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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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Chemistry and Ecology

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713455114>

The Italian Marine Environment Funding Plan

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To cite this Article Ianni, C. , Pusceddu, A. , Russo, A. and Randazzo, G.(2004) 'The Italian Marine Environment Funding Plan', *Chemistry and Ecology*, 20: 3, 155

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/02757540410001699901

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02757540410001699901>

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Foreword

THE ITALIAN MARINE ENVIRONMENT FUNDING PLAN

The Marine Environment Funding Plan (Cluster 10: Marine Environment), funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research, includes 14 projects. Three of these are dedicated to the implementation of infrastructures and instrumentation development, while the remaining 11 are devoted to the development of basic and applied aspects of marine research.

In the framework of this Plan, the coordinators (I. Ferrari, University of Parma and O. Ferretti, ENEA) together with the tutorial board of the project organized a scientific meeting that was held in Bari (Italy) on 26 November 2002. The aim of the meeting was to promote the activities of the project to create a scientific network in different fields of marine sciences and to provide elements for the development of new socio-economical services.

The six papers published in this volume represent a first selection of works presented at the Meeting. These papers deal with: chemical characteristics of biologically active molecules derived from marine organisms, new methodologies for assessing microbial contamination of sea water, multidisciplinary assessment of the ecological significance of seagrass beds, radiochemical aspects of marine seagrasses, use of cyto-physiological biomarkers in seagrasses for assessing environmental quality and the integration of field and remote-sensing applications for coastal monitoring. A second issue of the journal will be dedicated to other aspects of the project.

The tutorial board of the Cluster 10: Marine Environment

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