UART communication using LL libraries

rev1.0 24/03/2020

Transmit data via UART protocol when the user button interrupt occours

PREREQUISITES

Software needed:

- STM32IDE
- CoolTerm

Hardware used in this example:

- **NUCLEO-F446ZE**

UART communication using LL libraries

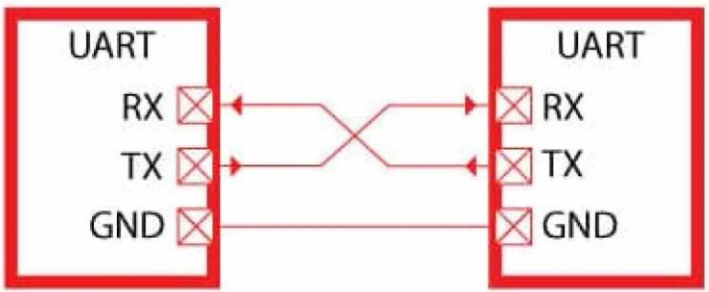
In this example:

- What’s UART
- Start a new project
- Configure the peripherals
- Generate code
- USART Configuration code
- GPIO Configuration code
- Run the program and troubleshooting

What’s UART

“UART” stands for Universal Asynchronous receiver-transmitter. It is a peripheral that is present inside a microcontroller. The **function of UART** is to convert the incoming and outgoing data into the serial binary stream.

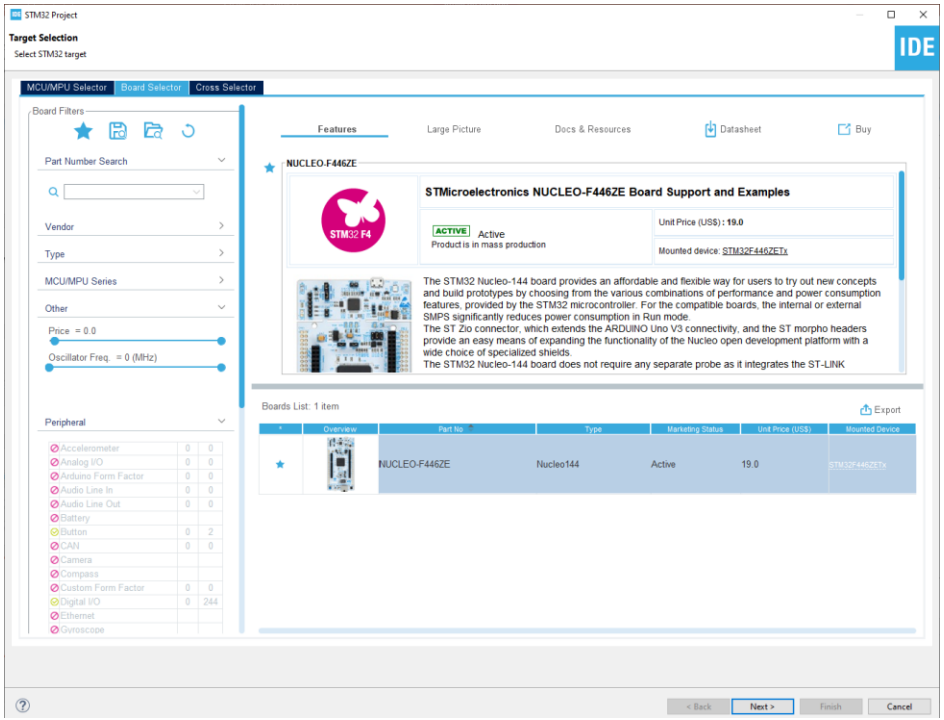
Notice that in UART communication the ***TX*** pin of the *transmitter* is connected to the ***RX*** pin of the *receiver* and viceversa.



Start a new project

From the stm32IDE software click on File -> New -> STM32 Project.

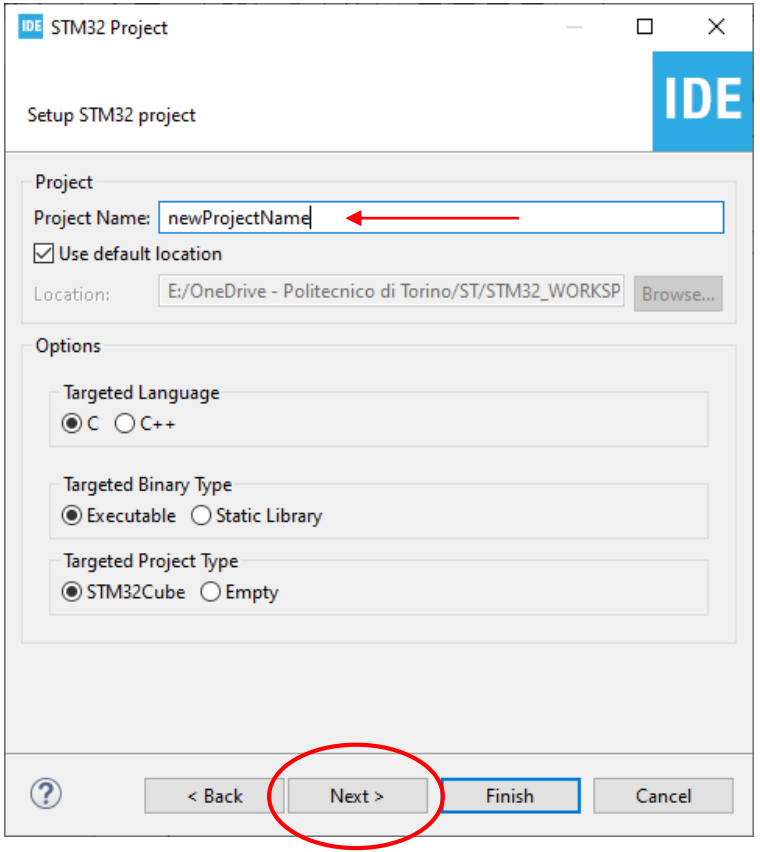
Select your board or your uC and click *next.*



Start a new project

Type the name of your project and click next.

By default the project will be created in the workspace folder.



