



## Press release

### How to analyse the maritime domain

**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 Victoria by the closure of a two-weeks training session dedicated to train the trainers in maritime data analysis (4-14 March, Reflecs3). The 14 participants of Mauritius and Seychelles received their certificate of analysts in the maritime domain.**

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, and 2018 to Kenya, 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.

**Mauritius and Seychelles are achieving the full programme in maritime data analysis.** The previous sessions were delivered in 2018 (May, June and October 2018); this fourth and final session was attended by the 14 participants who successfully completed the test following the previous sessions. They learned the alert warning process, maritime intelligence and maritime strategic challenges in the Indian Ocean; they deepened their knowledge in law of the sea, oil and gas offshore installations, and they practiced with simulation exercises.

Today they are certified "**analyst in the maritime domain**" after having developed their training skills and deepened their knowledge in maritime domain issues.

**Seychelles attendees** belong to: RCOC, Coast Guard, Police (Narcotic, financial), DRDM. Participants of **Mauritius** works in Mauritian Police (Coast Guard).

In the coming months, **maritime cooperation** will be enhanced with the utilisation and transfer of ownership of **IORIS**, the web platform for maritime information sharing and incident management at sea. Recently the IOC President, SE Vincent Mériton, Seychelles Vice-President has confirmed that the IOC Council of Ministers validated the transfer of IORIS ownership to IOC. Together with the RCOC staff, CRIMARIO will continue to mentor the national and regional teams in using IORIS and collaborating on a regional basis with IOC and MASE programme to ensure a clear and solid governance and administration of this tool.



## 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** and the **EU NAVFOR-Atalanta operation**.

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 introduced various initiatives in the region such as a web based information sharing and incident management network (**IORIS**), the creation of a national 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 and with a budget of €5.5 million, began in January 2015 and will run until December 2019.

In **Seychelles**, CRIMARIO collaborates closely with **Reflecs3**, the national focal point of the project and with the RCOC (Regional Coordination Operations Centre). A training program has been established, focusing on maritime data analysis, training of trainers and IORIS mastering. IORIS equips the RCOC.

## More on CRIMARIO activities and IORIS

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See web article: <https://www.crimario.eu/en/2018/09/12/success-of-ioris-inauguration-in-seychelles/>

Click to see [IORIS video on Youtube](#)

## More about RCOC and RMIFC

Initiated by MASE (Maritime security programme, EU-funded), and implemented by IOC, **two regional centres** have been set up to promote maritime situational awareness of the coastal countries of ESA-IO (Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean); they were confirmed by the **Djibouti Declaration on Maritime Security and Safety** signed on May 15, 2016 by the Ministers of the ESA-IO region and the signature of information sharing agreements.

The **RCOC** (Regional Coordination Operations Centre) is hosted by Seychelles and the **RMIFC** (Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre) by Madagascar. The analysts of RMIFC are tasked with analysing suspicious navigation behaviour and then alerting RCOC and decision makers. The response at sea will be coordinated by RCOC; both centres will be staffed with seconded liaison officers from the ESA-IO countries.

The MASE programme, EU funded, is coordinated by IGAD in association with EAC, COMESA and IOC (Indian Ocean Commission).

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