

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE QUIETSEAS PROJECT

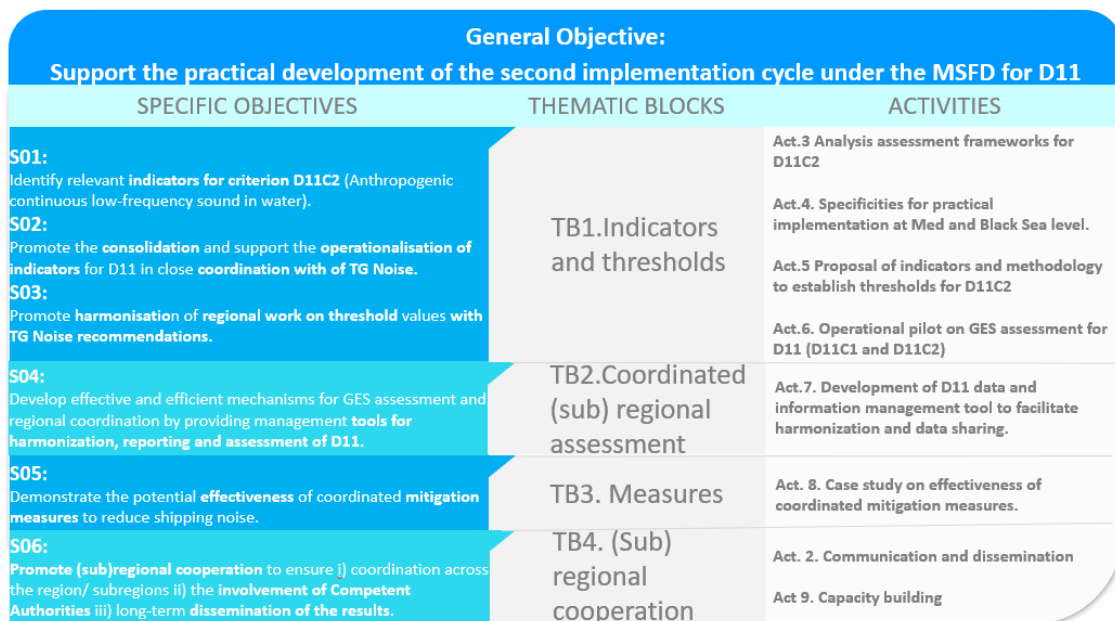
INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

The QUIETSEAS Project is funded by DG Environment of the European Commission within the call “DG ENV/MSFD 2020”. This call funds MSFD development, in particular the preparation of the next 6-year cycle of implementation.

The QUIETSEAS project aims to enhance cooperation among Member States (MS) in the Mediterranean Sea Region (MED) to implement the third Cycle of the Marine Directive and, in particular to support Competent Authorities and strength cooperation and collaboration in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea regions through the following specific objectives:

- Specific objective 1 (SO1): To identify relevant indicators for criterion D11C2 (Anthropogenic continuous low-frequency sound in water).
- Specific objective 2 (SO2): To promote the consolidation of relevant indicators for D11 and support the operationalisation of indicators on the state, pressure and impacts of underwater noise in close coordination with TG Noise.
- Specific objective 3 (SO3): To promote harmonisation of regional work on threshold values with TG Noise recommendations.
- Specific objective 4 (SO4): To develop effective and efficient mechanisms for GES assessment and regional coordination by providing management tools for harmonization, reporting and assessment of D11.
- Specific objective 5 (SO5). To demonstrate the potential effectiveness of coordinated mitigation measures to reduce shipping noise.
- Specific objective 6 (SO6): To promote (sub)regional cooperation in order to ensure i) coordination across the region/ subregions ii) the involvement of Competent Authorities iii) long-term dissemination of the results.

To achieve its objectives, the project is divided in 4 work packages (thematic blocks) and 9 activities whose relationships are shown in Figure 1.



