

Carmen Maria Giordano is completing her PhD at the DICAM Department of the University of Bologna, within the Geomatics research group, and is a research fellow for the LIFE NatuReef project. For LIFE NatuReef, she carries out surveying activities using photogrammetry and drone-based LiDAR techniques.

How did you come to work in this field?

My passion began at university. I graduated in Building Engineering-Architecture in Bologna and, during my studies, I became passionate about photogrammetry. What fascinates me about photogrammetry is that it is one of the few techniques that allows us to go back in time, even using historical and tourist photographs. So it naturally became the subject of my thesis

I started my PhD after a work experience in the field of surveying, which further fuelled my hunger for knowledge. Within the Geomatics group, I found a stimulating environment that is helping me grow both professionally and personally. I can say that, thanks to this experience, I have found true points of reference.

What does your work involve?

My work mainly involves research, but also teaching. It is a dynamic job, because it is based on data processing, study, fieldwork, practical exercises with students, conferences, and dissemination activities. I also had the opportunity to spend a study period abroad at TU Dresden University, in order to further explore my research topics.

Sometimes I come home exhausted after our surveying campaigns, but happy to have spent my days in wonderful places.

What is your role in NatuReef?

For the project, we carry out surveys working together with the Proambiente group, which deals with the submerged part, while we at Geomatics-DICAM focus on the emerged part.

Our work for LIFE NatuReef consists of collecting and processing data on the area of interest, producing a three-dimensional “snapshot” of that specific moment, which can then be used for monitoring over time.

I cannot find a better way to describe our work than to say that we are the “radiologists” of engineering.

What do you like about LIFE NatuReef?

I fell in love with the project even before starting. LIFE NatuReef is special both for what it aims to do and for the way it seeks to do it.

One aspect that fascinates me enormously is that it brings together specialists from so many different fields of study. Their passion is so strong that it almost makes me want to enrol at university again to learn more about their areas of expertise.

What other passion defines you, besides geomatics?

I am certainly not known for being sporty, but I enjoy hiking, walking in nature, and discovering new places and experiences.

What is your wish for NatuReef?

I hope the project can prove to be an effective response not only for the place where we are testing it, but also elsewhere.

What is nature to you?

For me, nature is home: a place to be preserved so that everyone can find refuge in it.