Start a new project

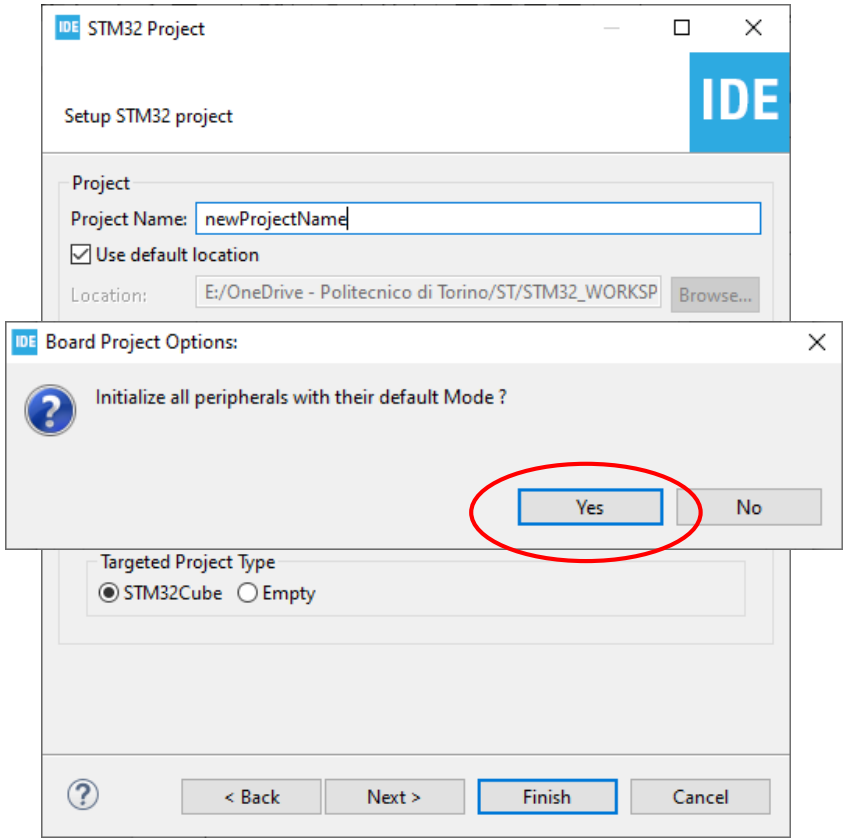
Type the name of your project and click next.

By default the project will be created in the *workspace* folder.

The *STM32IDE* has the option to initialize all the peripheral with their ***default*** mode:

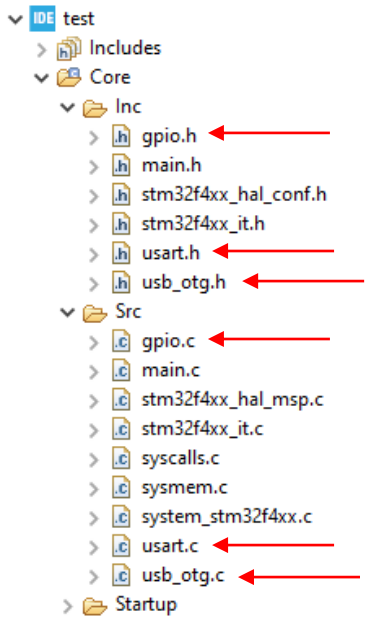
Clicking *Yes* the *USART3*, all the *LEDs* and the blue *UserButton* will be configured as default.

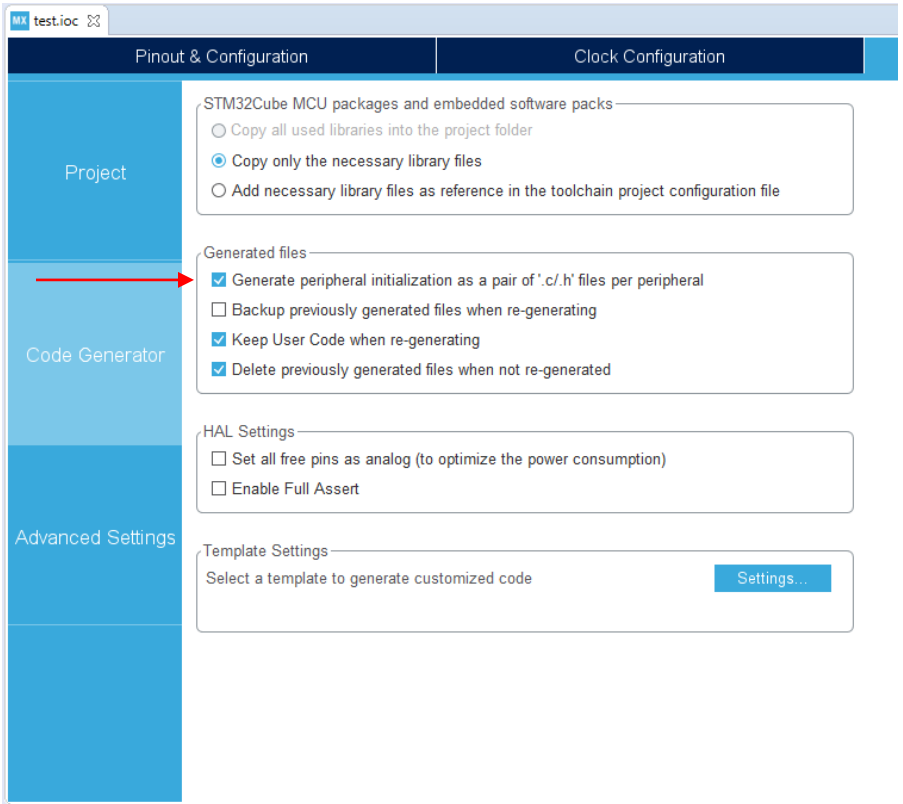
Click *Yes*.



Project Manager

In the Code Generator Tab check the ***Generate peripheral initialization […]*** box: each periperhal will have a disting *periph.c* and *periph.h* files.





Configure the peripherals

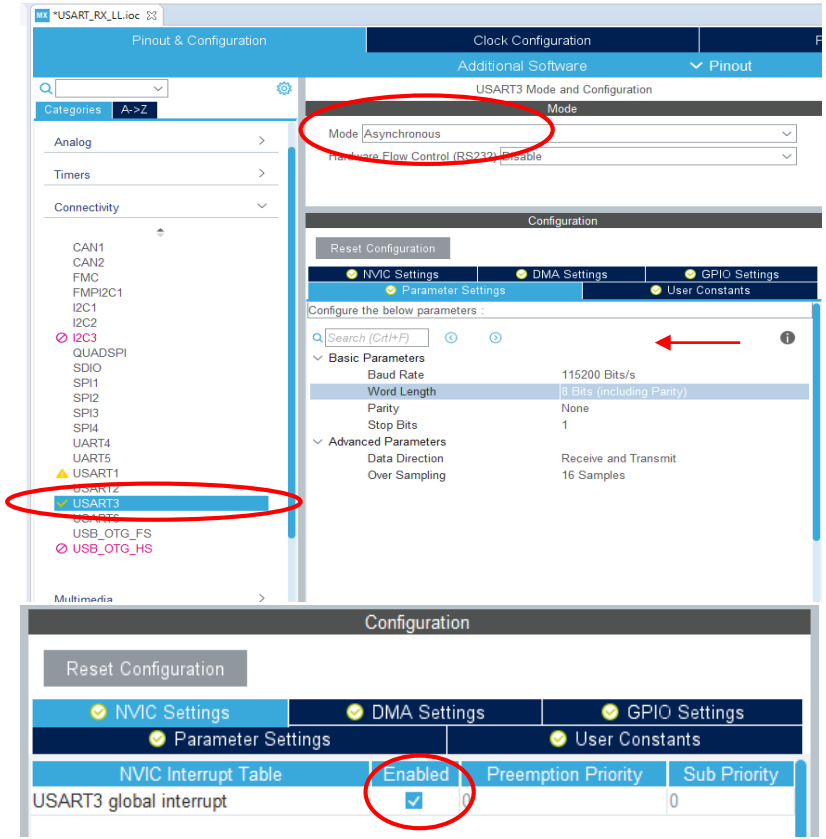
The main core of this project is the USART peripheral, let's have a look in the USART page configuration.

