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PROGRESS REPORT REGARDING quietMED2 PROJECT

QUIETMED2 - Joint programme for GES assessment on D11-noise in the Mediterranean Marine Region.

PROGRESS REPORT

February 2020



SOMMAIRE

1	<i>Introduction and Objectives</i>	4
1.1.	The consortium.	4
2	<i>Activities</i>	6
2.1	Work Structure	6
2.2	Work progress	7
2.3	Project outputs	8
2.4	Expected outcomes.....	10

1 INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

The QUIETMED2 Project is funded by DG Environment of the European Commission within the call “DG ENV/MSFD Second Cycle/2018”. This call funds the next phase of MSFD implementation, in particular, to implement the new GES Decision (Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 of 17 May 2017) laying down criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters and specifications and standardised methods for monitoring and assessment, and repealing Decision 2010/477/EU) and Programmes of Measures according Article 13 of the MSFD.

The QUIETMED2 project aims to enhance cooperation among Member States (MS) in the Mediterranean Sea Region (MED) to implement the Second Cycle of the Marine Directive and in particular to assist them in the preparation of their MSFD reports through the following specific objectives:

- ✓ Develop and implement a candidate impact indicator in the Mediterranean Region for D11C1 Criteria.
- ✓ Make a joint proposal of a methodology to establish threshold values, list of elements and integration rules to implement the GES decision in reference to D11C1 in the Mediterranean Region.
- ✓ Build an efficient data and information tool to support the implementation of the D11C1 Criteria and the update of the monitoring programmes of Impulsive Noise according the new GES Decision.
- ✓ Perform an operational pilot of an impulsive noise impact monitoring programme implemented with the updated Joint register to demonstrate its feasibility.
- ✓ Promote Mediterranean Region Coordination by i) boosting current regional cooperation efforts of Barcelona Convention and others and ii) developing new cooperation measures.

Enhance collaboration among a wide network of stakeholders through the dissemination of the project results, knowledge share and networking.

1.1. The consortium.

The consortium is made up of 11 entities from 8 EU Member States (Spain, Italy, Malta, Greece, Cyprus, Croatia, Slovenia and Denmark) and 7 of these Member States (MS) share marine regions and sub-regions (The Western Mediterranean Sea, the Adriatic Sea, the Ionian Sea and the Central Mediterranean Sea and the Aegean Sea). These entities are the most relevant organizations in each MS to support the national implementation of the MSFD due to their expertise and skills related to underwater noise. The consortium includes ACCOBAMS which has been appointed by the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP) to develop a basin-wide strategy for underwater noise monitoring in the Mediterranean. SPA/RAC has also joined the consortium as an expert in biodiversity and protected areas and as a representative of Mediterranean non-European countries. The consortium also includes ICES, which provides scientific and advisory services of relevance for the ongoing implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and hosts the OSPAR and HELCOM Joint impulsive noise register.

The project has a duration of 24 months starting on February 2019.



Figure 1. QUIETMED 2 Consortium

During the execution of the different activities, ACCOBAMS is assisted by the team of SINAY, a French company specialist of underwater noise and marine environmental studies, whose members are part of the Joint CMS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Working Group on Noise.

2 ACTIVITIES

2.1 WORK STRUCTURE

To achieve its objectives, the project is divided in 3 work packages around 3 priorities and 10 activities whose relationships are shown in Figure 1.

