



University of Rijeka, Faculty of Maritime studies

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: Specialized spoken corpus of VTS communications

FUNDING PROGRAMME: University of Rijeka (UNIRI Young Scientists' Projects 2023)

PERSON RESPONSIBLE: Jana Kegalj, PhD

FINANCIAL DATA

Project total cost	Overall funding assigned to PFRI
5.000,00 EUR	5.000,00 EUR

SUMMARY

Maritime communications between the maritime traffic control service and ships are governed by the international rules and regulations of the relevant institutions: the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). Communication is by voice only via a VHF radio, and messages should follow the structure prescribed in the rules. Although English is prescribed as an official language that is defined, structured and highly institutionalised, various studies have shown that in practise there is some deviation from these rules, which threatens the safety of navigation and consequently poses a risk to people and the environment. One of the difficulties in conducting research on maritime VHF communication is the lack of a high-quality speech corpus of VHF material. This research aims to compile such a corpus, which would include approximately 10 hours of communications between ships and maritime traffic control services, transcribed in written form in accordance with the guidelines of the General Data Protection Regulation. The corpus will be analysed in terms of the proportion of each language used in maritime communications in the Adriatic and in terms of the structure of the messages to determine the actual deviation from standard procedure. The messages will also be classified according to their purpose, which will lead to a list of the most common scenarios in the Adriatic. In addition, the next phase of the research would focus on messages in English, using a gap analysis to investigate the extent to which the messages conform to the given standard. The speech corpus will be used for further research and comparison with maritime communications in other areas in Europe and the world, for the training of future seafarers, and for the possible proposal of future guidelines for safer and more efficient maritime communication.

Start date	End date
01/02/2024	31/01/2025

WEBSITE: -

ADDITIONAL INFO:

Project team members:

- Jana Kegalj, PhD