For this example we will use the USART3:

- *Mode*: Asynchronous
- *Baud Rate*: 115200 Bits/s

The *Baud Rate* is the speed of the serial communication, 115200 Bits/s is a reasonable speed.

Don't forget to enable the *interrupt* under the **NVIC** tab.



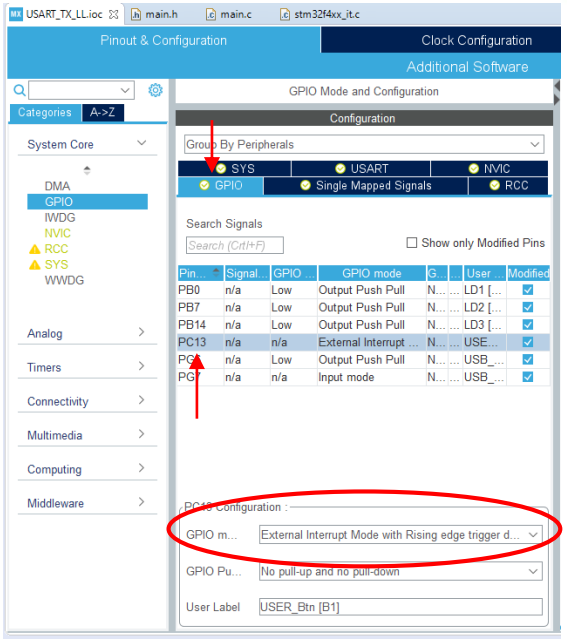
Configure the peripherals

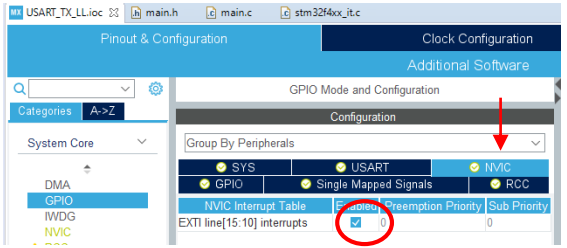
For this example, we will send a character when an interrupt generated by a GPIO pins occours.

Let use the user button as our trigger source.

Under the **GPIO Tab** select the *GPIO pin* (the blu user button is connected to GPIO PC13) and check that the **GPIO mode** is setted as ***External Interrupt Mode***

Don’t forget to enable the interrupt under the **NVIC** tab.



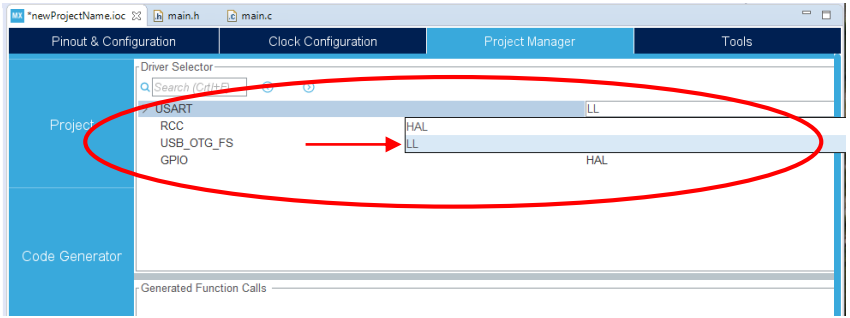


Generate code

The last step before generating the code is to select LL libraries for manage the USART peripheral.

Go in *Project Manager -> Advanced Configuration* and select ***LL*** (USART and GPIO).

Then generate the code (click on the generate icon )



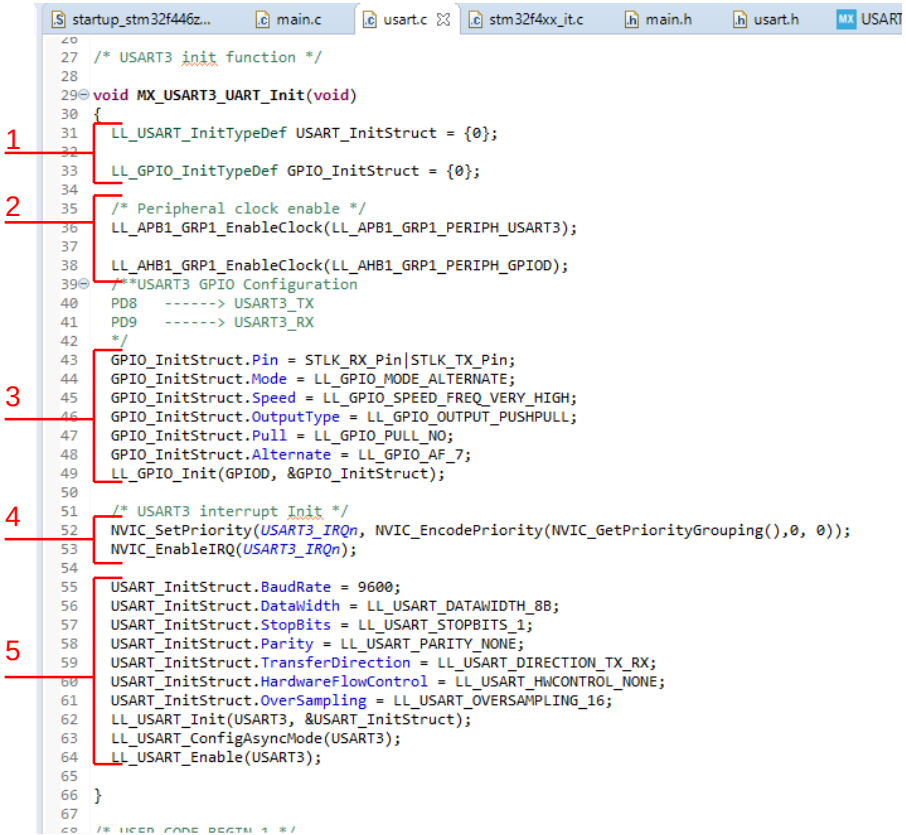
USART Configuration

Let's have a look in the **USART** configuration function made by *CubeMX*.

