



CNR EXPO



### *Mesothalassia*

In Italy, Scientists involved in Long Term Ecological Research (LTER-Italy network) and biodiversity investigations (EU-LifeWatch Research Infrastructure) will drive citizens along three different routes with the aim of fostering their awareness on ecosystem diversity, conservation and sustainability. These routes are organized as scientific communication events associated to EXPO2015 and are endorsed by the National Research Council of Italy (CNR).

*Mesothalassia* is a bike tour across mid-southern Italy aimed at communicating the fundamental importance of water as a source of life, biodiversity, food and energy. The journey along the *Mesothalassia* route has been conceived and organized by the ecologist Domenico D'Alelio and is coordinated by the Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn of Naples (SZN). It will take place from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and it will connect two LTER stations in ten legs through Molise, Puglia, Basilicata and Campania regions.

The tour will start in the coastal village of Marina di Petacciato on the Adriatic Sea (Termoli, Molise Region) and will cross numerous sites of environmental, cultural, economic and social importance, such as natural reserves, archaeological sites, villages and small farms. The tour will reach Vietri sul Mare (Salerno, Campania) on the Tyrrhenian Sea, then the Ischia Island (Campania Region) and finally will end in Naples at SZN.

*Mesothalassia* includes many scientific activities for citizens, such as observations and sampling of plants and animals living inside or in connection to rivers, lagoons, lakes and seas. The participation to the bike tour will be open to the public and will attract people that love nature and cycling through the crossed regions. The trip will be documented with videos which will be presented on 29<sup>th</sup> July at the Milan EXPO2015, Italian Pavilion, during the LTER and LifeWatch day in the frame of the CNRxEXPO events.

#### **Contacts:**

Domenico D'Alelio: [dom.dalelio@gmail.com](mailto:dom.dalelio@gmail.com)

Davide Di Cioccio: [davdicioccio@gmail.com](mailto:davdicioccio@gmail.com)

[cammini.lteritaly@gmail.com](mailto:cammini.lteritaly@gmail.com)

[lteritaly@gmail.com](mailto:lteritaly@gmail.com)

#### **Links:**

[www.expo.cnr.it/it/node/100](http://www.expo.cnr.it/it/node/100)

[www.facebook.com/mesothalassia](https://www.facebook.com/mesothalassia)

[www.lteritalia.it/cammini](http://www.lteritalia.it/cammini)

[www.lifewatch.eu/it](http://www.lifewatch.eu/it)