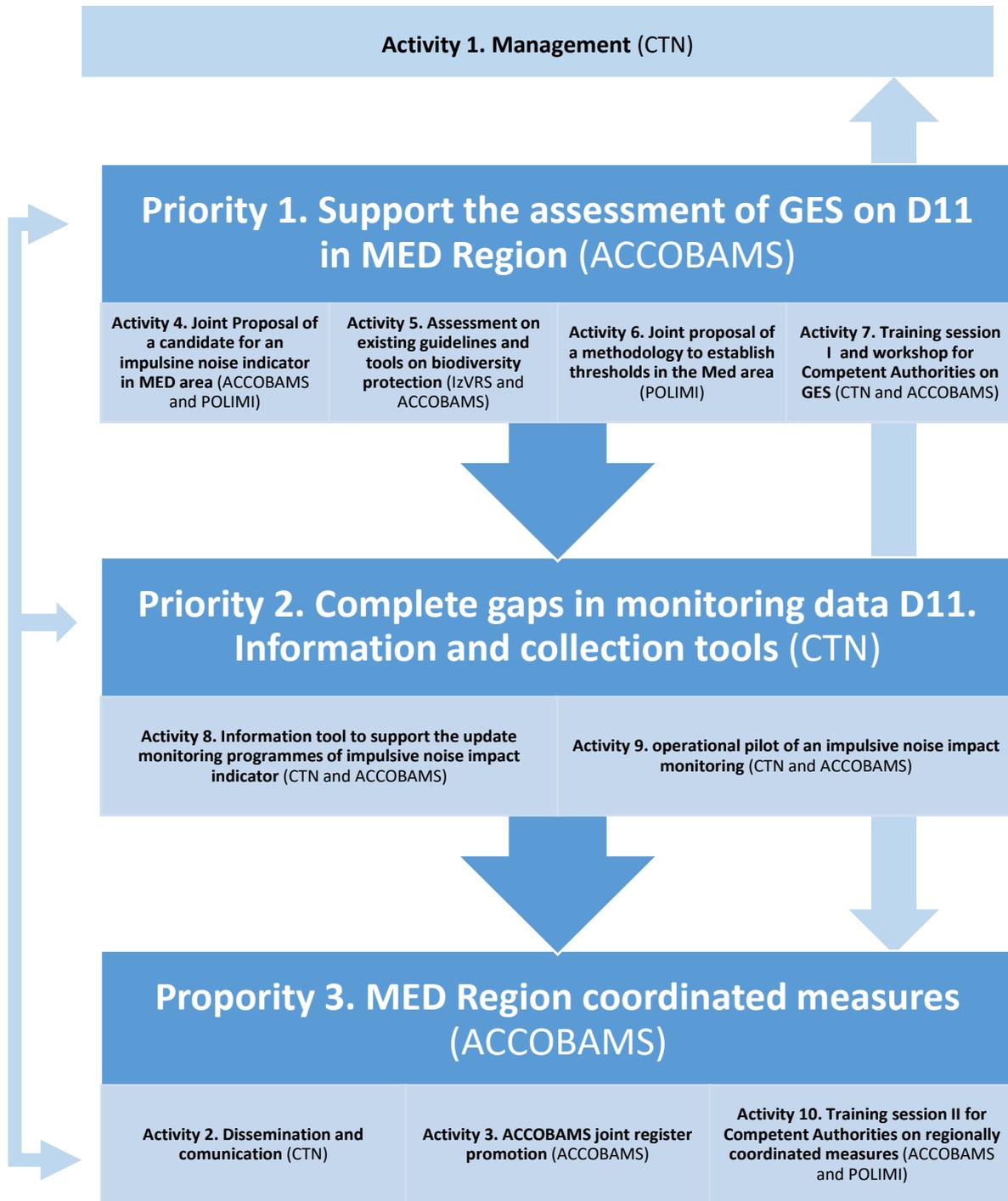


Figure 2: Work Plan Structure (In brackets the Leader of each Work Package and Activity).

2.2 WORK PROGRESS

Activities have started according to the planned timetable. Several tasks have already been achieved. These are summarised in Table 1 hereafter.

Table 1. Work progress. In bold the tasks that were already done or are ongoing at the time of writing this report

Activity (leader in brackets)	Tasks/Achievements
Act 1 – project management	Kick-off meeting Coordination & Steering Final meeting
Act 2: Dissemination and Communication (CTN)	--- Not an ACCOBAMS task ---
Act3 Promote the ACCOBAMS Register	Presentation of the register in relevant Mediterranean Meetings: http://80.73.144.60/CTN_Geoportal/map/ Translation in French of a technical guide on the regional register (ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf42)
Act.4: Joint proposal for an impulsive noise indicator (ACCOBAMS and POLIMI)	Review of the process followed by OSPAR Organization and celebration of two 2-day meetings with the members of the Joint CMS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS working group Elaboration of working documents Assessment of the candidate of impact indicator Finalising the joint proposal of the impulsive noise impact indicator
Act.5 Assessment on existing guidelines and tools on biodiversity protection (ACCOBAMS and IZVRS)	Review and assessment on relevant documents and tools on biodiversity Collect information regarding the distribution and sizes of the populations of the species of cetaceans at national level Liaison with national representatives Overview and sharing of regional level of information in MED about impulsive noise pollution
Act. 6 - methodology to establish thresholds	Link with MSFD Common Implementation Strategy working group (CIS WG) Review and assessment of existing documents Analysis of pressures-noise causal and mitigation relationship Preliminary discussion with expert groups Liaison with national representatives Joint proposal of a methodology to establish thresholds in MED area
Act.7 - Training session I and workshop for Competent Authorities (CTN and ACCOBAMS).	Review/update GES definition of each MS, review of each MS perspectives on new GES implementation Preparation of training materials Organization of the workshop during the “2019 World Marine mammal Conference” (https://www.wmmconference.org/)
Act.8 - Data and information tool (CTN and ACCOBAMS)	Preparatory study with requirements specification for the tool to implement the impulsive noise impact indicator Review of the legal obligations for noise data request to Mediterranean Member States Noise data call Technical development and implementation of the tool Implementation of the thresholds layer Basis for the quantification of the reduction in radiated noise
Act.9 - operational pilot of an impulsive noise impact monitoring programme	Selection of the area where the pilot will take place Data collection, test & analysis
Ac. 10 Workshop and Training session on coordinated measures	Preparation of training materials Organization of the workshop.