As always we can find it in the **usart.c** file

We can subdivide this section in 5 parts:

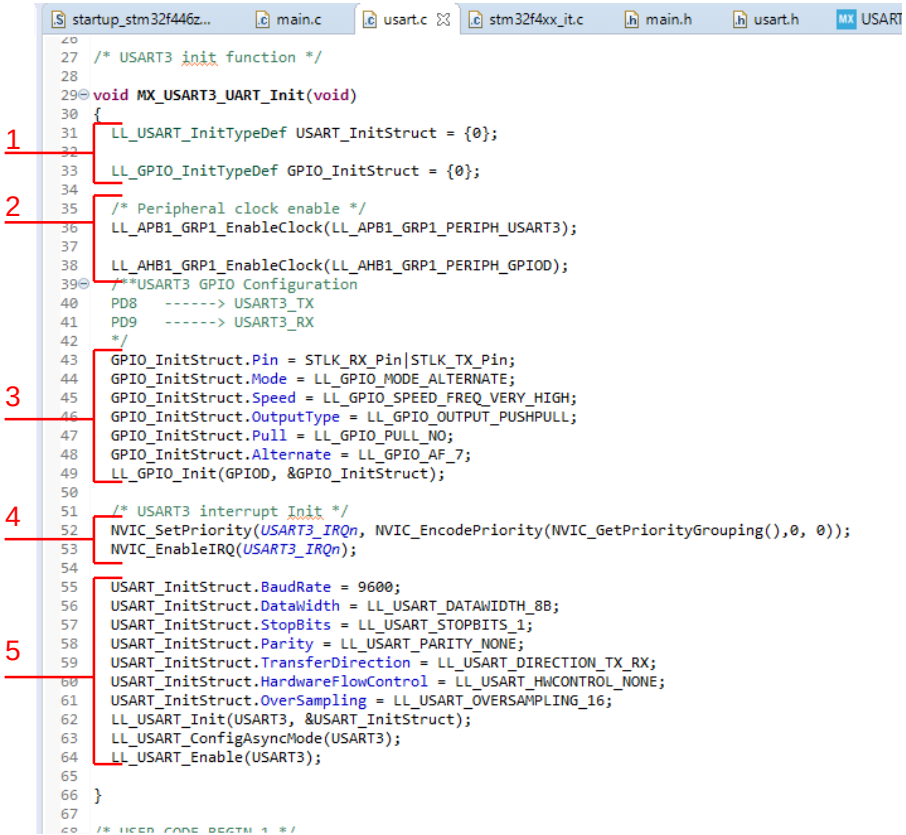
1. Inizialization of the GPIO and USART structures, they contains all the configuration info for the peripherals.
2. Enable of the clock sources for the GPIO pins and for the USART bus.



USART Configuration

3. Configuration of the GPIO pins required for the communication.
   In this example we use USART3 since the RX and TX pins PD8 and PD9 are directly connected to the Nucleo ST-Link (the upper part of the board that allows the communication between the uC and the PC) by default. For other configurations have a look in the manual here.

4. Initialization of the interrupts and priorities.




```
/* USART3 init function */

void MX_USART3_UART_Init(void)
{
  LL_USART_InitTypeDef USART_InitStruct = {0};

  LL_GPIO_InitTypeDef GPIO_InitStruct = {0};

  /* Peripheral clock enable */
  LL_APB1_GRP1_EnableClock(LL_APB1_GRP1_PERIPH_USART3);

  LL_AHB1_GRP1_EnableClock(LL_AHB1_GRP1_PERIPH_GPIOD);
  /**USART3 GPIO Configuration
  PD8   ------> USART3_TX
  PD9   ------> USART3_RX
  */
  GPIO_InitStruct.Pin = STLK_RX_Pin|STLK_TX_Pin;
  GPIO_InitStruct.Mode = LL_GPIO_MODE_ALTERNATE;
  GPIO_InitStruct.Speed = LL_GPIO_SPEED_FREQ_VERY_HIGH;
  GPIO_InitStruct.OutputType = LL_GPIO_OUTPUT_PUSHPULL;
  GPIO_InitStruct.Pull = LL_GPIO_PULL_NO;
  GPIO_InitStruct.Alternate = LL_GPIO_AF_7;
  LL_GPIO_Init(GPIOD, &GPIO_InitStruct);

  /* USART3 interrupt Init */
  NVIC_SetPriority(USART3_IRQn, NVIC_EncodePriority(NVIC_GetPriorityGrouping(),0, 0));
  NVIC_EnableIRQ(USART3_IRQn);

  USART_InitStruct.BaudRate = 9600;
  USART_InitStruct.DataWidth = LL_USART_DATAWIDTH_8B;
  USART_InitStruct.StopBits = LL_USART_STOPBITS_1;
  USART_InitStruct.Parity = LL_USART_PARITY_NONE;
  USART_InitStruct.TransferDirection = LL_USART_DIRECTION_TX_RX;
  USART_InitStruct.HardwareFlowControl = LL_USART_HWCONTROL_NONE;
  USART_InitStruct.OverSampling = LL_USART_OVERSAMPLING_16;
  LL_USART_Init(USART3, &USART_InitStruct);
  LL_USART_ConfigAsyncMode(USART3);
  LL_USART_Enable(USART3);

}
```

