

# 144 MHz Tropo to / vers IT9 !

Dimanche 2 janvier 2022, une ouverture inespérée s'est produite sur 144 MHz, un "duct" vers la Sicile (IT9) ! Il s'agissait bien de Tropo, IT9GSF (Fabio) était visible sur mon écran en FT8 durant environ 4h30 (13h24 > 17h52 UTC), avec un QSB lent. J'ai eu la chance de contacter Fabio dans l'après-midi, il est situé en JM67SS, soit à 1615 km de moi. Vu le niveau des signaux, un contact n'aurait pas été possible en SSB ni en CW, seul le FT8 le permettait. Plus tôt dans la journée, Frank, PA4EME avait aussi déjà spotté IT9GSF (merci Frank). Cliquez sur la capture d'écran WSJT-X pour agrandir.

On Sunday 2 January 2022, an unexpected opening occurred on 144 MHz, a "duct" to Sicily (IT9)! It was well Tropo, IT9GSF (Fabio) was visible on my screen in FT8 for around 4h30 (13h24 > 17h52 UTC), with a slow QSB. I was lucky enough to contact Fabio in the afternoon, he is located in JM67SS, 1615 km from me. Given the signal level, contact would not have been possible in SSB nor CW, only FT8 allowed it. Earlier in the day, Frank, PA4EME already spotted IT9GSF too (thanks Frank). Click on the WSJT-X screenshot to enlarge.

The screenshot displays the WSJT-X software interface. The top window title is "WSJT-X v2.5.2". The main interface is divided into several sections:

- Band Activity (Left):** A table of received signals. Key entries include:

