

Press release

Visualise the events at sea to improve the maritime security

The development of the blue economy requires the control of crimes and incidents at sea. As a response, the EU CRIMARIO project advocates regional cooperation and interagency coordination, which are illustrated today in Mombasa by the training session dedicated to maritime data visualisation for 18 participants of Kenya and Madagascar.

The EU CRIMARIO project has designed a complete training programme on maritime data analysis for the specialized staff of civilian and military agencies involved in the action of State at sea. A first cycle was delivered in 2017 to Comoros and Madagascar, breaking down into six sessions on data visualisation and three on data analysis. As a result of this cycle, trainers on visualisation and analysts have acquired trainer skills, which will further facilitate knowledge and practice updates.

Kenya is welcoming this complete programme in 2018. The first session (MDP3 training), organised from 12 to 23 February 2018 in Mombasa, focused on maritime data visualisation (level 1). First of all, participants learned how to extract data **provided by AIS sources** (AIS or Automatic Identification System is an automatic tracking system used on ships and by vessel traffic services for identifying and locating vessels by electronically exchanging data with other nearby ships, AIS base stations, and satellites). They also learned how to use QGIS, a free and open-source desktop geographic information system (GIS) application that provides data viewing and editing.

The participants who successfully completed the test, will attend the next training session organized from 26 March to 6 April in Mombasa, to develop training skills in data visualization.

Kenya attendees belong to the main agencies involved in the surveillance of maritime domain: Fisheries Service, KMA (Kenya Maritime Authority), KPA (Kenya Port Authority), Navy, Police, Wildlife Service. In addition three participants from **Madagascar** working at RMIFC (Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre), Secretary of State at Sea and APMF (Port Authority).

In the coming months, **maritime cooperation** will be enhanced with the construction by CRIMARIO of a web portal called IORIS, dedicated to maritime information sharing and incident management at sea and proposed to all the partner countries of the project. In addition **IORIS** will be used by the regional entities in charge of maritime security, at first the two regional centres covering the ESA-IO region (Eastern and Southern Africa-Indian Ocean) following decisions of the Ministerial meeting held in Djibouti on May 15, 2016: RMIFC based in Madagascar and RCOC based in Seychelles. National agencies will also benefit of the tool according to the regional access policy.

To go further

Why EU CRIMARIO ?

Responding to the challenge, the European Union supported the implementation of a regional mechanism, the **Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC)** - agreed in 2009 by 21 littoral states of the Western IO, amended in January 2017 in Jeddah - and initiated the **Critical Maritime Routes (CMR) programme**.

Under CMR, EU CRIMARIO aims to strengthen maritime safety and security in the wider IO region by supporting coastal countries in enhancing maritime situational awareness (MSA). **MSA is the sharing and fusion of data from various sources** to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the maritime domain, whilst an effective and sustainable MSA enables maritime stakeholders to improve security, safety and environment of this domain.

To support this, CRIMARIO will introduce various initiatives in the region such as a web based information sharing and incident management network (**IORIS**), the creation of a regional AIS network, training & capacity building, workshops aimed at enhancing interagency and regional cooperation, and will establish a set of standards for information sharing.

The CRIMARIO project, managed by [Expertise France](#) (French international cooperation agency) and with a budget of €5.5 million, began in January 2015 and will run until January 2019.

In **Kenya**, CRIMARIO collaborates closely with KMA, the national focal point of the project. A training program has been established, focusing on maritime data analysis and the training of trainers. The strengthening of the AIS national network in under implementation as well as the installation of an AIS regional server.

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More about KMA

The Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) was set up in June 2004 as the Government agency that regulates, coordinates and oversees the country's maritime affairs. The KMA also operates the Regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (RMRCC) which covers the search and rescue regions of Kenya, Tanzania, Seychelles and Somalia. The RMRCC also operates as a Piracy Information Sharing Centre (ISC) under the Djibouti Code of Conduct to which Kenya is a signatory.

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