6.9 USART communication

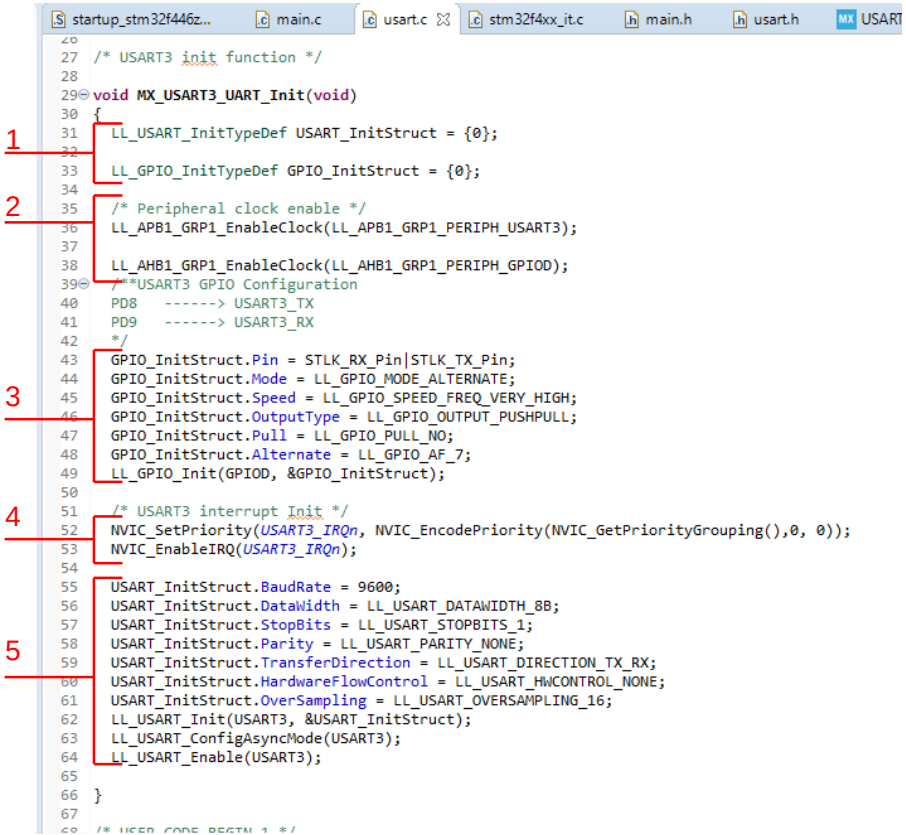
The USART3 interface available on PD8 and PD9 of the STM32 can be connected either to ST-LINK or to ST morpho connector. The choice is changed by setting the related solder bridges. By default the USART3 communication between the target STM32 and the ST-LINK is enabled, to support the virtual COM port for the mbed (SB5 and SB6 ON).

Table 9. USART3 pins

Pin name	Function	Virtual COM port (default configuration)	ST morpho connection
PD8	USART3 TX	SB5 ON and SB7 OFF	SB5 OFF and SB7 ON
PD9	USART3 RX	SB6 ON and SB4 OFF	SB6 OFF and SB4 ON

USART Configuration

5. Configuration of the USART peripheral. Here it's possible to see some values like the *BaudRate*, *StopBits*, *Parity, ecc*.



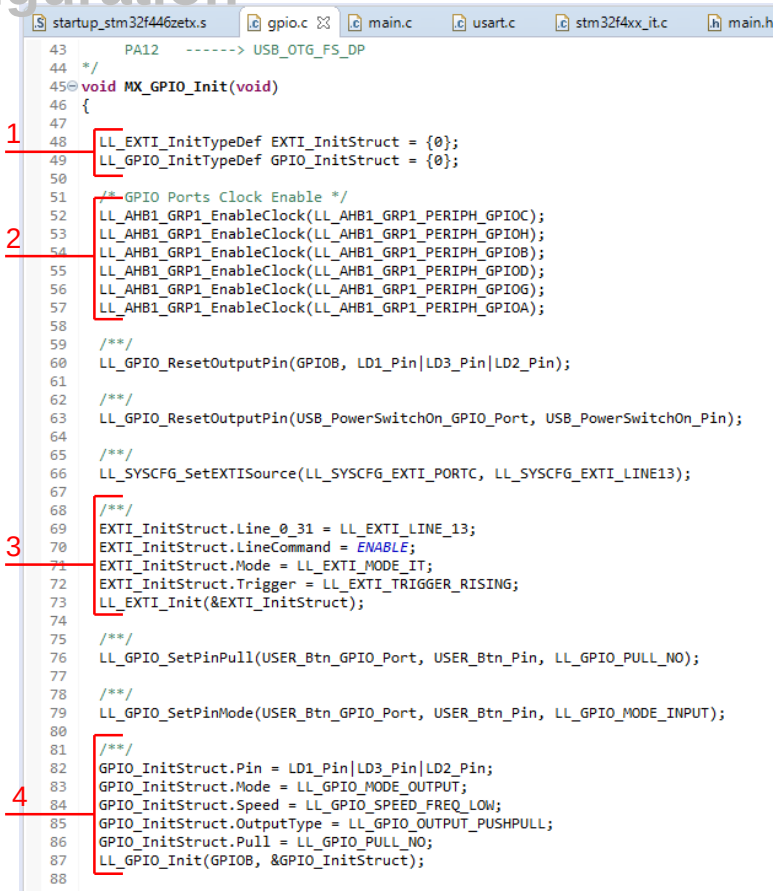
GPIO Configuration

Let's have a look in the **GPIO** configuration function made by *CubeMX*.

As always we can find it in the ***gpio.c*** file.

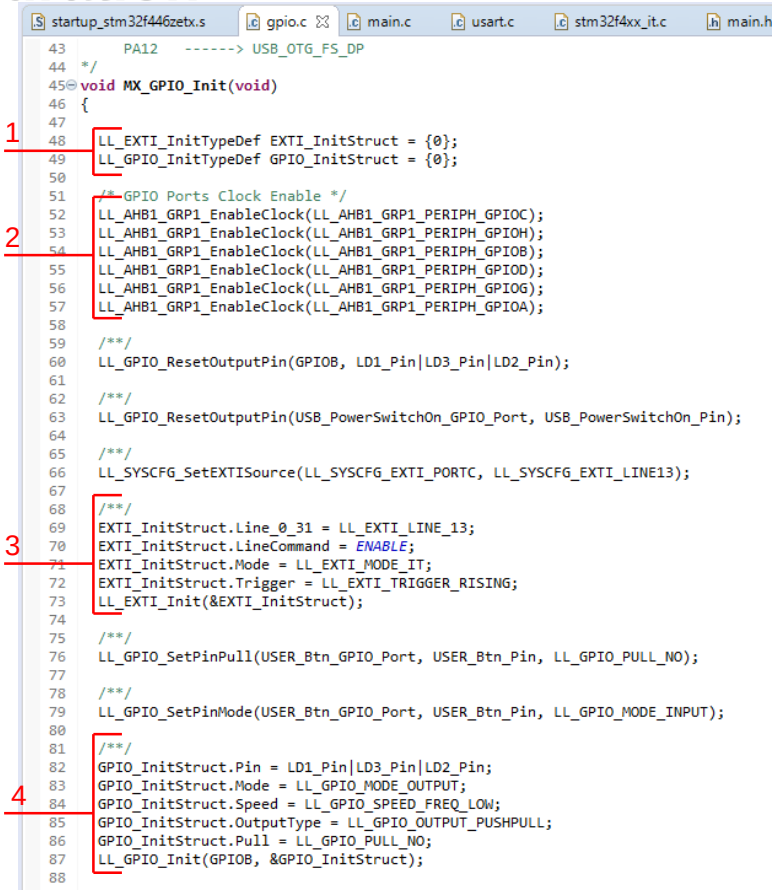
The most important parts are the following:

1. Inizialization of the *GPIO* and *INTERRUPT* structures, they contains all the configuration info for the peripherals.
2. Enable of the clock sources for all the GPIO ports.



