



## Air pollution measurement exercise Valletta/Birgu

By means of an ultrafine particle counter, measurements were yesterday taken close to Victoria Gate in Valletta and Birgu at different times of shipping activity. These were the results:

### Ultrafine particle measurements at Victoria Gate, Valletta

Night time (very low ship activity) - below 1,600 pt/cm<sup>3</sup>

Mid-day (moderate ship activity) - around 4,000 pt/cm<sup>3</sup>

During ship transit between Birgu & Valletta - up to 85,000 pt/cm<sup>3</sup>

### Ultrafine particle measurements taken on small ferry to Birgu

Maximum measurement - 500,000 pt/cm<sup>3</sup>

Average - 140,000 pt/cm<sup>3</sup>

1,000 - 2,000 pt/cm<sup>3</sup> of UFPs is considered as 'clean air'. Ultrafine particles (UFPs) are airborne particulate matter of nanoscale size (less than 100 nanometres in diameter). Regulations currently do not exist for this size of air particles, although it is scientifically proven that these have severe health impacts.