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ACTIVITIES REPORT REGARDING QUIETMED2 PROJECT

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Issue: report of activities of the QuietMED2 project

1. Action requested

The Scientific Committee is invited to:

a) **note** the information provided in the Report of Activities of QuietMed2 project.

2. Background

The QUIETMED2 Project - Joint programme for GES assessment on D11 noise in the Mediterranean Marine Region- was funded by DG Environment of the European Commission within the call “DG ENV/MSFD Second Cycle/2018”.

The QUIETMED2 project aimed 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

The consortium was made up of 11 entities from 8 EU Member States (Spain, Italy, Malta, Greece, Cyprus, Croatia, Slovenia and Denmark). 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.

ACTIVITIES REPORT REGARDING QUIETMED2 PROJECT

Mémoire technique

ACTIVITY REPORT

NOVEMBER 2021



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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.

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.



Figure 1. QUIETMED 2 Consortium

ACTIVITIES

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.

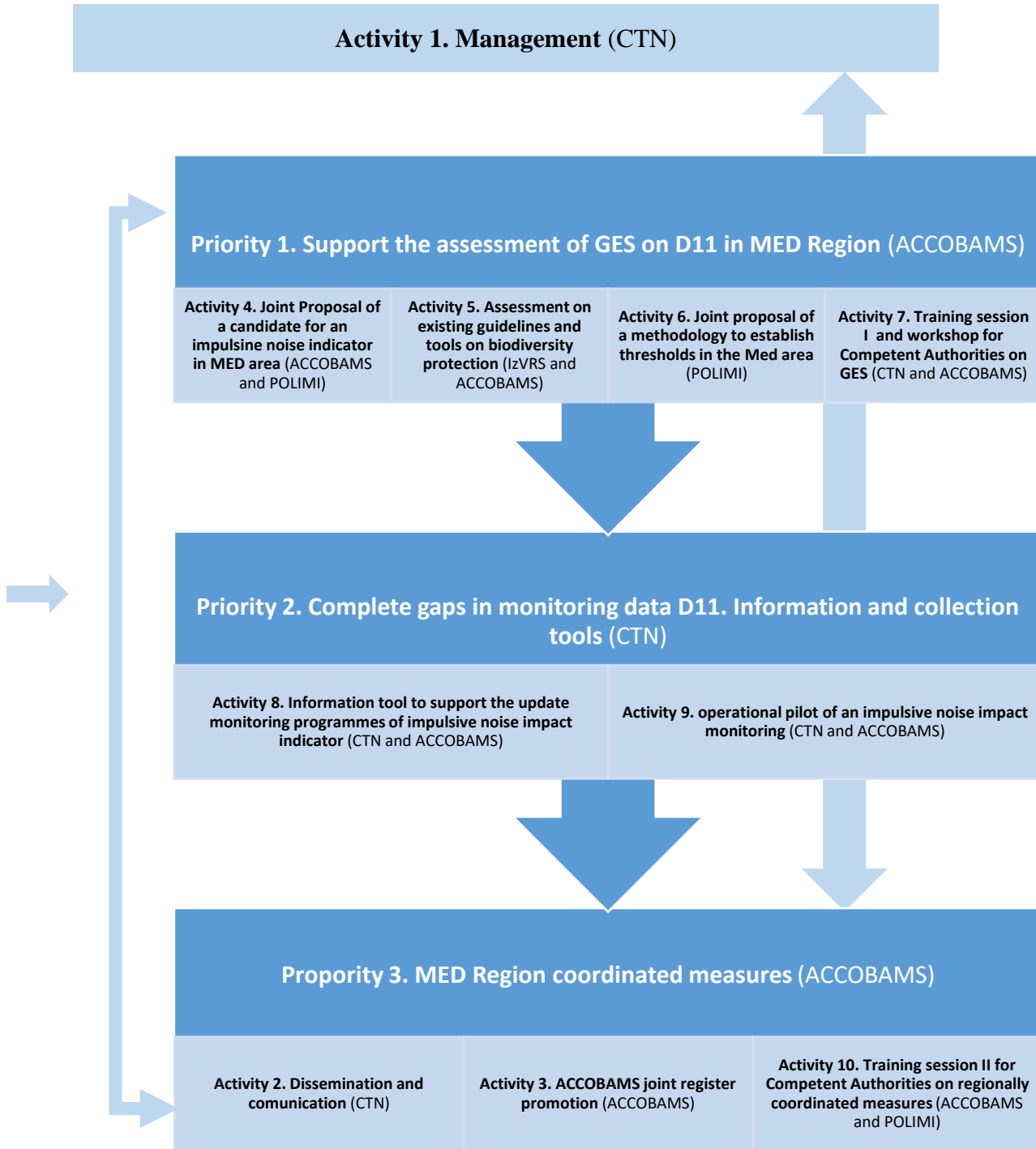


Figure 2: Work Plan Structure (In brackets the Leader of each Work Package and Activity).

MAIN RESULTS

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

Table 1. List of deliverables of the projects, with main outputs in bold.

Del. code	Deliverable name	Activity number	Deliverable Leader
D4.1.	Proposal for MED impulsive noise impact candidate indicator. Definition of key elements and technical specification on indicator development and application for decision-making purpose.	4	ACCOBAMS
D5.1.	Set of cetacean species representative at national, subregional and regional level in the Mediterranean Region	5	IzVRS
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
D6.1	National barriers and difficulties for the establishment of thresholds (summary report)	6	POLIMI
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
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
D7.2.	Specific Guidance addressed to competent authorities from MS to better implement the new GES decision (SG).	7	POLIMI
D8.1	Preparatory study for the development of the advanced functionalities in the tool.	8	ACCOBAMS and CTN
D8.2.	Data and information tool to support the update monitoring programmes of impulsive noise impact indicator.	8	CTN
D9.1	Report on data collection on assessing the distribution, intensity and effects of underwater noise on cetaceans.	9	ACCOBAMS
D9.2.	Report on the evaluation of the use of the data and information tool to support the update monitoring programmes.	9	ACCOBAMS
D10.1	Specific Guidance for MS to stablish new regionally-coordinated measures (tools, methods and results)	10	ACCOBAMS
D10.2	Summary report/ Conclusions of the Training session for competent Authorities from MS to authorities to stablish new regionally-coordinated measures (tools, methods and results). As part of Activity 10, a second workshop was held in December 2020, in French, in order to strengthen the dissemination of results of QUIETMED and QUIETMED2.	10	ACCOBAMS

OUTCOMES

- A risk-based assessment framework was defined for impulsive noise following common risk assessment techniques
- A methodology to find thresholds for GES assessment related to Noise was developed
- An operational tool was developed to support the management of human activities generating impulsive 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

At the end of QUIETMED-2, the Noise Register included data from 3 Countries: France, Malta, Lebanon

- Increasing regional cooperation for an effective implementation of processes aimed at monitoring, assessing and managing noise-generating human activities.