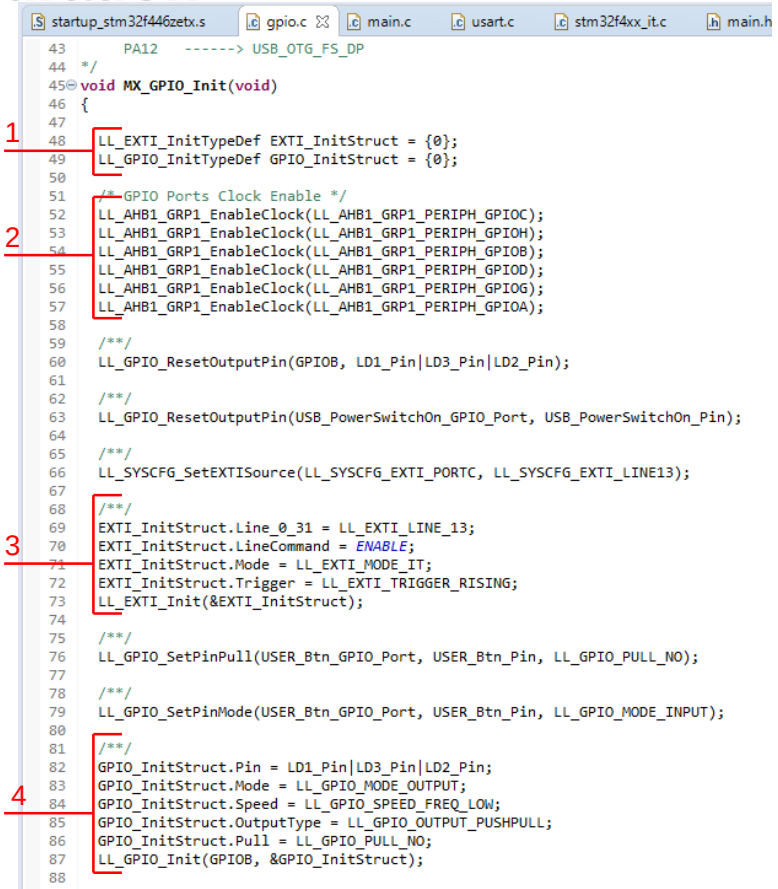
GPIO Configuration

3. Configuration of the interrupt structure:
   - *Line*: Line of the interrupt where the pin is connected (more info in the datasheet)
   - *LineCommand*: State of the line, ENABLE means that the interrupt is enabled
   - *Trigger*: Select the edge of triggering (see the button Interrupt report for more Info)



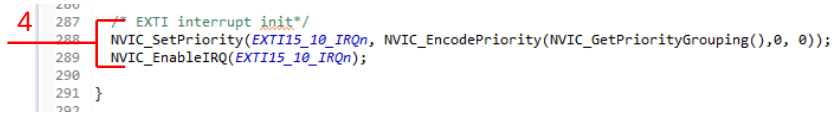
GPIO Configuration

4. Configuration of the GPIO structure for the LED's:
   - *Pin*: GPIO Pins selected
   - *Mode*: set the pin as Output, Input, Analog Input, etc
   - *Speed*: Control the speed of GPIO pins.
   - *Pull*: Type of pull, choose between Pull-down, Pull-up or no-pull (see report on GPIO inputs for more info)



GPIO Configuration

4. Set the interrupt priorities.



USART Handler

When the interrupt is triggered, the program calls the USART handler, defined in the ***stm32f4xx_it.c*** file.

At this point we check if interrupt has been generated correctly and eventually calls the ***UserButton_Callback()*** that we now define in the gpio.c file.

As you can see we check only the interrupt generated from the button, the usart handler should remain empty in this case.

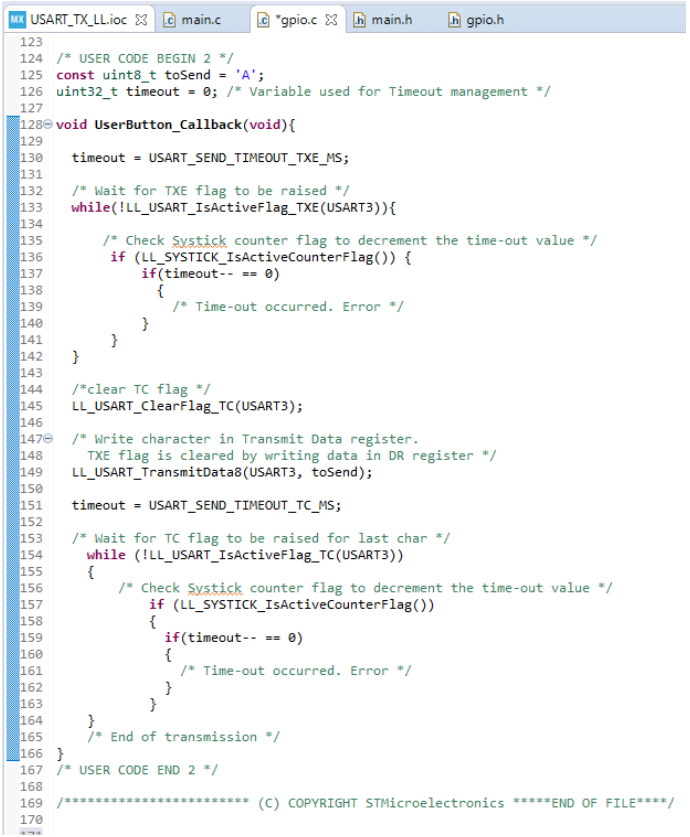
UserButton CallBack

Now go to the *gpio.c* file and check the ***UserButton_Callback()*** function.

At first we wait that the **Transmit Data Register Empty** (TXE) flag raises, so we know that there are no messages that have to be sent, then we clear the **Transmission Complete Flag** (TC).

Now we are ready to send data, so we send it using the ***LL_USART_TransmirData8()*** function and then we check the TC flag for the end of the trasmission.

Notice that we used some timeout to check for communication errors.

