

### The Mediterranean Sea will become the testing ground for monitoring underwater noise

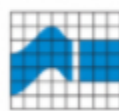
Greece, Malta and Spain will host three pilot activities to monitor ambient noise levels in northern and southern Crete, Maltese waters and the Spanish Balearic Islands. These pilot activities will study how the differences in the water characteristics of the three study areas influence, the way in which underwater noise is propagated and how they affect the use of different equipment in the monitoring of signals.

Hardware calibration is a critical aspect to obtain the comparison of records from different equipment and avoid or reduce possible errors. As a measure of progress towards data consistency and comparability, the equipment to be used in the three pilot activities will be calibrated following a common methodology under the coordination of the Marine Technology Centre (CTN). An initial calibration will be carried out at CTN premises using the latest technologies from its hydroacoustics laboratory and its cylindrical-conical tank. In addition, a supplementary calibration will also carry out in air using the anechoic chamber of the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV).

The pilot activities led by the University of Malta will be the first underwater noise monitoring exercise to be carried out in Malta and will include the modeling and mapping of the measures taken. In Greece, the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH), will carry out two deployments, one in northern Crete and the other one on the south coast. In Spain, the measures will be taken in collaboration between the UPV and the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO) in the Cabrera Marine National Park, an important refuge for marine mammals.

The implementation of these pilot activities will make possible a better understanding of the particularities of the Mediterranean Sea and will represent an advance in the conjoint study of underwater noise.

Visit the project: <http://www.quietmed-project.eu/z>



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