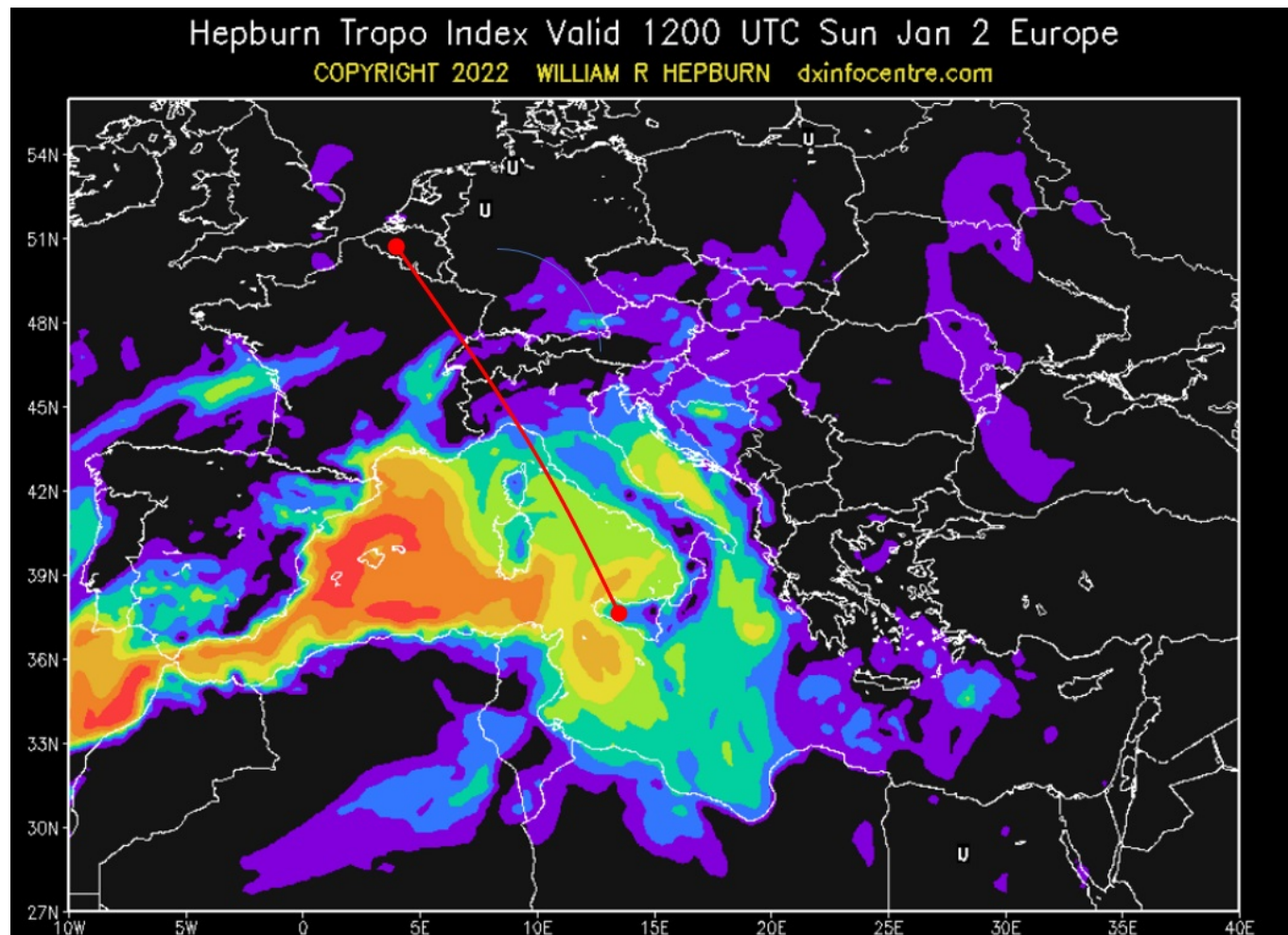
UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
141330	-7	0.2	1827	CQ PA2CV JO32
141330	-21	0.2	1301	CQ PD1ECA JO32 a1
141400	-16	0.2	1996	DL1SBY IT9GSF -23
141400	-8	0.1	1931	PD7TTL F5PBG -14
141400	-7	0.1	942	ON3RV PD0MHZ RRR
141430	-7	0.1	1895	PD7TTL F5PBG RR73
141430	-21	0.1	847	CQ F6BOX IN96
141445	27	0.1	2176	CQ ON/PE1ITR
141445	6	-0.0	1452	CQ ON3RV JO21
141445	-15	0.1	1685	CQ ON6TA JO10
141445	-24	0.1	570	CQ IZ2MHO JN45 a1
141500	11	0.5	1447	CQ DX F4FSG JN29
141500	3	0.2	1881	CQ F5PBG JN28
141500	-16	0.2	802	G4JIX F1NQP R-16
141515	28	0.1	2176	CQ ON/PE1ITR
141515	4	-0.1	1451	CQ ON3RV JO21
141515	-17	0.1	1686	CQ ON6TA JO10
141515	-24	0.3	623	PA8KM M0FXX R-10
141530	3	0.3	1866	CQ F5PBG JN28
141530	-3	-1.4	2115	DK6OW F5PTO -15
141530	-21	0.2	795	G4JIX F1NQP R-16
- Rx Frequency (Right):** A table of transmitted signals. Key entries include:

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
133145	Tx		1579	IT9GSF ON4KHG JO10
135200	-12	0.2	2098	ON4KHG IT9GSF -24
135215	Tx		1579	IT9GSF ON4KHG R-12
135245	Tx		1579	IT9GSF ON4KHG R-12
135315	Tx		1579	IT9GSF ON4KHG R-12
135345	Tx		1579	IT9GSF ON4KHG R-12
135400	-19	0.2	2099	ON4KHG IT9GSF -24 a3
135415	Tx		1579	IT9GSF ON4KHG R-12
135430	-15	0.2	2099	ON4KHG IT9GSF RR73
135445	Tx		1579	IT9GSF ON4KHG 73
135500	-15	0.2	2097	CQ IT9GSF JM67
135515	Tx		1579	CQ 340 SSB
135530	-11	0.2	2096	CQ IT9GSF JM67
135545	Tx		1579	CIAO 73
135600	-15	0.2	2095	CQ IT9GSF JM67
135730	-17	0.2	2094	IW2GSC IT9GSF -05
135800	-15	0.3	2093	IW2GSC IT9GSF -05
135830	-15	0.2	2092	IW2GSC IT9GSF -05
135900	-19	0.2	2092	IW2GSC IT9GSF RR73
140330	-18	0.2	2094	CQ IT9GSF JM67
140400	-13	0.3	2094	CQ IT9GSF JM67
140430	-13	0.2	2093	CQ IT9GSF JM67
- Control Area (Center):** Shows the current frequency as 144,174,000 Hz. The DX call is IT9GSF and the DX grid is JM67SS. The distance is 1616 km. The status bar at the bottom shows "FT8" and "Last Tx: CQ ITA ON4KHG".

