MICROPLASTICS EFFECTS ON MARINE ECOSYSTEM - ISMAR-CNR HOSTS II° MEETING OF EPHEMARE PROJECT (JPI OCEANS)
from 30/03/2017 at 09.00 to 31/03/2017 at 16.00

Everything, sooner or later, ends up into the sea. Plastic and microplastics represent new contaminants, underestimated until now. Each year their production is around 300 millions of tons, 10% of them flowing up into the oceans. Plastic debris, due to degradation, fragment into microparticles having size between 0,3 and 5 mm. Mediterranean Sea, a closed and densely populated area, is one of the most contaminated in the world: the average content of microplastics in each cube meter of water is similar (or higher) to that found in the "garbage islands" floating in the Pacific Ocean. This kind of pollution, until recently underestimated, is at last subject of study and is suggesting unexpected scenarios linked to their tiny size (https://www.cnr.it/it/comunicato-stampa/7189/la-zuppa-di-plastica-del-mediterraneo).
A knowledge of the "plastisphere" and its potential effects means to comprehend how microplastics presence is changing marine ecosystems balance, in order to evaluate the specific potential environmental risk, avoiding worthless catastrophic scenarios, and also taking into account possible real strategies to reduce their impact. These topics will be discussed by the 30 researchers belonging to 16 different partner institutes of "EPHEMARE - Ecotoxicological effects of microplastics in marine ecosystems" project, one of the four projects founded by European Community through "JPI Oceans" Instrument, aimed to study the ecological effects of microplastics in marine environment. Researchers, coming from different European countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, UK, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden) will meet in Genoa at Institute of Marine Science (ISMAR CNR) to discuss and share results of the first year of project.

Organized by:
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