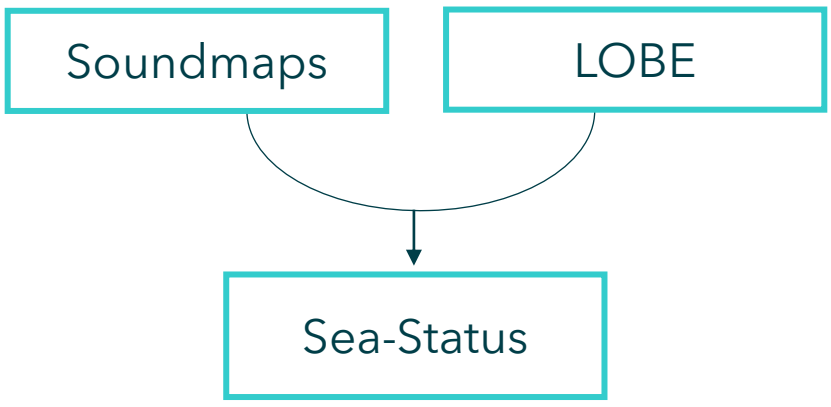
Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

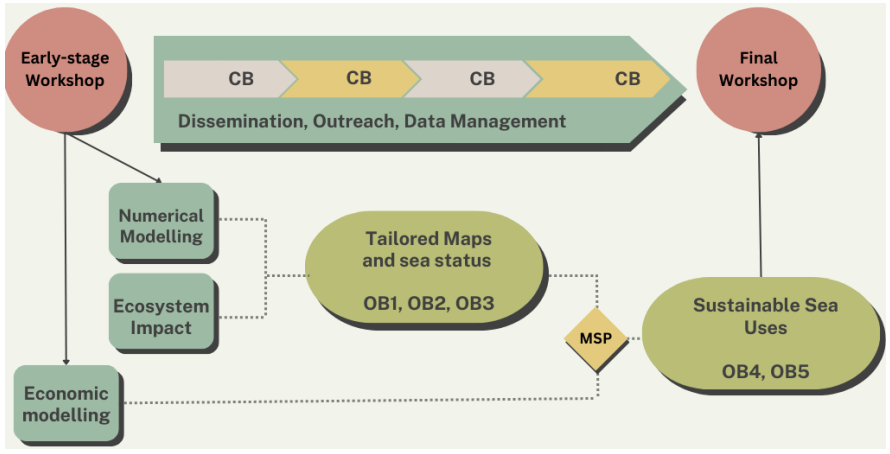
# BluEcho

## From science to policy: assessing impacts and developing solutions for ship traffic and offshore wind farms through detailed soundmaps

- **Underwater noise** is a pollutant that may have long-term detrimental effects on marine fauna.
- The implementation of new **windfarms** and the increase in **marine traffic** should not compromise EUs biodiversity strategy to protect 30% of European seas by 2030 or GES.
- Implementing **Marine Protected Areas,** or low-noise areas, can aid in managing vulnerable habitats and reducing global biodiversity loss.

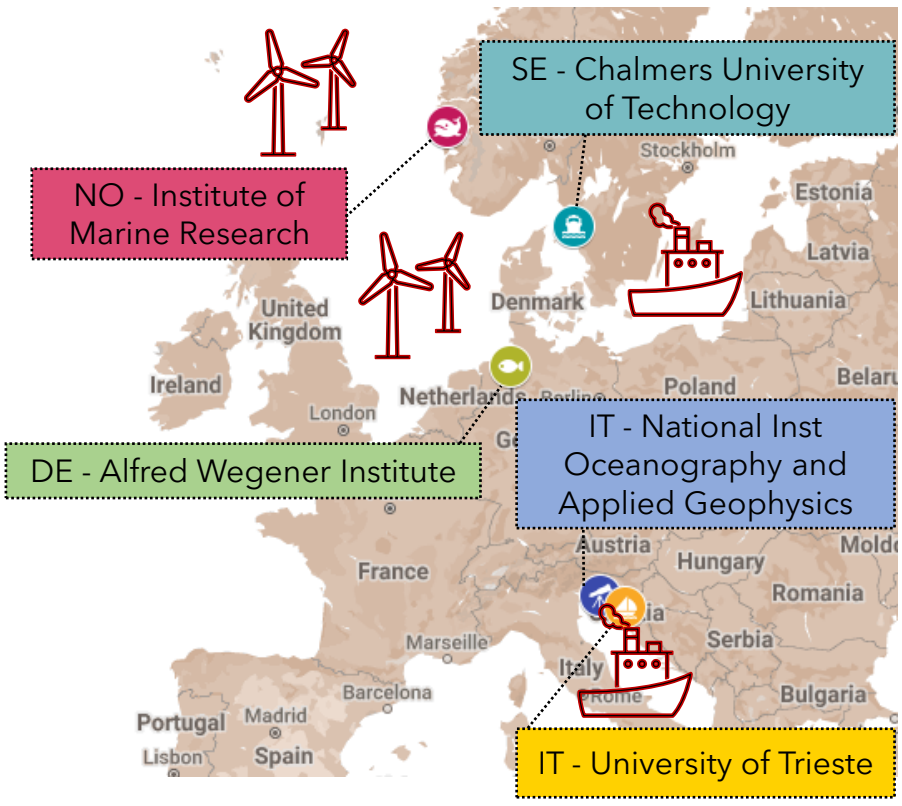



BluEcho uses a multi-basin interdisciplinary approach and a high-level stakeholder engagement to follow the approach proposed by the Technical Group on underwater noise. The **guidance for setting EU threshold values** related to anthropogenic continuous noise in water expands on the extensive work of previous projects, such as JOMOPANS, AQUO, SONIC, JONAS, QUIETSEAS.




**Objectives:**

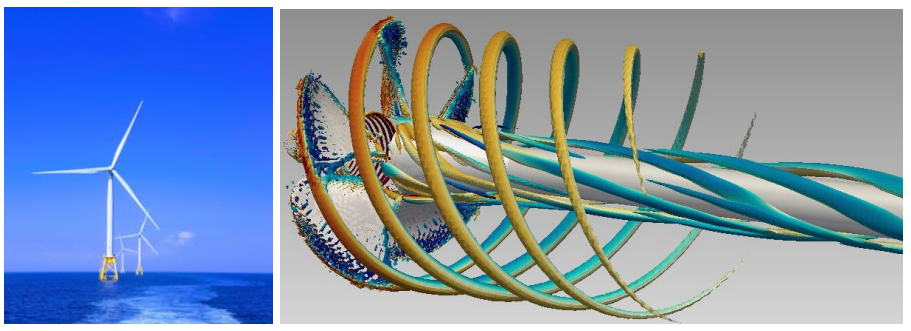
- Investigate sound generation resulting from wind farms and marine traffic
- Assess detailed regional noise maps for all sea basins
- Assess impacts on selected marine taxa
- Evaluate the efficiency of mitigation measures
- Perform an economic analysis of costs and benefits coupled with a marine spatial planning assessment

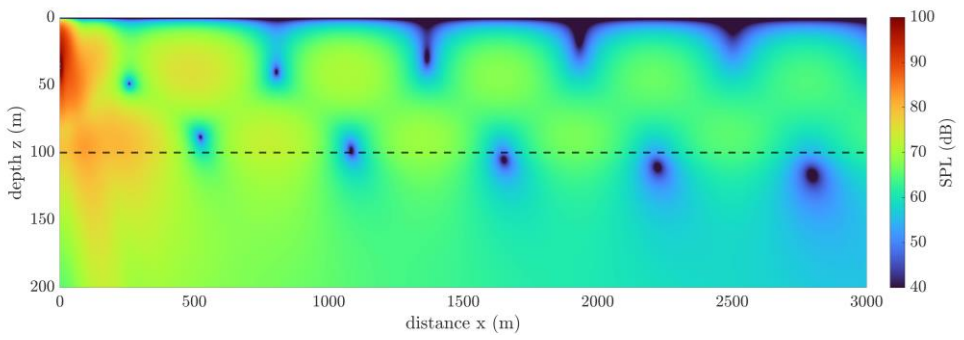



**Methods:**

- Acoustic sources will be reproduced in detail with cutting-edge numerical techniques
- 3D time-domain basin-scale noise maps will be modeled through in-house and open-source software
- Hydrophones and echosounders will be adopted to establish LOBE
- A cost-effectiveness analysis will be performed for evaluating various noise reduction strategies to minimize economic costs
- MSP activity will provide suitability maps, which will lead to the identification of possible new MPAs

An **advisory committee** has been established: members from TG Noise and S4GES, industry personnel from Kongsberg, Gruppo Beneteau Italia, Saipem.



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