

## Curriculum Vitae

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### **Simone Branchini**

Citizen Science Lab  
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Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences  
Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna  
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Home: Via Andrea Costa 99/3 40134, Bologna, Italy, European Union

Nationality: Italian  
Date of birth: 18 August 1985  
Place of birth: Bologna, Italy, European Union  
Gender: Male  
Marital status: Celibate

## Education

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- 2015-2016 Post-doctorate. Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences – University of Bologna. Project: “STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment”.
- 2015 Ph.D. in “Biodiversity” and Evolution”, Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna, Bologna (Italy).  
Title of PhD Thesis: “Volunteer-based coral reef monitoring: reliability of the data, environmental education and implication for the conservation”.
- 2011 Master Degree (M.Sc.) in “Biodiversity and Evolution”, Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna, Bologna (Italy).  
Title of Master Degree Thesis: “Large spatial and temporal scale analyses of coral biodiversity in the Red Sea”.
- 2008 Bachelor Degree (B. Sc.) in “Biological Sciences”, Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna, Bologna (Italy).  
Title of Bachelor Degree Thesis: “Tourism and Biodiversity: assessment of coral reef biodiversity in the Northern Red Sea, by means of tourist diver surveys”.
- 2004 Scientific High School Diploma, Liceo Scientifico “Leonardo da Vinci”, Casalecchio di Reno (Italy).

## Areas of scientific interests

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Citizen Science; volunteer-based research; biodiversity monitoring; industry, policy and university relationship; international cooperation; sustainable tourism; environmental human impact; citizen environmental education and naturalistic awareness; citizen sustainable behaviour.

## Professionals experience

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- 2015-today Post-doctorate: Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences – University of Bologna. Citizen Science programmes: reliable monitoring systems, environmental management tools and citizen educative approaches.
- 2015- today Project Manager: “Glocal Education – Environmental Educator Project”, spin-off project of the Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences – University of Bologna. Services for tourism companies: environmental education activities for tourists and evaluation of their effect on the participant environmental behaviour and customer retention. Principal responsibilities: educators’ recruitment and training, development of customise education activities, sale manager, data analyses and interpretation-
- 2015 Research Collaborator. Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences – University of Bologna. Statistic analyses, data elaboration and scientific report drafting.
- 2014 Volunteer researcher. From May to September. Natural England, Marine Management Organization and School of Marine Science and Technology - Newcastle University: Potting impacts on common reef habitats in the Berwickshire North Northumberland Coast European Marine Site. Scuba diving surveys to perform photo-transects and gather habitat environmental data.
- 2014 Associate Staff. From March to September, Associate Staff at Dove Marine Laboratory – School of Marine Science and Technology, Newcastle University. Analysing different marine citizen science approaches. Drafting Horizon 2020 project proposals (calls: SC5-17/2015 and MSCA-ITN-2015).
- 2012 – today Project manager. Project “STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment”, person in charge of general direction and external relations. Principal responsibilities: coordinating the partners network; coordinating volunteer recruitment, volunteer training and data collection

involvement; data analyses and interpretation; producing scientific reports and communicate project results to conservation managers.

- 2011 – today Research support. Vice-President and Secretary of the Marine & Freshwater Science Group Association, Bologna (Italy). Social Advancement Association devoted to the support and development of the research in the fields of marine and freshwater bioecology and environmental education ([www.msgassociation.org](http://www.msgassociation.org)).
- 2010 – today Teacher assistant. “Scientific Diving Laboratory: Diving Techniques for Biological Survey”, Course of Master Degree in Biodiversity and Evolution, School of Science, University of Bologna (Italy). Teacher: Dr. Stefano Goffredo.
- 2010 – 2016 Volunteer researcher. EU FP7 – Ideas programme “Corals and Global Warming: the Mediterranean versus the Red Sea” (CoralWarm). Coral and sessile organism sampling in Mediterranean Sea, by SCUBA dives.
- 2009 – today Research support. Counsellor of the Marine & Freshwater Science Group Association, Bologna (Italy). Social Advancement Association devoted to the support and development of the research in the fields of marine and freshwater bioecology and environmental education ([www.msgassociation.org](http://www.msgassociation.org)).
- 2008 – today Diving. Diving Instructor; “Scientific Diving School” ([www.sdseducational.org](http://www.sdseducational.org)), in Bologna (Italy). Holiday Service Diving Center in Sharm-el Sheikh (Egypt).
- 2007 – 2015 Swimming activities. Swimming instructor, Master and junior team coach and life guard, “San Giorgio Nuota” in San Giorgio di Piano (Italy).
- 2007 – 2011 Volunteer researcher. “STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment” project dissemination and volunteer involvement in Sharm el-Sheikh, Hurghada and Marsa Alam areas (Egypt).
- 2004 – 2007 Swimming activities. Swimming instructor and junior team coach; “Nuovo Nuoto” in Bologna (Italy),
- 2003 – 2007 Swimming activities. Life guard and swimming trainer; “UISP” and “SO.GE.SE.” a Bologna (Italy)

