

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP AT THE FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES (Tirana, 05 March 2008)

On March 05, 2008 a workshop was held at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Tirana, aiming to make known the activities implemented up to now in the framework of CISM Project (Technical Assistance for Establishing and Management of an International Center for Marine Studies in Albania).

This workshop was organized with the incentive of the new elected dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences (FNS), Prof. Ilirjan Malollari. About 50 participants attended this workshop, representing academic staff and students from the University of Tirana, Polytechnic University, Albanian Geological Service and other institutions related to marine research and conservation issues.

The workshop has been opened by the Dean, Prof. Malollari, who emphasized the importance of such activities, which aim to make a full knowledge and transparency of the activities where the FNS is involved.

Dr. Sajmir Beqiraj, after an explanation of some organizational and administrative issues of the CISM Project, made an overview of the activities, which have been implemented from the beginning of the project up to the present phase, including bilateral meetings in political level, technical (expert) level, conferences, draft preparation for projection of the center (CISM), field trips, study cases, elaboration of data and preliminary results. He also listed the forthcoming activities, which have been planned until the end the project.

Albanian task leaders of the Component A of the project (Progettazione del Centro) presented their drafts for each task, related to the projection of respective sections: Oceanographic Chemistry, Marine Biology, Ecotoxicology and Geology-Sedimentology-Coastal Erosion. These drafts will be discussed and elaborated between Albanian and Italian partners until the final version.

Albanian task leaders of the Component B of the project (Azioni Comuni) presented the work done from each group, respectively: zooplankton, benthos, geology, sedimentology and hydrogeology. Implemented activities, methodologies and preliminary results have been described in their presentations.

Prof. Edmond Hajderi has clarified some conceptual issues regarding the establishment of CISM in Albania, emphasizing its importance in national and regional level.

A session of active discussions has followed the presentations, where most of discussions have been focused on the issues related to projection of the centre, its functioning and infrastructure. Many discussions also emphasized the necessity of a common meeting between Albanian and Italian task leaders in a near future, in order to discuss the draft and design the final version for projection of the centre.

The workshop was closed by the Dean, Prof. Malollari, who expressed his personal and institutional support for the successful implementation of CISM Project and for its follow-up, related to the establishment of the centre, emphasizing its importance for Albania and the whole Adriatic coast.

The closure of this activity was followed by a cocktail, where participants actively continued their informal discussions related to the project issues.