

# Mare Nostrum



## THE MEDITERRANEAN ACADEMY

### THE LONG MARCH TOWARD A COMMON HOME

The Euro-Mediterranean alliance activated by the Barcelona Conference of November 1995 has made a determinant contribution to developing relations between the various Euro-Mediterranean countries. In this process a substantial role has been undertaken by the *Fondazione Laboratorio Mediterraneo* – an *Onlus* created in Naples in 1994 – as promoter of the Euro-Mediterranean alliance in the cultural, economic and scientific fields. This institution was created by Michele Capasso, a Mediterranean scholar and bearer of uncommon ideals and values, with the assistance of the International Scientific Committee headed by Predrag Matvejevic. It is composed of authors, journalists, Nobel prize-winners and experts like Igor Man, Claudio Magris, Tahar Ben Jelloun, Edgar Morin, Manuel Vázquez Montalbán, Juan Goytisolo, José Saramago and Nullo Minissal. The *Fondazione* is headquartered in Morocco and in the Republic of Macedonia and has obtained official recognition from countries, regions, cities, universities and various official representatives as well as 150 million citizens. The “I. Euromed Civil Forum” – which took place in Barcelona in 1995 – and the “II. Euromed Civil Forum” – organised in Naples by the *Fon-*

*dazione* in 1997 – drafted the basis for constructing a Euro-Mediterranean network of cultural, economic and scientific relations that sees Civil Society – in the first place, the regions, cities, local groups, universities and various organisms of the Euro-Mediterranean countries – protagonist of this process. On this occasion, the 2248 participants asked to *Fondazione* to constitute autonomous organisms with the goal of ensuring continuity of concrete action and co-ordination in the complex articulation of the Euro-Mediterranean program implemented by the European Union through the Declaration of Barcelona in November 1995.

On the basis of these indications the *Fondazione* has founded the following autonomous organisms: Mediterranean Academy, association of Academies and high cultural, scientific, and economic institutions.

Almamed, association of the major Euro-Mediterranean universities and university networks coordinated by the University of Bologna. Euromedcity, association of Mediterranean cities and local groups co-ordinated by the City of Seville.

Isolamed, association of Mediterranean islands and island networks, co-ordinated by the Eolie Islands (Municipality of Lipari).

Labmed, association of organisms and cultural, scientific and economic associations of the various Euro-Mediterranean with the involvement of the “Civil Society Data Banks”.

in particular the Mediterranean Academy constitutes, in its representation and legitimacy, the major cultural institution on a Euro-Mediterranean level. It has the adherence of 561 organisms representing 33 countries, including 168 universities, 48 cities, 32 regions and more than 200 cultural and research institutes. Among its members are heads of State and government, Nobel prize-winners, men and women of culture and representatives of 33 countries, including, for example, Juan Carlos I King of Spain, Mohamed VI king of Morocco, Abdullah II King of Jordan, Guido de Marco President of Malta, ministers Lamberto Dini, Farouk Hosni, Jack Lang, Mohamed Achaari, Nobel prize-winners Jean Dausset, François Jacob, Shimon Peres, José Saramago.

The Academy's top priorities are: – creating a critical inventory of Mediterranean culture; – realising a Mediterranean encyclopaedia;

– founding the “Maison de la Méditerranée”, a physical place and an organic whole intended to represent the most appropriate forms of activities that identify and are suggested by the Euro-Mediterranean countries, institutions and various organisms which are part of the Mediterranean Academy. The institution is organised in branches and offices, each one of which is entrusted with a specific subject: these are the branches in Morocco, Jordan, Spain, France and Bologna.