MEM Summer Placement 2014: MALTA

I spent my summer placement on the beautiful island of Malta. This placement was hosted by Alan Deidun at The University of Malta. It was excellent to get into the field and see the inner workings of a major European collaborative marine project.

My project was part of a European Commission funded initiative called MED-JELLYRISK (http://jellyrisk.eu/) aiming to study and reduce the impact of jellyfish blooms in the Mediterranean. It involved an assessment of the fouling potential and ecological impact of anti-jellyfish nets. This meant diving on the nets once a week to observe the algal growth and the impact of the net on fish populations. Part of this project was to develop recommendations on how the project can improve and it’s great to think that these will hopefully be adopted and that I have contributed towards reducing the environmental impact of these anti-jellyfish nets.

Aside from my project, I had plenty of time to explore the riches of Malta and Gozo. It was fantastic to sample the Maltese style of life, enjoying the beaches, scenery and company.