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Italy's I.T.S. Caboto finds the winning formula

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Italian law foundation, I.T.S. Fondazione G. Caboto, continues its exponential growth with over 100 graduates after a ceremony held on Friday, February 17th, for the 41 students who won diplomas in December 2016. This historic milestone confirmed the winning formula of the 'I.T.S.' tertiary education model and the Caboto Institute in particular, bringing the world of education closer to the labour market and guaranteeing employment.

As per tradition, the graduates who were awarded the 'Advanced technician for mobility of people and goods – ship machinery and equipment' certificate received a letter of commitment for recruitment by the companies that participated in the training process – Amoretti Armatori Group, Calisa Novella, Carboflotta, Finaval, Fratelli d'Amico, Gruppo d'Amico, Italia Marittima, ENI Ing Shipping and Premuda.

The numbers reflect the constant growth of I.T.S. Caboto since it was founded in 2010 with the establishment of the Foundation. When courses started in 2011, around 60 students participated, while today the students in classrooms and onboard with the Institute amount to almost 170. During the same period applications almost tripled, thanks to an employment rate close to 100% for graduates.

"I.T.S. Caboto has continued growth and investment to meet the needs of the shipping industry," said I.T.S. Caboto Chairman Cesare d'Amico. "We took on the task of giving these 41 students a real opportunity for growth and a future, which was made possible thanks to the cooperation of the partner shipping companies and proved the crucial role played by I.T.S. education."

The key importance of the Italian maritime cluster is patently obvious when you look at its contribution to the country's GDP (€32.6bn) and employment (2% of the workforce, 471,000 people between direct employees and contractors) .

Recently, a demand for qualified staff by shipping companies has emerged. According to a BIMCO report, the limited number of seafarers available for employment onboard worldwide is insufficient to meet the demand of ship owners, and this gap is likely to increase from 16,500 units to nearly 150,000 in 2025.

These figures emphasise the need for key players in the maritime economy to team up and train highly qualified seafarers, drawing on the I.T.S system. This form of tertiary education brings labour and educational requirements together with alternated curricula and the structural integration of teachers from the business world: a form of experiential teaching whose quality is also certified by grants.

During two years of training, students at I.T.S. Caboto attend 1,500 hours of classes and spend three periods at sea for a total of 3,000 hours and 12 months' paid work, necessary to earn the official qualification.

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Now considered an establishment in the sector, I.T.S. Caboto has created a virtuous cycle, increasing the number of partner shipping companies. Starting with just d'Amico Società di Navigazione as its founding partner, it now relies on the support of 11 companies: d'Amico, F.lli d'Amico, Carboflotta, Finaval, Italia Marittima, RBD Armatori, Amoretti Armatori Group, ENI Ing shipping, Calisa (O. Novella), Premuda and Finbeta.

In pursuit of growth and consolidation, in future years the Institute intends to increase the number of partners available to support the recruitment of young graduates. Additional educational programmes for the professional training of specialised technicians are currently being studied, representing another big step forward.

