



## **The professional meteorologists and meteorological technicians in Italy: overview of the national legislation and certification scheme**

Mara Altieri (1,2), Marina Baldi (1,3,4), Massimo Ferrario (5), Massimo Ferri (1), Teodoro Georgiadis (1,3,6), Vittorio Villasmunta (1,7), Dino Zardi (1,8,9)

(1) Associazione Geofisica Italiana, AGI, Roma, Italy, (2) DEKRA Testing and Certification s.r.l., Italy, (3) CNR - Institute of Biometeorology, Italy (m.baldi@ibimet.cnr.it), (4) WMO RTC-Italy, Firenze, Italy, (5) ARPAV-DRST-Servizio Meteorologico, Teolo (PD), Italy, (6) IAMAS-IUGG, (7) A.M. - C.S.A., Roma, Italy, (8) Atmospheric Physics Group, Department of Civil, Environmental, and Mechanical Engineering, University of Trento, Trento, Italy, (9) National Consortium of Universities for Atmospheric and Hydrospheric Physics (CINFAI), Roma, Italy

In the present paper we illustrate the recently established certification scheme for professional meteorologists and meteorological technicians in Italy. So far these were not recognized professions in Italy, as there is no specific national legislation enforcing certification for personnel working in the area of meteorology.

This situation opened the market to everyone, including creative businessmen, and made it easy to develop private meteorological services. On the other hand it doesn't provide guarantees to end users about quality requirements. Therefore, the quality of the services cannot be assured due to two different facts: lack of the necessary competences and lack in the establishment of a quality management systems able to provide high quality meteorological and hydrological services.

On the other hand, and this is probably the most significant and central aspect, competences and expertise of personnel working daily with high qualification in widely recognized (either public or private) meteorological services and agencies are not recognized.

Thanks to DEKRA, a leading global provider of auditing and certification services, which coordinated a Task Team (Tavolo di lavoro) which has worked on this purpose, a certification scheme for Meteorologist and Meteorological Technicians is now available in Italy which is BIP-M/MT compliant (WMO-1083) and also in accordance with standard ISO/IEC 17024 (<http://www.dekra.it/it/certificazione-delle-competenze>).

The Working Group coordinated by DEKRA was composed by the National Meteorological Service, the IAMAS-IUGG National delegate, a delegate of the Universities, a delegate from the community of meteorologists working at regional level (as observer), the Italian Geophysical Association (which is now on the way to evolve into Italian Association for Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology), the WMO RTC-Italy.

Finally the role of the Italian Geophysical Association in the future organisation of professionals in meteorology is presented.