2.3 PROJECT OUTPUTS

Deliverables are described in the following table (Table 2).

Table 2. List of outputs of the projects. In Green the deliverables that were already submitted. In Blue, deliverables under development

Del. code	Deliverable name	Activity number	Deliverable Leader	Dissemination level	Issue date
D1.1.	Inception report specifying the proposed methodology for the tasks of the project	1	CTN	Confidential	M1
D1.2.	Progress report	1	CTN	Confidential	M6
D1.3	Final report.	1	CTN	Confidential	M24
D1.4	Presentation of the main results	1	CTN	Confidential	M24
D2.1.	Dissemination tools	2	CTN	Public	M3
D2.2.	Final report on communication and dissemination.	2	CTN	Public	M24
D4.1.	<p>Proposal for MED impulsive noise impact candidate indicator. Definition of key elements and technical specification on indicator development and application for decision-making purpose. Hereafter the work carried out to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Step 1 of this task was to adapt the proposal for a candidate noise impact indicator submitted to OSPAR by U.K. in 2019, based on work engaged since 2017 by CEFAS. The result was the Draft0 of D4.1 - Step 2 was the organisation of a workshop with ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS/CMS JNWG members to discuss about the scope and technical aspects of Draft0. The workshop was held in Monano on 25-26 June 2019 - Step 3 was the reviews and comments that were received by the advisory board and partners until november. - Step 4 was the presentation of the new version at the 2nd workshop with ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS/CMS JNWG members. Advisory board members participated in the last day of workshop - The next step will be to prepare the last version of the document and submit it in April 2020. 	4	ACCOBAMS	Public	M15

D5.1.	Set of cetacean species representative at national, subregional and regional level in the Mediterranean Region	5	IzVRS	Public	M12
D 5.2	Summary report of national and regional barriers and difficulties for getting data about sizes of the populations of cetaceans and their distribution	5	ACCOBAMS	Public	M13
D6.1	National barriers and difficulties for the establishment of thresholds (summary report)	6	POLIMI	Public	M14
D6.2	Joint proposal of a methodology to establish threshold values, together with associated lists of elements and integration rules in the Mediterranean Region.	6	POLIMI	Public	M18
D7.1.	Summary report/ Conclusions of the Training session for competent Authorities from MS to better implement the new GES decision during the “2019 European Cetacean Society (ECS) Conference” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A training workshop was held in december 2019 in Barcelona with competent authorities from Mediterranean EU and non-EU member states - This workshop had important outcomes such as the dissemination of the Noise Register to Mediterranean stakeholders and the development of a roadmap for accelerating the setting up of data collection initiatives to feed the noise register. 	7	CTN	Public	M13
D7.2.	Specific Guidance addressed to competent authorities from MS to better implement the new GES decision (SG).	7	POLIMI	Public	M14
D8.1	Preparatory study for the development of the advance functionalities in the tool.	8	ACCOBAMS and CTN	Public	M12
D8.2.	Data and information tool to support the update monitoring programmes of impulsive noise impact indicator.	8	CTN	Public	M19
D9.1	Report on data collection on assessing the distribution, intensity and effects of underwater noise on cetaceans.	9	ACCOBAMS	Public	M24
D9.2.	Report on the evaluation of the use of the data and information tool to support the update monitoring programmes.	9	ACCOBAMS	Public	M24
D10.1	Specific Guidance for MS to stablish new regionally-coordinated measures (tools, methods and results)	10	ACCOBAMS	Public	M18

D10.2	Summary report/ Conclusions of the Training session for competent Authorities from MS to authorities to establish new regionally-coordinated measures (tools, methods and results).	10	ACCOBAMS	Public	M18
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2.4 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Main expectations from this project are the following:

- Getting an operational tool to support the management of human activities generating underwater noise pollution related to the conservation of cetaceans at the regional scale
- Increase the engagement of Contracting Parties for the implementation of initiatives at the national level aimed at:
 - ✓ Registering human activities generating impulsive noise & monitoring ambient noise levels
 - ✓ Assessing the environmental status of national waters taking into consideration the impact on cetaceans
 - ✓ Adopting coordinated management measures and targets
- Increasing regional cooperation for an effective implementation of processes aimed at monitoring, assessing and managing noise-generating human activities.