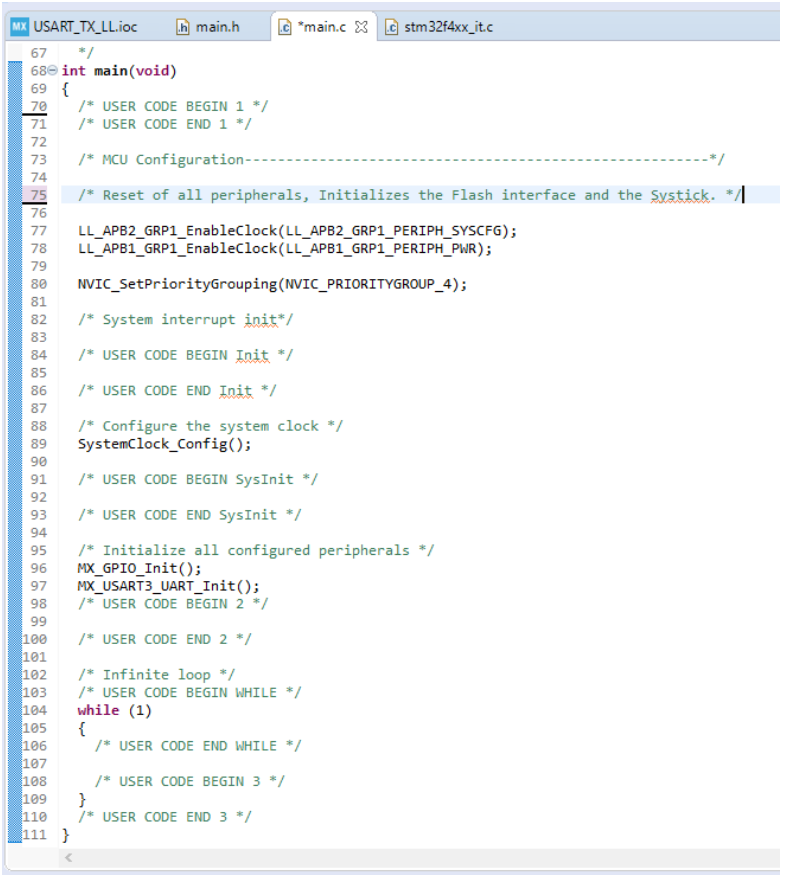



```
123
124 /* USER CODE BEGIN 2 */
125 const uint8_t toSend = 'A';
126 uint32_t timeout = 0; /* Variable used for Timeout management */
127
128 void UserButton_Callback(void){
129
130   timeout = USART_SEND_TIMEOUT_TXE_MS;
131
132   /* Wait for TXE flag to be raised */
133   while(!LL_USART_IsActiveFlag_TXE(USART3)){
134
135       /* Check Systick counter flag to decrement the time-out value */
136       if (LL_SYSTICK_IsActiveCounterFlag()) {
137           if(timeout-- == 0)
138             {
139               /* Time-out occurred. Error */
140           }
141       }
142   }
143
144   /*clear TC flag */
145   LL_USART_ClearFlag_TC(USART3);
146
147   /* Write character in Transmit Data register.
148     TXE flag is cleared by writing data in DR register */
149   LL_USART_TransmitData8(USART3, toSend);
150
151   timeout = USART_SEND_TIMEOUT_TC_MS;
152
153   /* Wait for TC flag to be raised for last char */
154     while (!LL_USART_IsActiveFlag_TC(USART3))
155     {
156         /* Check Systick counter flag to decrement the time-out value */
157           if (LL_SYSTICK_IsActiveCounterFlag())
158           {
159             if(timeout-- == 0)
160             {
161               /* Time-out occurred. Error */
162             }
163           }
164     }
165     /* End of transmission */
166 }
167 /* USER CODE END 2 */
168
169 /********************** (C) COPYRIGHT STMicroelectronics *****END OF FILE****/
170
```

Empty Loop

Since our programs manage all the functions via the interrupts, the main loop is empty.

The coding part ends here, now simply download the program to your board.



Receive data via UART

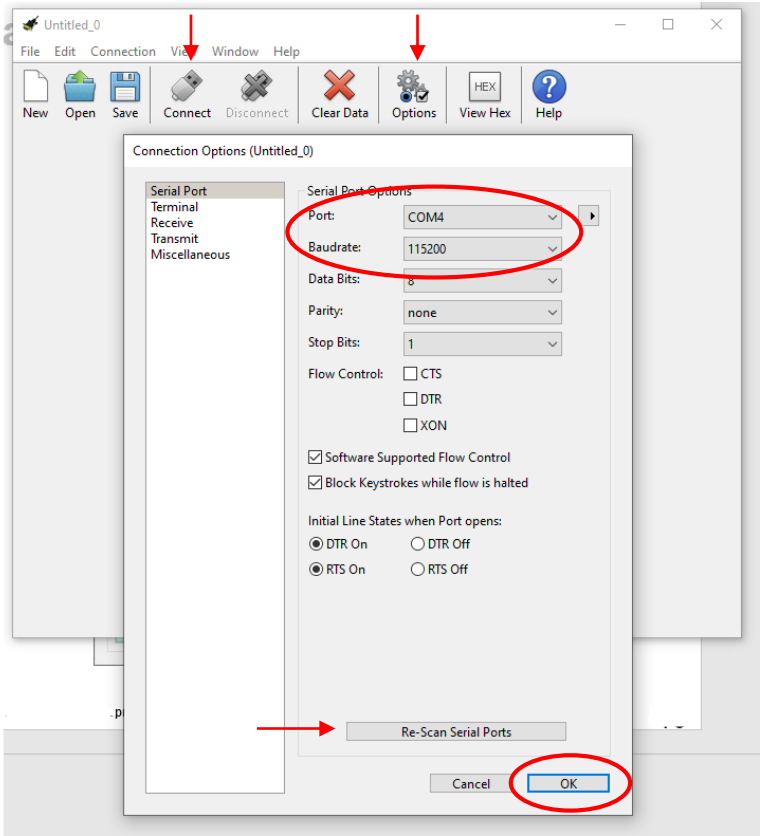
In this example we send the *UART* data via *PC*. You can use any Serial interface program you want, in this case we will use CoolTerm (link).

Run the program and select the correct settings in order to communicate with the board.

