INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

# GEF-UNDP-IMO GloNoise Partnership

Regional Webinar on Underwater Noise in the Mediterranean

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INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

# Underwater Radiated Noise (URN) from Vessels

## IMO Regulatory Framework on URN

| URN Guidelines | Revised URN Guidelines | URN Action Plan | Experience Building Phase (EBP) | Future Options |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| URN Guidelines - MEPC.1/Circ.833 (April 2014)<br><br>High level guidelines without specific technical provisions | Revised URN Guidelines - MEPC.1/Circ.906 (August 2023)<br><br>Introduction of technical provisions<br><br>Ref to International Standards and Class/ Measurement Standards<br><br>URN Management Planning (with templates)<br><br>Energy Efficiency and URN reduction (1st Workshop EE URN 2023) | Guide to IMO's work on URN<br><br>Establishment of the EBP<br><br>Standardize URN management planning<br><br>URN Targets<br><br>URN reduction policy<br><br>Tools for Data Collection and Information sharing<br><br>Further R&D on URN<br><br>GHG/URN reduction interdependencies | 3 years (until 2028 with extension)<br><br>Relevant experience in application of Revised URN Guidelines to be submitted<br><br>EBP Framework<br>URN Correspondence Group<br><br>Energy Efficiency and URN reduction (2nd Workshop EE URN 2025) (https://sway.cloud.microsoft/O9T8ZP3rYy4rzbxd?ref=Link)<br><br>Technical Guidance on co-optimizing energy efficiency and underwater radiated noise (URN) during the ship design and retrofit stages approved | Following conclusion of the EBP and Actions in the URN Action Plan:<br><br>1. Further revise the URN Guidelines?<br><br>2. Ship design URN mandatory provisions?<br><br>3. Conclusion in the assessment of the GHG/URN relation?<br><br>4. URN Targets |

# Barriers

- Limited awareness of shipping noise impacts on marine biodiversity
- Lack of standardized underwater noise measurement protocols
- Insufficient regulatory frameworks for noise reduction targets
- High costs of retrofitting vessels with quieter technologies

| Implementation Period | Budget | Financing | Co-financing |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2024-2026** | **USD 2.2 m.** | **GEF**<br>**KSA** (Cash Co-financing) | **USD 30 m.** |

# GloNoise Intervention

- **Awareness Raising and Stakeholder Engagement**
- **Policy Analysis, URN Toolkit and Capacity Development**
- **Global Strategic Partnership**
- **Sustainability and Project Management**

# Stakeholder Engagement & Outreach Statistics


| | |
|---|---|
| **Argentina** | Research, Shipping URN |
| **Chile** | Yachting & Ecotourism, Shipping |
| **Costa Rica** | Underwater Noise Operational Committee (UNOC), Shipping |
| **India** | Research, Shipbuilding URN |
| **South Africa** | Policy, Research, Shipping, Shipbuilding, Fishing &Ecotourism |
| **Trinidad and Tobago** | Fishing & Fisheries, Megafauna & Migratory Species, Shipping & Technology, Policy & Regulation |

# Gap Analysis of Policies and Recommendations for the mitigation of URN

## Governance & Policy

- Insufficient prioritization of URN despite recognized environmental impacts
- Absence of mandatory international regulations
- Inconsistence legal definitions e.g. “energy”, “substance”
- Limited policy blending with GHG regulations

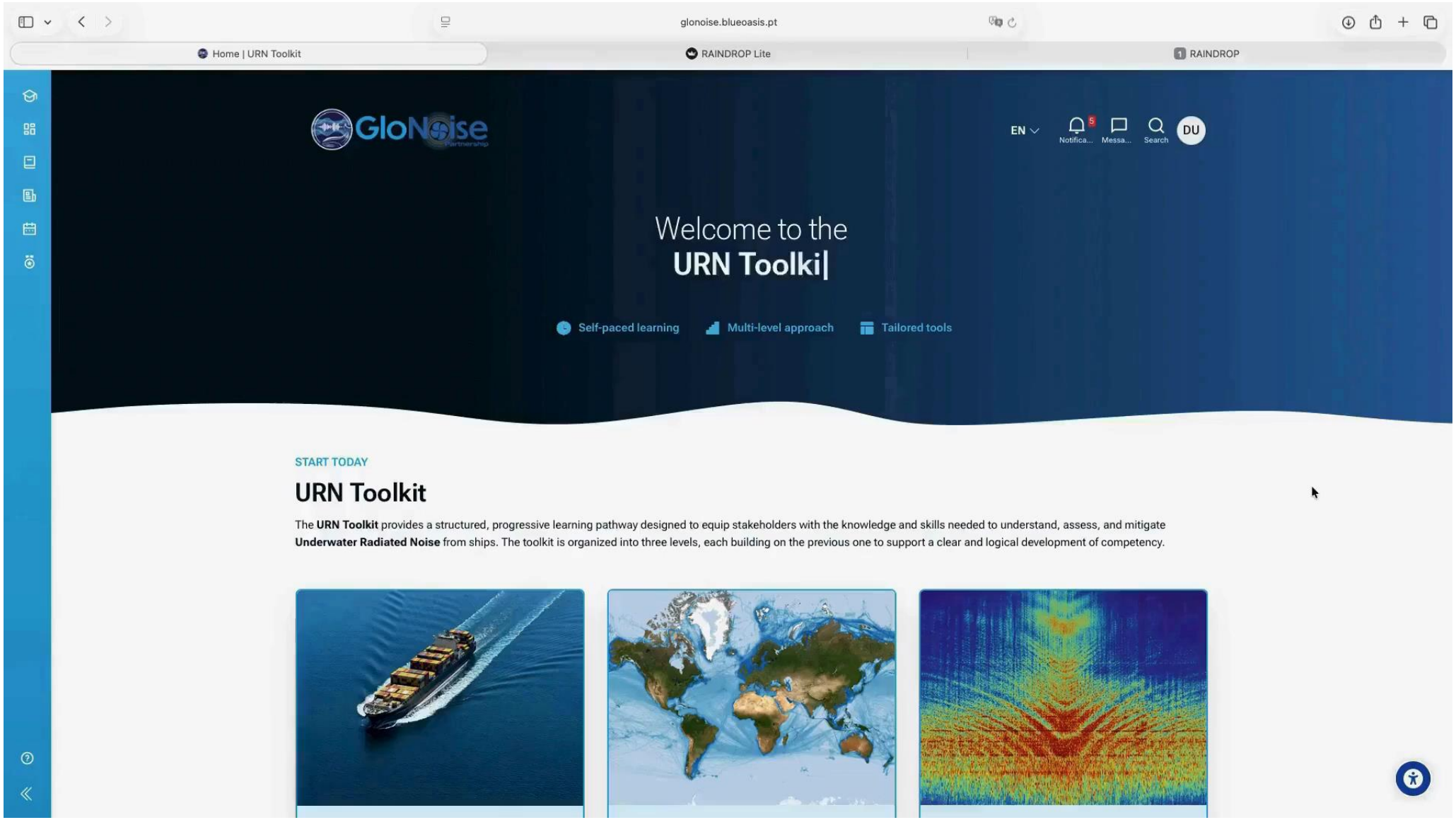
## Science & Data

- Lack of data for baseline conditions
- Lack of standardized metrics
- Monitoring difficulties (AIS)
- Inconsistent risk assessment methodologies

## Capacity & Implementation

- Limited stakeholder awareness
- Technical and financial barriers
- Insufficient cross-sectoral coordination
- Underutilized operational routes, ships’ routeing/speed reductions
- Lack of incentives

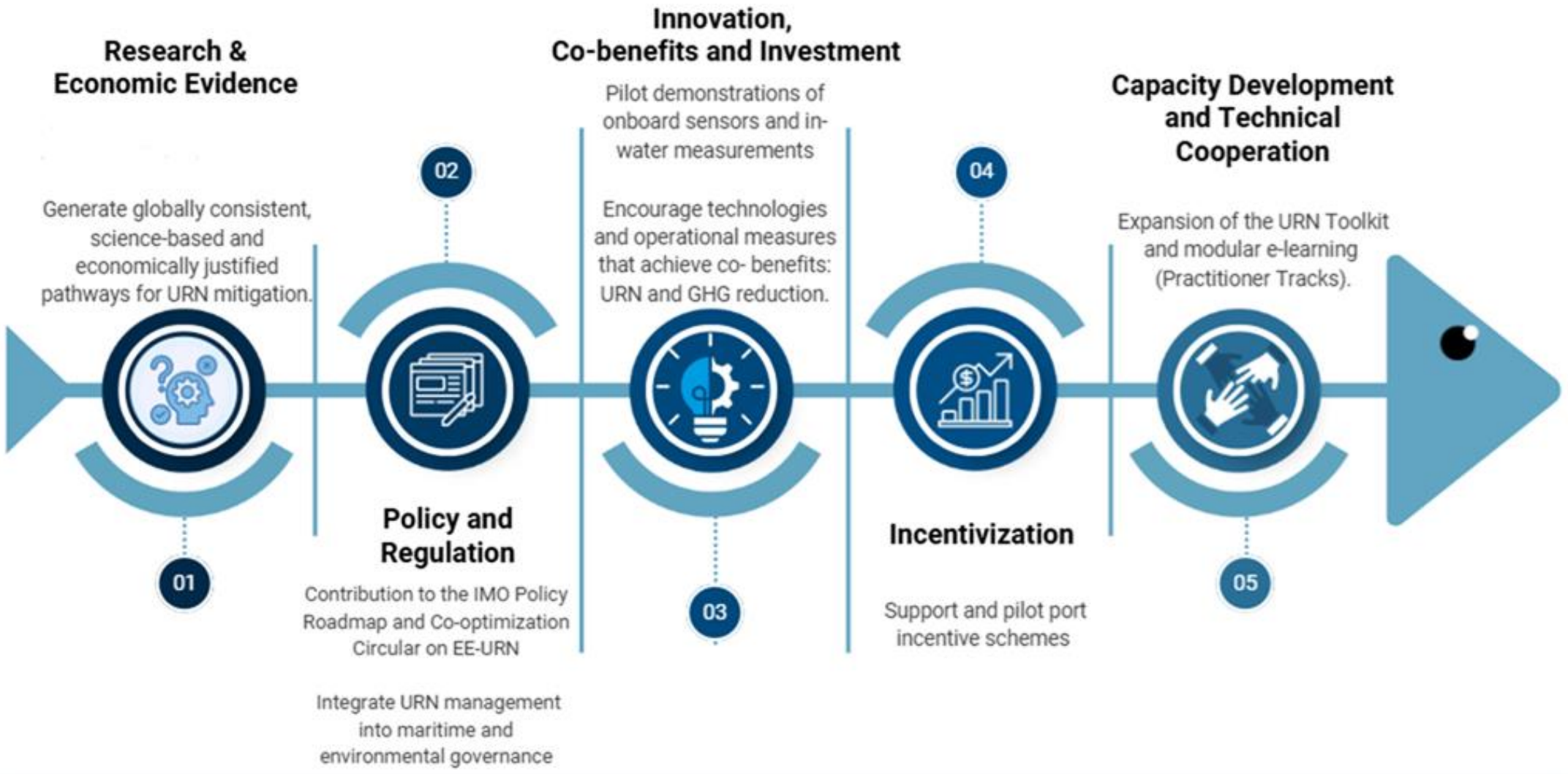
# URN Toolkit Overview



# Capacity Building Workshops



# GloNoise Project – Phase II



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# WEBINAR FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE IMO URN TOOLKIT

## A practical digital toolkit for understanding, assessing and managing noise from shipping

**Shipping is essential for our global future,**

yet the noise it produces underwater can travel long distances, impacting marine life, ecosystems and ocean health.

Underwater radiated noise (URN) can affect marine species and ecosystems, with potential consequences for biodiversity, food security and ocean health. Better understanding and management of URN is key to achieving sustainable and resilient oceans.

### Discover the URN Toolkit

Developed under the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloNoise Partnership, the URN Toolkit provides user-friendly, science-based tools and guidance to help stakeholders:

- Assess URN
- Explore mitigation options
- Support informed decisions
- Advance quieter, more sustainable shipping

Join our webinar to learn how the Toolkit can support governments, industry, researchers, students, seafarers and other stakeholders in taking informed action. Sessions will include live demonstrations, practical guidance and real-world examples from around the globe.

**English session**
**23 June 2026**
**10:00 UTC**
**Register here**

**Spanish session**
**24 June 2026**
**15:00 UTC**
**Register here**

Open to all IMO Member States, maritime administrations, industry, seafarers, port authorities, researchers, universities, NGOs and students.

Together, let's reduce underwater noise for a healthier ocean.

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