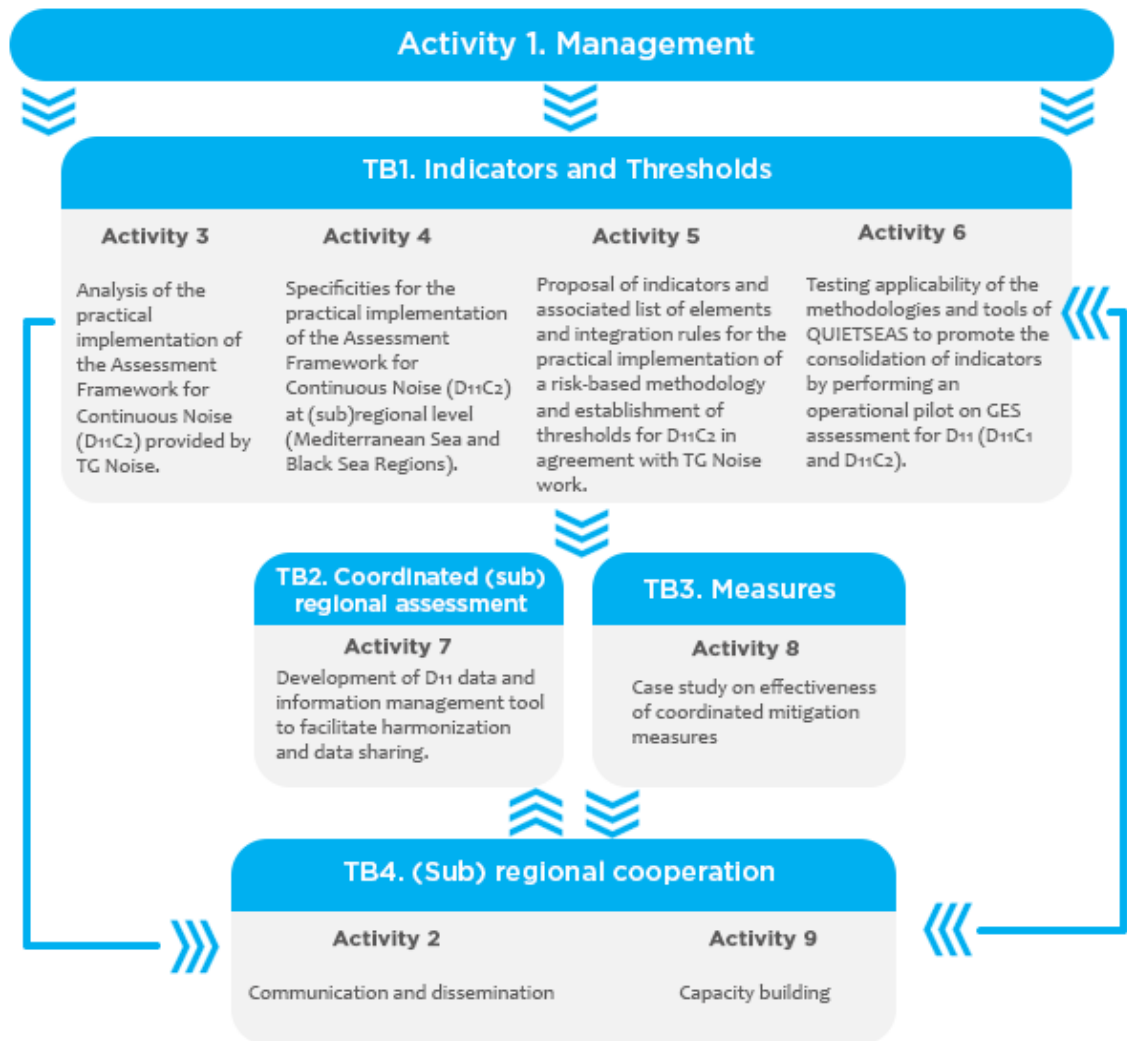
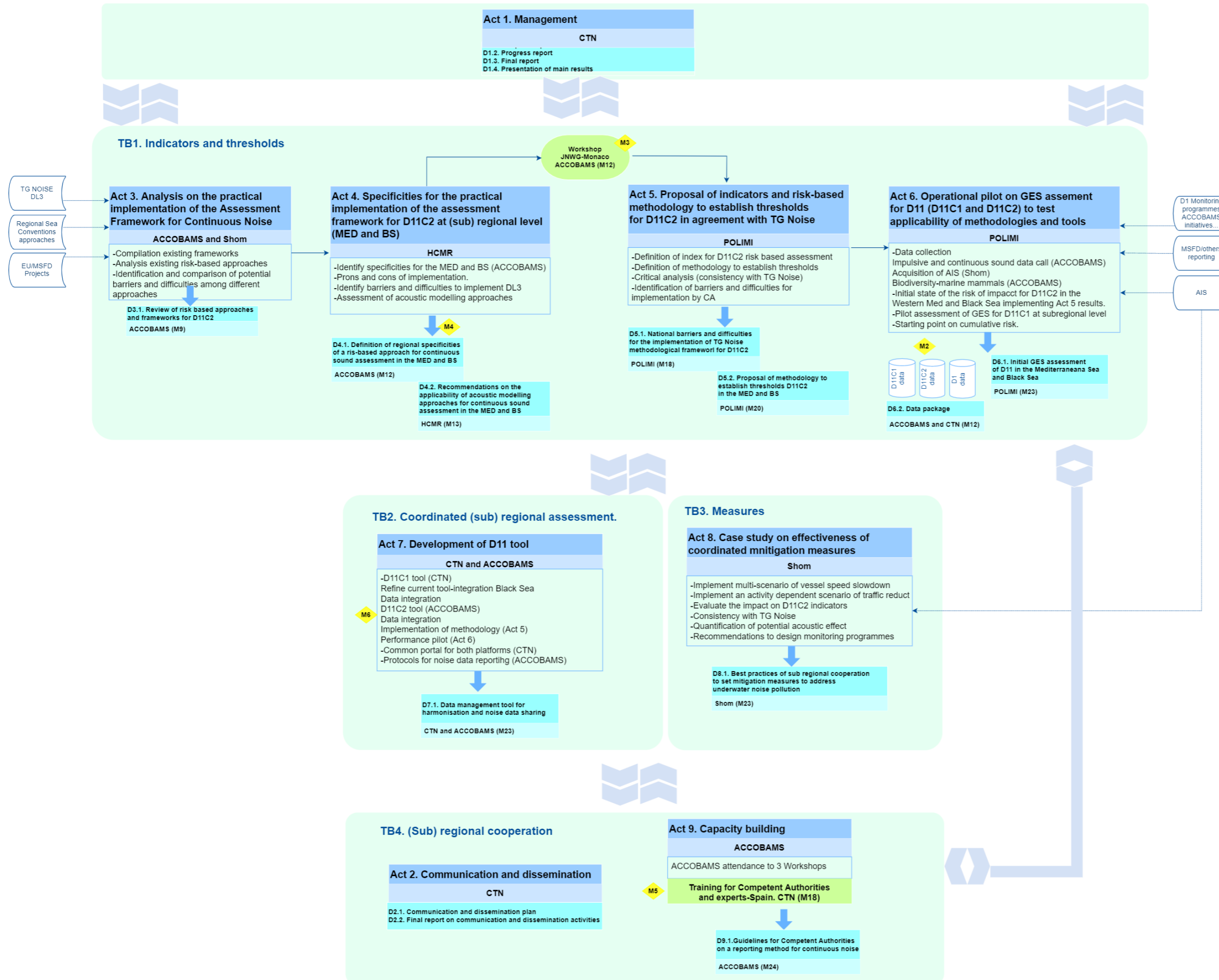