Remeber to select the correct *COM Port* and *BaudRate.*

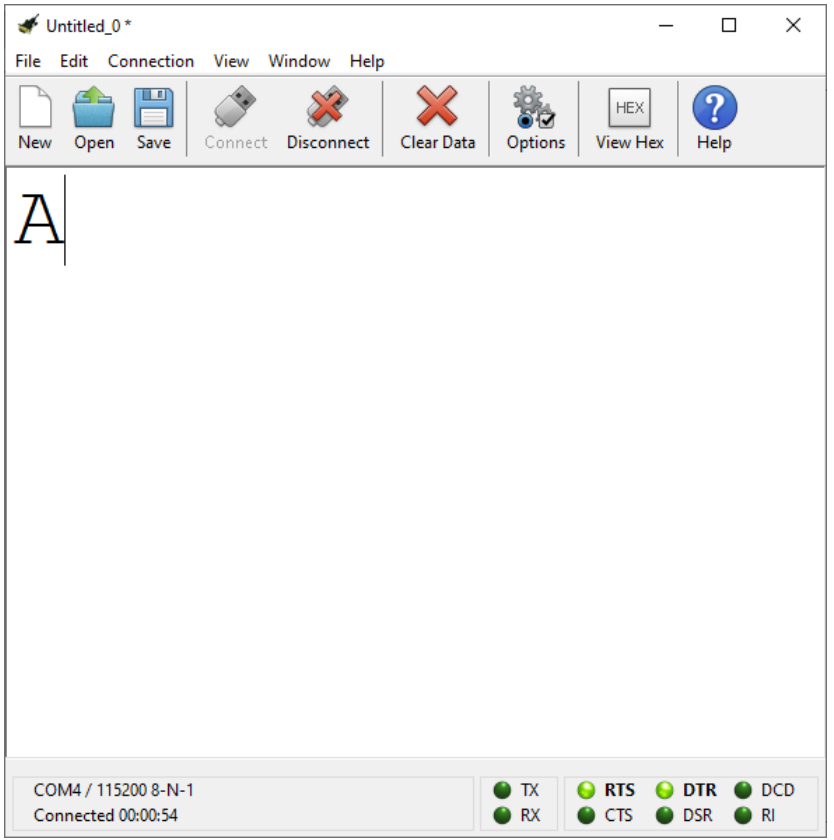
Once done, click on *Connect.*

If you have troubles finding your board COM Port in the COM Port list try to click *Re-Scan Serial Ports* and check again.



Receive data via UART

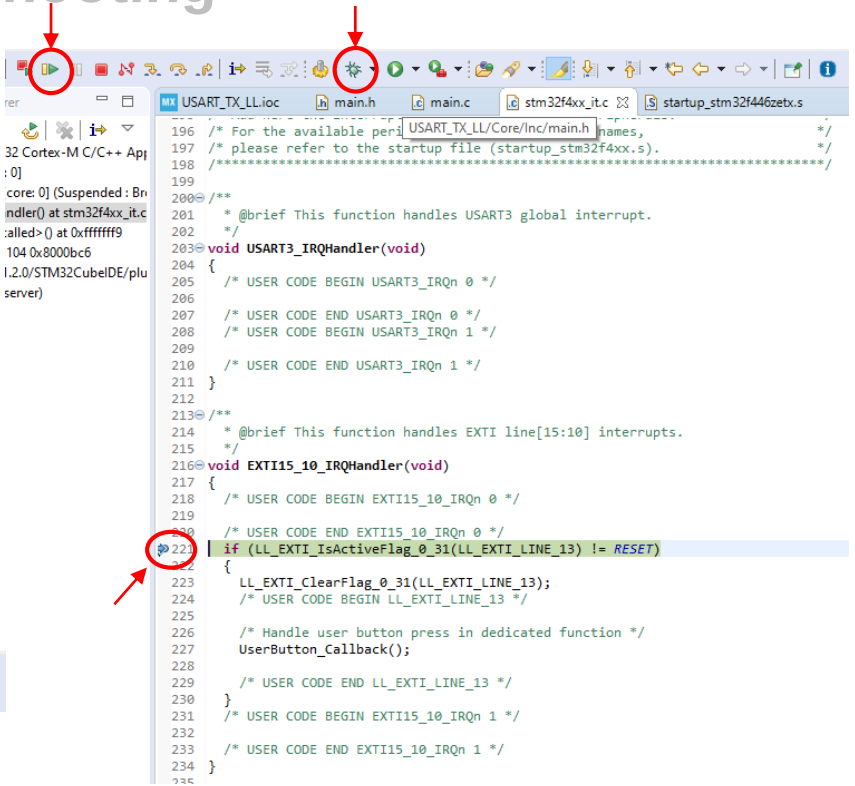
If it's all correct the character *'A'* will appear at each press of the blue button on the board.



Troubleshooting

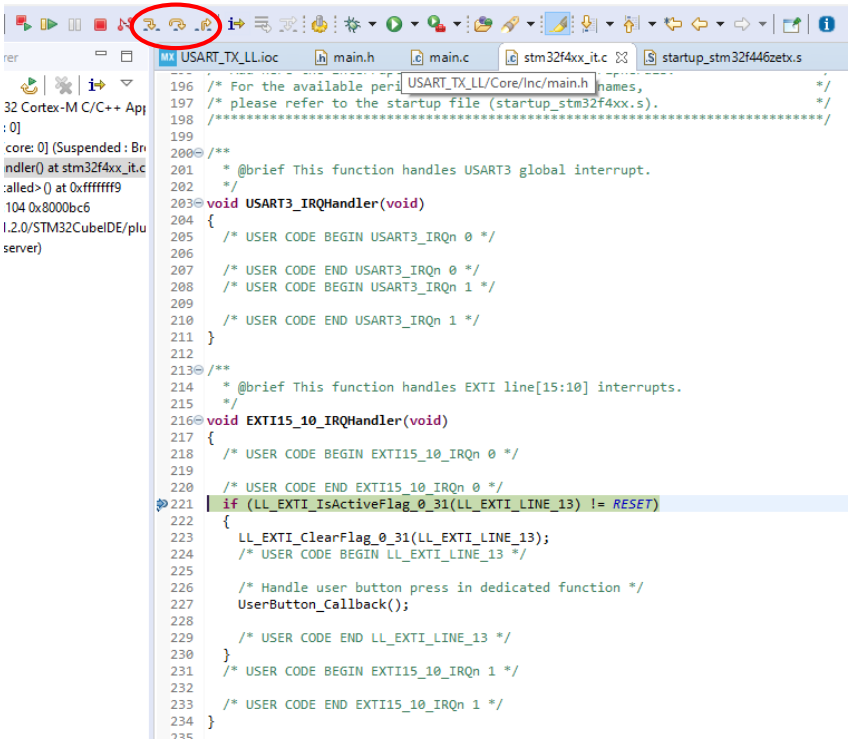
If you have any trouble getting the program to run correctly try to debug your application in the IDE:

1. Download the program to your board in *debug mode* , the debug view will open.
2. Place a *breakpoint* where the interrupt should be triggered (to place a breakpoint double click on the number of line where you want to place it).
3. Click on the resume icon.
4. Try to press the blue button on the board.



Troubleshooting

5. If it’s all correct your program will jump to the breakpoint and the line will be highlighted.
6. At this point you can resume again or move inside your program with the arrows  .



For more info in how the UART bus works see:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzRXKDkMBhA