



# Centro Studi "C.E. DI FO.P."

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**EVBB**  
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION  
OF INSTITUTES FOR  
VOCATIONAL TRAINING

## PRESS RELEASE

Recognition awarded by the European Training Foundation to the operators of the Study Center operating in the port of Palermo

### “Committed to Excellence” Badge to the staff of Cedifop, a professional training body for industrial diving



PALERMO (March 17, 2025) – In recent days, the European Training Foundation – ETF, awarded the “Committed to Excellence” Badge to the staff of the Cedifop Study Center, a professional training body for industrial diving operating in the port of Palermo. This coveted recognition is reserved for staff of professional institutes who actively engage in self-assessment, dedicating themselves to improving the excellence of their organization. These are the members of the Cedifop Study Center staff who received the coveted recognition: the director Manos Kouvakis, Francesco Costantino, as training manager, Ivan Napoli, compliance and accreditation manager, and the communications manager, Michelangelo Milazzo. On the same occasion, Daniele Fano, founder and manager of “St Skills

together”, an innovative and socially oriented start-up, also received the award. The ETF, which has been based in Villa Gualino in Turin since 1994 under a mandate from the European Union, helps countries in transition and developing countries to exploit the potential of their human capital through the reform of education, training and labour market systems, in the context of the EU's external relations policies. The “Committed to Excellence” Badge serves as recognition of individual commitment to quality improvement, improving the reputation of the institution among stakeholders and is awarded to those who have participated in the ISATCOVE (International Self-Assessment Tool for Centres of Vocational Excellence) self-assessment exercise, as members of the Self-Assessment Team, helping to demonstrate their school's commitment to reflecting and further improving towards VET (Vocational Education and Training) excellence. The ETF supports the EU's neighbouring countries in improving their human capital development systems, analysing skills needs and developing their labour markets. This improves social cohesion and achieves more sustainable economic growth, which in turn benefits EU Member States and their citizens by improving economic relations. The ETF's activities with partner countries cover a range of related areas such as skills and employment needs analysis, system governance, including stakeholder engagement, social dialogue and private sector participation, qualification and quality assurance systems, work-based learning, teacher training, entrepreneurial learning and basic skills, and career guidance. Before starting to work in a country, the ETF carries out a detailed analysis of EU human capital policies, social values and external priorities and links this analysis to the partner country's needs and development aspirations as part of overall country assistance. The ETF also works with the European institutions, the business community, social partners and other civil society organisations at EU level. It supports the European Commission and the European External Action Service in their programming. Finally, it works closely with Eurofound Cedefop to ensure that analysis and good practices from EU Member States are shared beyond the EU and used to support reforms in partner countries.

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

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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

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