### Referee and editorial activity

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- 2016 Referee. PLoS ONE, Public Library of Science, San Francisco (CA), USA. (1 manuscript 19 February).
- 2015 Assistant Referee. Conservation Biology, Wiley-Blackwell, Washington (DC), (USA). (1 manuscript, 1 September 2015)
- 2015 Referee. PLoS ONE, Public Library of Science, San Francisco (CA), USA. (7 manuscripts 17 May; 14 July; 17, 31 August; 4, 12 October; 5 November 2015).
- 2015 Referee. Coral Reefs. Journal of the International Society for Reef Studies, Springer, New York, USA. (3 manuscripts – 25 April; 10 September; 1 December 2015).
- 2013 Assistant Referee. Methods in Ecology and Evolution, Journal of the British Ecology Society, Wiley-Blackwell, Hoboken, (NJ), USA (1 manuscript – 12 January 2013).
- 2013 Assistant Referee. AMBIO, Journal of the Swedish Academy of Science, Springer, Dordrecht, Netherlands. (1 manuscript – 12 October 2013).
- 2012 Assistant Referee. The Open Conservation Biology Journal, Bentham Science Publishers, Beijing, China. (1 manuscript, 23 November 2012).
- 2012 Assistant Referee. Tourism Management, Elsevier, Oxford, United Kingdom (2 manuscript -23 March 2012, 7 November 2012).

## Other qualifications

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2014	<u>Oxygen Supplier Instructor</u> : Scuba Nitrox Safety International (SNSI).
2013	<u>Oxygen Supplier</u> : Scuba Nitrox Safety International (SNSI).
2013	<u>Assistant Trainer</u> : Scuba Nitrox Safety International (SNSI).
2010	<u>Recreational Deco Diver Instructor</u> : Scuba Nitrox Safety International (SNSI).
2009	<u>Nitrox Instructor</u> : Scuba Nitrox Safety International (SNSI).
2009	<u>BLS Instructor</u> : Scuba Nitrox Safety International (SNSI).
2009	<u>Instructor Air Program</u> : Scuba Nitrox Safety International (SNSI).
2009	<u>Scientific Diving Instructor</u> : American Academy of Underwater Science (AAUS).
2008	<u>Divemaster</u> : Scuba Nitrox Safety International (SNSI).
2008	<u>Rescue Diver</u> : Scuba Nitrox Safety International (SNSI).
2007	<u>Swimming Trainer</u> : Unione Italiana Sport per Tutti (UISP).
2007	<u>Advanced Open Water Diver</u> : Scuba Nitrox Safety International (SNSI).
2006	<u>Swimming Coach</u> : Italian Swimming Federation (FIN).
2005	<u>Swimming Instructor</u> : Italian Sport Union for Everyone (UISP).
2004	<u>Driving licence A3</u> .
2004	<u>Swimming Activities Instructor</u> : Fishing and Diving Italian Federation (FIPSAS).
2003	<u>Driving Licence B</u> .
2003	<u>Life Guard</u> : Italian Swimming Federation (FIN).
2000	<u>Open Water Diver</u> : Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI).

## Prize and Fellowship

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2015 - today	<u>Post-doc</u> : Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences – University of Bologna. Citizen Science programmes: reliable monitoring systems, environmental management tools and citizen educative approaches. Project: “STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment”.
2015	<u>Research Collaboration</u> : Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences – University of Bologna. Statistic analyses, data elaboration and scientific report drafting. Project: “STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment”
2014 - 2015	Fellowship funded by Settemari Tour Operator under research program “STE: SCUBA TOURISM FOR THE ENVIRONMENT”.
2014	Prize funded by Dept. of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences, Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna, to achievement for Citizen Science researches accomplishments.
2012 - 2014	Fellowship funded by Settemari Tour Operator under research program “STE: SCUBA TOURISM FOR THE ENVIRONMENT”.