L'amélioration des conditions de propagation ("duct") sur la Mer Méditerranée est clairement visible sur la carte de W. Hepburn. Encore fallait-il avoir la géométrie

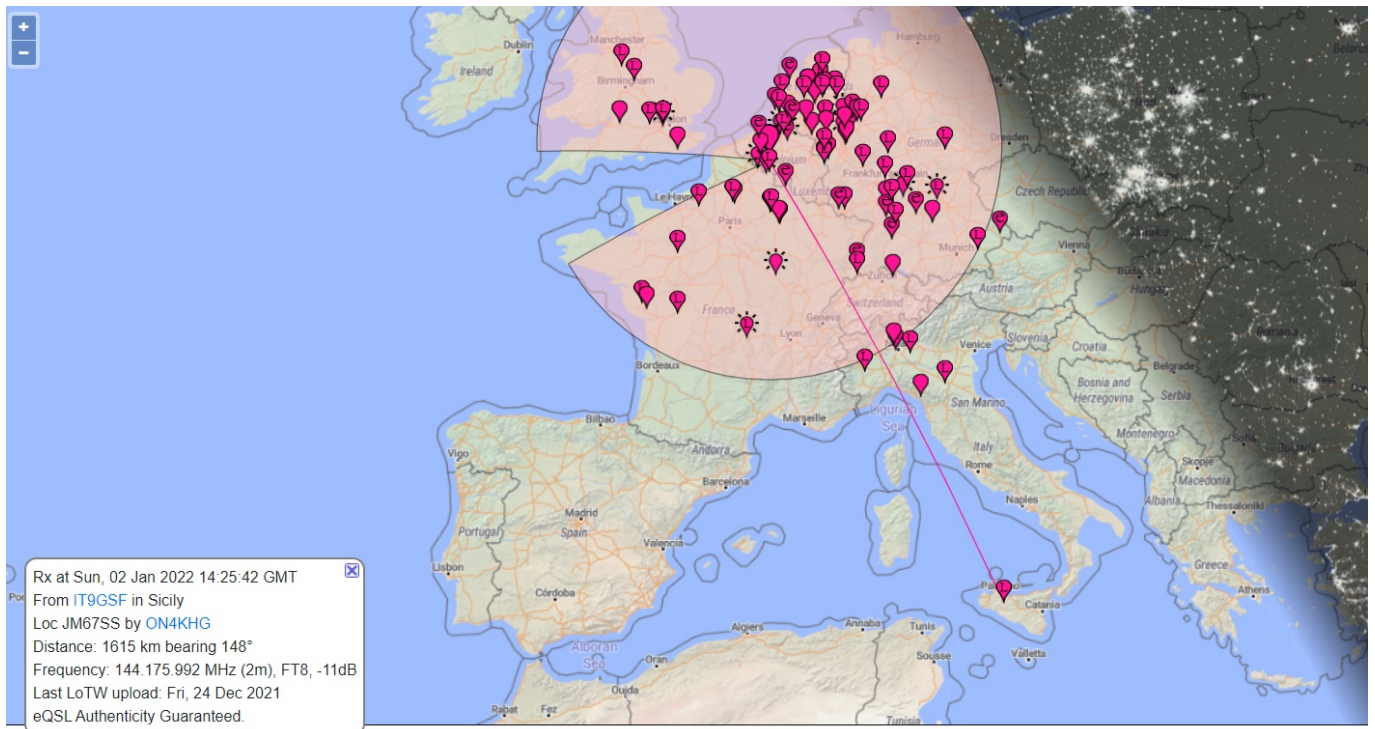
adéquate pour pouvoir entrer dans ce duct.

The improvement of the propagation conditions (“duct”) on the Mediterranean Sea is clearly visible on the map of W. Hepburn. However, it was necessary to have the right geometry to be able to enter this duct.



