we are hereby presenting is just an idea, a hypothesis. The only guarantee being that we will sail along the **Mediterranean, northern Red Sea and Black Sea coasts**, stepping out in the Atlantic Ocean just to reach Portugal.

In the below map we present the estimated route for the entire journey: **Greece, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Istria, Italy** (Marche, Abruzzo, Puglia from spring 2014), **Greece, Turkey, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Dodecanese** (Greece islands, south-western and southern Turkey), **Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestinian State, Egypt** (Red Sea), **Jordan** (Aqaba), **Cyprus, Crete, Egypt, Malta, Italy** (Sicily and Pelagie Islands), **Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Gibraltar, Portugal, Spain, France, Principality of Monaco, Corse, Sardinia, Sicily, Tyrrhenian coast of Italy** from south to north, **Genoa** (end of the journey, approximately in 2019).



Mediterranea: Crew & Captains

The writer and sailor **Simone Perotti** is to be credited for the initial idea that was later developed with some of his closer friends, all sea lovers. The initial core team was composed by nine people. It has since consistently grown, evolving into the today's real working team. A great crew, formed by commanders, seamen and sea lovers, sharing the main idea behind the project and sustaining it economically, ready to take off.

The group of the **Mediterranei** is made by all those that, having totally agreed with the project ideals, took the decision to join. They are true part of it, sustaining it economically and through collaboration, both from onshore and onboard. Part of them will form the **Committee of Rais**. Mediterranean is thus the **first world experiment in co-sailing**, being a union of people committed to share the project's duties, responsibilities and investments. This gives the project **full intellectual freedom** and demonstrates that the **sharing-economy** is not just a trendy topic but rather a real, working option to manage a project.

Mediterranea therefore represents an experiment in terms of **microeconomic organisation**. "We have initially tried to find a main sponsor" - admits Simone Perotti - "among a long list of companies that, in one way or another, were not fitting our environmental, economical or ethical principles. We have indeed refused two important sponsorships, because we couldn't accept the values their money would have tried to promote. Meanwhile, many of the people that were joining us onboard were truly interested in our project and wanted to contribute. This is why we studied the first experience of co-sailing in the history of navigation". The expedition is economically and organizationally sustained by the group of the **Mediterranei**. They financially take part with a share; they will actively participate to the expedition during their stay onboard and form the support team while onshore. "I believe that the age of selfish possession is coming to an end" - goes on Perotti - "our keywords need to be collaboration and cooperation. We must share common goals in sociality, culture and science. We need to develop new collaborative ideas in terms of co-housing, co-producing, co-living. We need to sum our passions and energies. Thankfully they are still abundant and help creating bonds among humans that cannot be replaced by money."

But who is leading the boat through its twenty-thousand miles journey along the Mediterranean Sea? It is the members of the **Committee of Rais** composed by the commanders, the seconds in command and the candidates aspiring to become commanders and seconds in command in the following years. They make the real nautical crew of the expedition, men and women that will dedicate their time and commitment effectively taking care of the boat, its equipment and the rest of the crew while onboard. When on shore they will still help with the weather reports, the route, the nautical warnings, the customs, procurement, the contacts with port authorities and generally dealing with national and international authorities. But the Board of the Rais has also the important goal of forming its learning members to the rules and values of the navigation and the respect of the sea and its environment, which are at the core of the project.

The boat



Mediterranea is a 60 feet (18 meters) long ketch equipped as cutter. Slow and solid as any cautious Mediterranean seamen ought to be, prepared for this sea's often difficult waters that would not admit any arrogance or impatience.



Mediterranea is a Mikado from 1980 designed by the great Michel Bigoin (the creator, along with Eric Tabarly, of the the legendary Pen Duick V). It was built by the **CNSO (Constructions Nautiques du Sud-Ouest)**. It is a large, comfortable and seaworthy boat, well equipped for difficult and ambitious expeditions.

Partners, sponsorships and endorsements

Mediterranea has received the adhesion of the **Presidency of the Italian Republic** and the patronage of the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and of the **Italian Navy**. It is a member of the **Fondazione Mediterraneo** and of the **RIDE** (Rete Italiana Dialogo Euromediterraneo / Italian Network for the Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue).

The boat proudly hoists the pennants representing the **Municipality of Lampedusa**, which granted its sponsorship as a sign of solidarity with the migrant victims and to confirm the firm commitment of the island's administration and its inhabitants to the first aid and hospitality of the migrants, in this serious emergency at the south most border of the Europe. Two other important endorsements are those by the **Municipality of San Benedetto del Tronto** (where the journey will officially start) and from the local section of the **Italian Naval League**.

It has as well the endorsement from the **Italian Naval League**, from the **General Command of the Italian Coastal Guard** and from the **Institute for the Italian Culture of Istanbul**.

In the context of scientific research Mediterranea has been endorsed by **Frascati Scienza**, the **University of Parma – Master COMET** and the **FISPMED**. It has established agreements and will actively collaborate with the following partners:

- **SAH FOS (Plymouth, GB)** for the Continuous Plankton Recording project;
- **University of Salento** for the campaign **Mind the Jellyfish - Science for the Citizens** established by the professor **Ferdinando Boero**. The campaign has been realised thanks to the CoConet, Perseus, Med-Jellyrisk and Ritmare projects in collaboration with the National Interuniversity Consortium for the sciences of the sea (**CONISMA**);
- **University of Siena** and the **Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN)** for the **Plastic Busters** project;
- **Euro-Mediterranean Center on the Climate Changes (CMCC)** using and testing the **Sea-Conditions** system and other services for the security on the sea developed under the industrial research project named **TESSA** in collaboration with **LINK SSpA** and **CNR-IAMC**.

The media partners for the expedition are **ANSA**, through the agreements with **AnsaMed**, **Ansa Mare** and the web TV **Saily.it**. The media partners will follow the expedition conveying information, images and videos directly from Mediterranea.

Last but definitely not the least are the supporters, **dozens of people**, that decided to follow the project, to participate and help us in various ways, simply because they share our vision, our purposes and our methodology.

Here there are the subjects who decided to support the project:

CON L'ADESIONE DEL
PRESIDENTE DELLA REPUBBLICA

Institutional sponsorships



Cultural patronages



Media Partners



Scientific Partners



Sponsor

NOLOGOnetwork
Marketing e Comunicazione per le Reti e il Retail

Technical Sponsors



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