



Associazione Ecologica Scientifica
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A short profile of Mareamico

Mareamico is a non political, non profit association, which was established in Rome on January 31st, 1989. Its main goal is to draw attention to issues concerning the marine environment and its resources. Ecological, cultural, tourism and economic questions are highlighted in different contexts, in order to involve the competent Italian and European Institutions in actions which are of paramount importance for the safeguard of the marine habitat.

Mareamico is acknowledged as a preminent Ecological Association from The Italian Ministry of Environment and included in the special list of the Italian Ministry of University and research.

Mr Roberto Tortoli (Member of Italian Parliament and Vice Chair of Special Commission for Environment) is the current President and he is supported by a Scientific Committee formed by Professors who are experts in their fields from all Italians as well as European Universities .

Mareamico has organized meetings, cultural exchanges, conferences, colloquia as well as scientific research and promotional initiatives; which have led to the creation of national and international partnerships based on a shared passion for the sea.

Among the events regularly promoted by Mareamico, special mention is to be made of *La Rassegna del Mare (Revue of the Sea)*, a yearly meeting (now The Twentieth) gathering Italian and foreign scientists, politicians, ecologists, entrepreneurs in the private and public sectors, and fishermen. In these meetings Mareamico has provided all those interested in the sea with an opportunity to exchange their experiences and submit their requests to administrative and political representatives. Mareamico has also played the role of trait-d'union with the mass media and the main Italian broadcasting network.

Moreover, since 1998, on behalf of the Ministry for the Environment, Mareamico has been in charge of the promotion, communication and educational activities related to the marine environment as well as to Coastal and Marine Protected Areas. It is by virtue of this mandate that, in collaboration with *Vivere il Mare*, Mareamico has produced a video and a CD-rom entitled "*Oltre il Blu – Viaggio nelle Aree marine protette italiane*" and has taken part in a campaign of environmental education aimed at high school students. Every year since its creation, 5.000 youths have been involved in these initiatives.

Mareamico has organised in collaboration with the Ministry for the Environment a series of events entitled "*Tuttambiente: le Aree protette, sistemi ed occasioni di sviluppo a confronto*" which took place in Lucca and in Viareggio (editions 2004, 2005 and 2006). This large meeting was mainly aimed at pinpointing the main actions undertaken in the last few years for the promotion and enhancement of the marine environment and envisaging future actions and guidelines. Mareamico also participated in the *TW Reference Net* Project dealing with the key area of advertising; producing books, advertisements, workshops, television productions, press articles, an internet website and videos aimed at school pupils; and in *Project H2O*, a project aimed to solve problems faced by fishermen in the Mediterranean due to climatic changes.

In particular to help raise awareness and address these problems, Mareamico, ran a Workgroup, culminating in a final Conference and printed various publications on the matter.

Mareamico is currently cooperating with the "Foundation of Mediterranean Cities" created from Regione Lazio and with Aremedd, an Istitution based on Tripoli and operating in the same field.