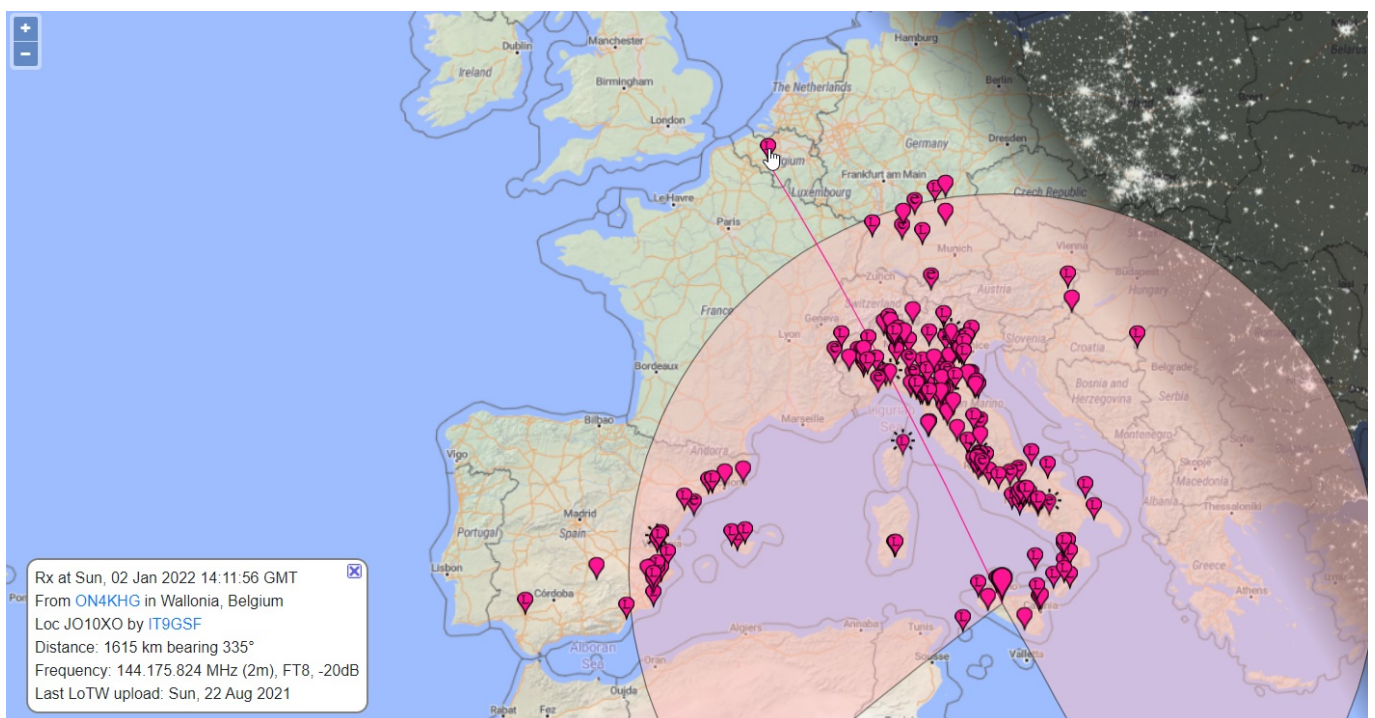
Ci-dessous les stations que j’ai vues jusque peu avant 14h30 (il y en a encore eu d’autres par la suite). On voit les stations du nord de l’Italie et IT9GSF.

Below are the stations I saw until shortly before 14h30 (there were some more afterwards). You can see the stations in Northern Italy and IT9GSF.



Et plus bas, les stations que voyait Fabio, IT9GSF au même moment. Ils ne sont pas visibles sur la carte à ce moment-là mais ON/PE1ITR en J020EE et DF2ZC en J030RN ont aussi contacté IT9GSF.

And further down, the stations that Fabio, IT9GSF was seeing at the same time. They are not visible on the map at that time but ON/PE1ITR in J020EE and DF2ZC in J030RN also contacted IT9GSF.



Et finalement le log de Fabio durant cette journée (source MMMonVHF).

And finally the log of Fabio during that day (source MMMonVHF).