- 2012 Fellowship funded by Viaggio nel Blu Diving Center under research program “STE: SCUBA TOURISM FOR THE ENVIRONMENT”
- 2012 Fellowship funded by Dept. of Evolutionary and Experimental Biology, Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna, to Red Sea coral reef biodiversity monitoring
- 2011 Prize “Mario Pasquini” ([www.premiomariopasquini.org](http://www.premiomariopasquini.org)), for the M. Sc. Thesis “Large spatial and temporal scale analyses of coral biodiversity in the Red Sea”.

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### Membership in professional societies and committee

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- 2015 Advisor. Sustainable Tourism Convention, stakeholders round-table organized by Italian Ministry of Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism to define future policies in the Sustainable Tourism sector.
- 2014 – today Association for the Science of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO)
- 2014 – today European Citizen Science Association (ECSA)
- 2007 – today American Academy of Underwater Science (AAUS)

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### Supervision of students

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- 2014-2016 Greta Zampa: Bachelor Degree in Biological Sciences; Thesis title: “Spatial and temporal Red Sea coral diversity analysis, through volunteer-based data collection”. Supervisor: Dr. Stefano Goffredo; Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences – Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna (BIGEA); co- supervisor: Dr Simone Branchini, Viviana Brambilla (BIGEA).
- 2013-2015 Valeria Serafini: Bachelor Degree in Biological Sciences; Thesis title: “Long-time and large scale coral reefs biodiversity monitoring through recreational divers involvement” supervisor: Dr. Stefano Goffredo; Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences – Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna (BIGEA); co- supervisor: Dr Simone Branchini, Viviana Brambilla (BIGEA).
- 2013-2014 Marta Meschini: Bachelor Degree in Biological Sciences; Thesis title. “Long-time and large scale red sea coral reef biodiversity status monitoring through recreational divers surveys” supervisor: Dr. Stefano Goffredo; Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences – Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna (BIGEA); co- supervisor: Dr Simone Branchini (BIGEA).
- 2012-2013 Andrea Garuti; Bachelor Degree in Biological Sciences; Thesis title. “Long-time red sea coral reef biodiversity monitoring: limitings and advantages of volunteers’ involvement” supervisor: Dr. Stefano Goffredo; Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences – Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna (BIGEA); co- supervisor: Dr Simone Branchini (BIGEA).
- 2010-2012 Bianca Maria Tonucci; Bachelor Degree in Natural Sciences; Thesis title: “Pluriannual monitoring of Red Sea coral reef biodiversity, by means of recreational divers’ involvement”; supervisor: Dr. Stefano Goffredo Department of Evolutionary and Experimental, Biology – Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna (BES); co-supervisor: Dr Simone Branchini (BES), Dr Francesco Pensa (BES).

## Examination Committee Membership

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- 2014 - 2016     Member of the Degree Committee in Biological Sciences (Bachelor Degree): School of Sciences, University of Bologna.
- 2013            Member of the Degree Committee in Biological Sciences (Bachelor Degree): Faculty of Mathematical Physics and Natural Sciences, University of Bologna.
- 2012            Member of the Degree Committee in Natural Sciences (Bachelor Degree): Faculty of Mathematical Physics and Natural Sciences, University of Bologna.

## Academic Seminars

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- 4 April 2015     Seminar "The involvement of citizens in the environmental monitoring", in "Laboratory of Scientific Diving", Course of Master Degree in Biodiversity and Evolution, School of Science, University of Bologna (Italy). Teacher: Dr. Stefano Goffredo.
- 26 March 2014   Seminar "The involvement of citizens in the environmental monitoring", in "Laboratory of Scientific Diving", Course of Master Degree in Biodiversity and Evolution, School of Science, University of Bologna (Italy). Teacher: Dr. Stefano Goffredo.
- 24 March 2013   Seminar "The involvement of citizens in the environmental monitoring", in "Laboratory of Scientific Diving", Course of Master Degree in Biodiversity and Evolution, School of Science, University of Bologna (Italy). Teacher: Dr. Stefano Goffredo.
- 25 March 2012   Seminar "The involvement of citizens in the environmental monitoring", in "Scientific Diving Laboratory: Diving Techniques for Biological Survey", Course of Master Degree in Biodiversity and Evolution, School of Science, University of Bologna (Italy). Teacher: Dr. Stefano Goffredo.

