

RAFFAELLA CASOTTI

**Motivational letter for the election of the SZN staff representative in the Scientific Advisory Board  
(Consiglio Scientifico)**

*The SZN is experiencing crucial changes which will lead to a profound change of its structure and standing. Results are already visible in the increase of publications, the increase in staff members and sites. This requires a careful and strategic planning of the future research directions in order to achieve the goals envisioned, using the legacy of SZN to shape its future. I hope to contribute to this by offering my past and present expertise as research group leader and also coordinator of several facilities at SZN (including the PhD Program) and as a deep connoisseur of the old as well as most recent acquisitions in terms of human and also technical resources.*

*I have indeed represented SZN in several national and international standings (e.g. Ritmare, MarBef, EurOceans), have coordinated the infrastructure acquisition within EMSO MedIT and have acted as expert evaluator for small and large projects and programs of the European Commission, the French Agency of Research, the German EVAL-INCO, the NSF, among others (full list in the CV). I also have comparative experience, having worked in prestigious institutions such as the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (USA) for 2 years and the Station Biologique de Roscoff (France) for 3 years, and kept contact and professional interactions with both.*

*I am very much aligned with the goals and focus of my Institutions and I would like to actively contribute to reach its objectives, as also expected by the European Charter for Researchers.*

*I know that I can bring much benefit with my experience, educational qualifications and skills and I look forward to putting these towards a good cause.*

*Sincerely,*

*Raffaella Casotti*