

# CMAS: IN SALERNO THE BLUE HELMETS OF THE SEA, AT SCHOOL THE FIRST COURSE FOR MIGRANTS

*Culture and sport are able to speak a universal language that can unite all and break down barriers and walls that separate us*



by Stefano Venza

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SALERNO (ITALY) – The “Blue Helmets of the Sea” project officially kicked off in Salerno. The project is promoted by CMAS (World Confederation of Underwater Activities), the European Union and local authorities.

One of its most prominent activities is dedicated to underwater archaeology, always ready to intervene anywhere in the world for the sake of research and the protection of marine environment and

archaeological heritage in the sea. The city of Salerno was chosen as the first city to start scuba diving lessons in the schools. Santa Caterina da Siena Amendola high school warmly embraced this project, and therefore all schools in the area.

Speaking of the seas, the CMAS wants to turn the spotlight also on a social emergency. To this end, the idea was launched to establish, with the cooperation of local authorities and associations, a

training course for underwater activities for migrants of various nationalities, who fled from war in their countries. A first pilot course will be set up at the S. Caterina Institute in Amendola (Salerno), an institute that stands out for projects on international





cooperation and solidarity. A project through which the world federation wants to turn the sea from the scenario of a nightmare, in which migrants have risked losing their life, into a redemption opportunity through an active role in culture and archaeology, the opening of an interethnic relation of great social value.

«Culture and sport are able to speak a universal language that can unite all and break down barriers and walls that separate us», argued the city major Vincenzo Napoli, «The sea is not an enemy, but a friend, a place that links different cultures. Our city, institutions and schools stand out for integration solidarity and cooperation».

Enthusiastic words from MEP Silvia Costa: «I am delighted to present this initiative of great sporting, educational and cultural value: the Blue Helmets of the Sea will be operating from today, to serve the community in order to bring to light our archaeological underwater treasures and will be ready to intervene anywhere in the world to protect and clean our seas», said Silvia Costa “it’s what we need in Europe. We need create



bridges, not barriers».

At the opening ceremony Gianfranco Frascari President Committee Sector Teaching Underwater of FIPSAS added «we totally agree with this project. Every person older than 14 could be an actor of this plan. The core element of “Blue Helmets of the Sea” is the cooperation among people who come from different countries and meet to perform social activities aimed at respecting and protecting the environment and the historical-artistic heritage».

As part of its activities, the CMAS promotes initiatives related to underwater archaeology. «We want our CMAS members - said Anna Arzhanova (President of CMAS) in answer to a Young Nigerian man – to be able to put their skills and experience at the service of culture, for sea preservation and cleanliness anywhere in the world. The CMAS will work in harmony with the UNESCO and with all the scientific committees, universities and non-profit organization, forming a common front aimed at retrieving the hidden





underwater treasures and freeing and cleaning our seas», explained Arzhanova. «Our goal is to launch a worldwide campaign to raise awareness and influence education, involving the younger generations in schools and universities. In order to join forces around this problem we created this task force called “Blue Helmets of the Sea”, to symbolize the value of our global efforts», added Arzhanova.

After completing the course, the participants will join the “Blue Helmets of the Sea” to form a real international force and a first pilot course will be set up, around mid March and April, as part of MigrArti, a Mibact project.

The school director Annarita Carrafiello and Paolo Masini, adviser to the minister Franceschini (MIBACT) and coordinator of the project MigrArti, said «We wanted to take this important opportunity in the region (Campania), where it represents a key issue for the growth of future generations in an increasingly multicultural society. The strong relationship developed between Mibact and the Ministry of Education extends the MigrArti project to schools that take the issue of social development in the field, through social activities carried out in their territories outside school hours. A first pilot course which we are sure will soon be extended to other places». ■



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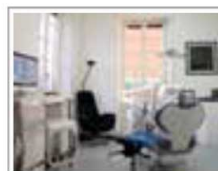
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