## Articles in peer review / impact factor journals

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**Branchini S.**, Meschini M., Covi C., Piccinetti C., Zaccanti F., Goffredo S., 2015: Participating in a Citizen Science Monitoring Program: Implications for Environmental Education. PLoS ONE 10(7): e0131812. doi 10.1371/journal.pone.0131812

**Branchini S.**, Pensa F., Neri P., Tonucci B.M., Mattielli L., Collavo A., Sillingardi., Piccinetti C., Zaccanti., Goffredo S., 2015: Using a citizen science program to monitor coral reef biodiversity through space and time. Biodiversity and Conservation, 24: 319-336. doi 10.1007/s10531-014-0810-7

## Active participation in scientific meetings

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**Branchini S.**, Brambilla V., Piccinetti C., Zaccanti F., Goffredo S. 2016. A long tale of recreational monitoring of marine environments: what future steps?. ICRS 2016 13th International Coral Reef Symposium – Briding science to policy. 19-24 June 2016 · Honolulu, Hawaii USA

**Branchini S.**, Meschini M., Covi C., Piccinetti C., Zaccanti F., Goffredo S. 2015. Recreational marine citizen science: implications for conservation management and environmental education. ASLO 2015 Aquatic Sciences: Global And Regional Perspectives — North Meets South. 22-27 February 2015 – Granada (Spain).

**Branchini S.**, Pensa F., Neri P, Tonucci B.M., Mattielli L., Collavo A., Sillingardi M.E., Piccinetti C., Zaccanti F., Goffredo S. 2014. Engaging people in marine biodiversity monitoring programs. 6<sup>th</sup> Living Knowledge Conference: An Innovative Civil Society - Impact through Co-creation and Participation. 9-11 April 2014 – Copenhagen (Denmark).

**Branchini S.**, Pensa F., Neri P, Tonucci B.M., Garuti A., Serafini V., Siroli M., Meschini M., Mattielli L., Collavo A., Sillingardi M.E., Piccinetti C., Zaccanti F., Goffredo S. 2013. Using the Citizen Science Program to monitor coral reef biodiversity through space and time. ICCB8: The International Conference of Coelenterate Biology. 1-5 December 2013 – Eilat (Israel)

Goffredo S., Pensa F., **Branchini S.**, Piccinetti C., Zaccanti F. 2010: A study of the distribution of shallow-water populations of *Corallium rubrum* carried out in collaboration with recreational scuba divers. Euro ISRS Symposium: Reefs in changing environment. 13 – 17 December – Wagenigen (Netherland)

Goffredo S., Pensa F., **Branchini S.**, Collavo A., Mattielli L., Beccari A., Piccinetti C., Zaccanti F. 2010: Scuba Tourism for the Environment: coral reefs biodiversity monitoring in the Northern Red Sea. . Euro ISRS Symposium: Reefs in changing environment. 13 – 17 December – Wagenigen (Netherland)

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### Articles in popular publications

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Goffredo S., Neri P., Pensa F., **Branchini S.**, Piccinetti C., Zaccanti F. 2008: STE Scuba Tourism for the Environment –Red Sea Biodiversity Monitoring Program. *Ambiente Europa*, 1: 23-25.

Goffredo S., Neri P., Pensa F., **Branchini S.**, Piccinetti C., Zaccanti F. 2008: Monitorare il Mare. *Mondo Sommerso*, 8:28-31.

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### Public dissemination activities

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26 January 2016. Urban Center (Milan). Presentation of the projects “STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment” and “Glocal Education: Environmental Educators Project” during the round of lectures: “Working with Nature”, organized by the association of Italia Nostra, with the sponsorship of Cariplo Foundation and Milan Municipality.

1 August 2015. Radio 24, Moebius (National Radio). Interview on “STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment” by Federico Pedrocchi and Chiara Albicocco.

6 – 9 March 2015. Bologna Fiere (Bologna), XXII Salone Europeo delle Attività Subacquee (EU.DI. Show), communication of the result through project booth and project presentation “STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment: conclusion of the second project phase”, professional annual meeting Scuba Nitrox Safety International (SNSI) and Member Social 2014 Professional Association of Diving Instructor (PADI).

1 December 2014. ATMOSPHERE ” Da turisti subacquei a BIOLOGI MARINI”

26 November 2014. Palazzo Re Enzo, Bologna. Researchers’ Night 2014, organization of the event: “Mari da salvare – I progetti dell’UNIBO”

6 August 2014. LA STAMPA.IT “Mar Rosso, i turisti diventano biologi” di Rudi Bressa

14 – 17 March 2014. Bologna Fiere (Bologna), XXII Salone Europeo delle Attività Subacquee (EU.DI. Show), communication of the result through project booth and project presentation “STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment: results after six years of monitoring”, professional annual meeting Scuba Nitrox Safety International (SNSI) and Member Social 2014 Professional Association of Diving Instructor (PADI).

