



TRAINING *of*  
*Marine Manpower*



*The initiative, financed with 2.6 million Euros from the Campania Regional Operational Programme (ROP), will benefit workers facing unemployment and also unemployed workers with a navigation certificate. The Region and the communes involved have so far received about 850 requests for attendance. The bonus will be paid based on presentation of the requests.*

In Campania, about 20,000 people are employed in the maritime sector, both as permanent and seasonal workers. They are mostly concentrated in the towns of Ercolano and Torre del Greco. In February 2003, the Region started an initiative to train employees in this sector. The project allows for the assignment of a "training bonus" up to a maximum of 1,000 Euros, as a contribution for taking part in a specific training course within the sector entitled "Gente di Mare", delivered by organisations accredited by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport.

The regional initiative was born from the will to counteract the growing risk of unemployment due to the lack of specific preparation. This training was made compulsory by the 1995 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW 95). The convention, now an essential precondition to going to sea, requires seafarers to undergo a period of training in on-board safety systems, along with rescue and first-aid courses.