Figure 1: Work Plan Structure.

The nine activities included in the four thematic blocks are linked to each other in the Project. The interactions between them are schematically depicted in Figure 3. Note that although many interrelations among the activities exist, only the most relevant input-output relationships among activities are shown

Figure 2. Activities interaction



THE CONSORTIUM

The consortium is made up of 10 entities, including relevant actors of the Common Implementation Strategy, Competent Authorities, Intergovernmental entities, Research Centres and Universities.

The project has a duration of 24 months starting on 1st February 2021. Due the COVID crisis, it has been extended until June 2023



Figure 3. QUIETSEAS Consortium

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

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Deliv (code)	Deliverable name	Priority	Lead participant	Issue date
D1.1.	Inception report	1	CTN	M1
D1.2.	Progress report	1	CTN	M12
D1.3	Final report.	1	CTN	M24
D1.4	Presentation of the main results	1	CTN	M24
D2.1.	Communication and dissemination plan.	3	CTN	M3
D2.2.	Final report on Communication and dissemination activities.	2	CTN	M24
D3.1	Review of risk-based approaches and frameworks for D11C2.	1	ACCOBAMS	M9

D4.1	Definition of regional specificities of a risk-based approach for continuous sound assessment in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea regions.	1	ACCOBAMS	M12
D4.2	Recommendations on the applicability of acoustic modelling approaches for continuous sound assessment in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea regions.	1	HCMR	M13
D5.1	National barriers and difficulties for the implementation of the TG Noise methodological framework for D11C2.	1	POLIMI	M18
D5.2	Proposal of a methodology to establish thresholds values for D11C2 in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions.	1	POLIMI	M20
D6.1	Initial GES assessment of D11 underwater noise in the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea regions.	1	POLIMI	M23
D6.2	Data package.	1	ACCOBAMS/CTN	M12
D7.1	Data management tool for harmonisation and noise data sharing.	1	CTN/ACCOBAMS	M23
D8.1	Best practices of sub regional cooperation to set mitigation measures to address underwater noise pollution.	1	SHOM	M23
D9.1	Guidelines for Competent Authorities on a reporting method for continuous noise appropriate for the GES assessment and the establishment of thresholds.	1	ACCOBAMS	M24

Table 1. Deliverables summary.

All deliverables will include an executive summary. All public deliverables will be available for download in the web site of the project: www.quietseas.eu.