13 – 15 February 2014. Fiera Milano (Rho), BIT – International Tourism Exchange . Dissemination of the results of the project “STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment” through project partners (Egyptian Minister of Tourism, Egyptian Tourist Authority Director, ASTOI – Italian Tour Operator Association and Settemari Tour Operator) and public at large.

2 January 2014 RESTO DEL CARLINO BOLOGNA “Turisti e scienziati immersi tra i segreti del Mar Rosso” di E. Astolfi

- 16 October 2013. Centro Congresso Meeting Fiera di Bologna, SmartCity 2013, conference "Citizen Science – involving volunteers in environmental data collection" in the section "Data, Analyses, Cloud and Smart City".
- 17 February 2013. Fiera Milano (Rho), XXI Salone Europeo delle Attività Subacquee (EU.DI. Show), project presentation "STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment: results after six years of monitoring", professional annual meeting Scuba Nitrox Safety International (SNSI).
- 16 February 2013. Fiera Milano (Rho), XXI Salone Europeo delle Attività Subacquee (EU.DI. Show), project presentation "STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment: results after six years of monitoring", Member Social 2013 Professional Association of Diving Instructor (PADI).
- 17 October 2012. Piazza Scaravilli, Bologna, AlmaFest party con UNIBO, organization of the event "AlmaCoral, l'influenza dei cambiamenti climatici sulla biodiversità".
- 1-2 June 2012. I ricercatori parlano alla città: in piazza tra bolle e coralli, Giardini Margherita, Bologna.
- 12 May 2012. Palazzo della Provincia di Lodi, conference "I subacquei proteggono il mare", project presentation: "STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment – Red Sea Biodiversity Monitoring".
- 16-19 February 2012. Fiera Milano (Rho), XX Salone Europeo delle Attività Subacquee (EU.DI. Show) and Borsa Internazionale del Turismo BIT, project presentation "STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment: 5-year research results".
- 23 September 2011. Piazza Scaravilli, Bologna, Researchers' Night, organization of the event: "Tutti tra i coralli: la biodiversità del Mar Rosso, nello spazio e nel tempo".
- 2 April 2011. Environmental Association MareVivo (Roma), conference "Serata Coralli & Squali", project presentation: "STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment – Red Sea Biodiversity Monitoring",
- 13 February 2011, Centro Congressi Meeting Fiera di Bologna, XIX Salone Europeo delle Attività Subacquee (EU.DI. Show), conference "STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment: risultati dei primi quattro anni di ricerca".
- 11 December 2010. Centro Congressi Italia 7 Gold (Bologna), Special Congress I Dive, project presentation: "STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment – Red Sea Biodiversity Monitoring".
- 24 September 2010. Piazza Scaravilli, Bologna, Researchers' Night, organization of the event: "CoralWarm. Riscaldamento Globale & i coralli nel nostro mare."
- 10 June 2010. City of Claudia Baccarani, "Il Mar Rosso Salvato dai turisti".
- 13 April 2010. Swiss radio and television (RTSI), Rete 1, Il Camaleonte – Interview on "STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment".
- August 2008. Article "Monitoring the sea" in the popular magazine Mondo Sommerso
- July 2008. Ambiente Europa, "STE: Scuba Tourism for the Environment – Red Sea Biodiversity Monitoring Program"
- 7 June 2008. Gioia of Franco Terruzzi, "Turisti per scienza"



## **Languages**

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Mother tongue            Italian.  
Other Languages        English. Good reading, writing, and speaking.

## **Social and organizational skills and competences**

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I have practiced a lot of sports (Trekking, Orienteering, Mountain Bike, Climbing, Free-diving) and fin swimming at a competitive level (1999-2007). Thanks to my studies and sport activities as well as personal pleasure, I have done a lot of travelling and have had the opportunity of meeting people of different cultures. Being professional diving instructor made it possible for me to learn how to deal with groups meeting individual needs and improve my social, organizational and team leading skills. As a swimming instructor and coach of teams of masters and young swimmers, I have improved my teaching and motivational skills with different age groups, and also my ability to manage interpersonal relationships among them. My research activity gave me the opportunity of working in close contact with the financial sponsors of the research, while further developing my communication skills and ability to work within the institutional system.

## **Technical skills and competences**

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I have a good experience in computer use, such as windows-based software, office package and internet surfing. I have a good knowledge of professional advanced statistical software (i.e. SPSS and Primer) and image editing software (i.e. Photoshop, Illustrator o Flash).

## **Sporting skills and competences**

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Since 1999 up to 2007 I was a fin swimming athlete of RECORD TEAM BOLOGNA, enrolled with FIPSAS and CMAS. I won several regional and national titles.