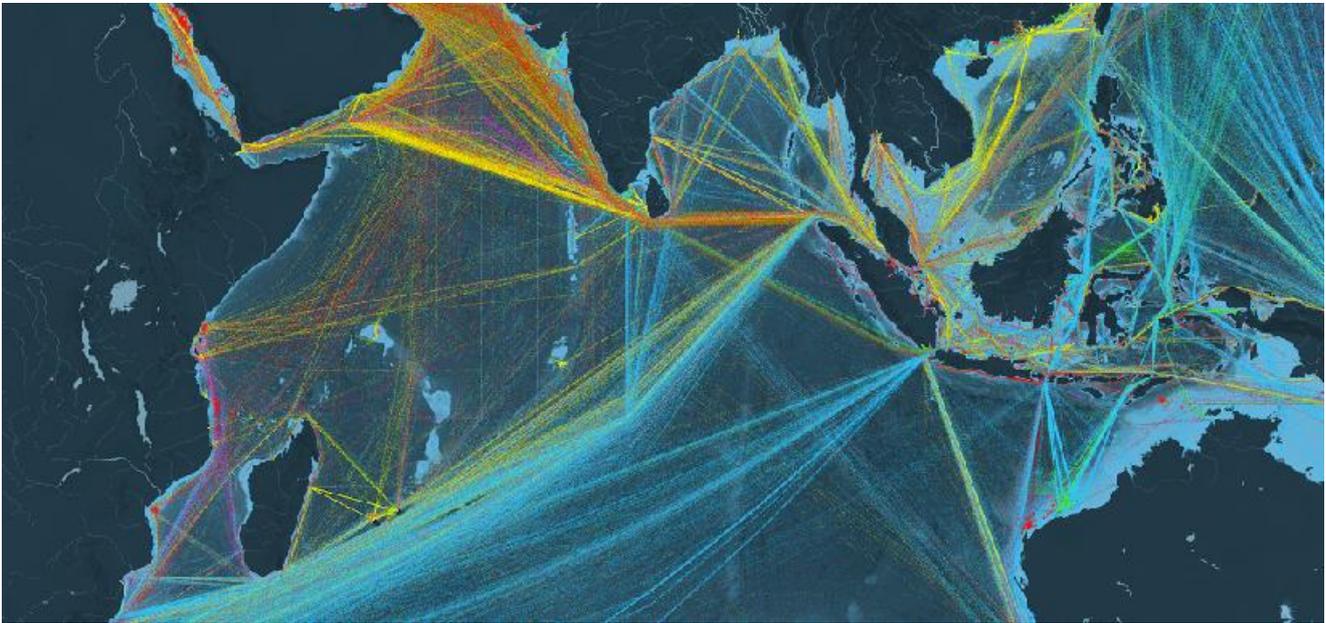




CRIMARIO, Critical Maritime Routes Indo-Pacific



Map © shipmap.org by Kiln.digital, with data from UCL and ExactEarth

The European Union (EU)'s maritime capacity building initiative CRIMARIO I, established between 2015 to 2019, contributed to enhancing Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) through information sharing, capacity building and training, in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO). This was achieved through the development of the IORIS platform, a maritime coordination and communications tool for the region, coupled to extensive training programmes on maritime data processing.

Since CRIMARIO I was a success, the EU decided to extend the project's geographical reach with the ambition **of inter-connecting the Indo-Pacific through CRIMARIO II (2020-2024)**, also implementing law enforcement capacity building activities. This supports the EU's recently promulgated Indo-Pacific strategy where the Union is underlining its role as a global maritime security provider, to promote an open and rules-based regional maritime architecture.

Collaborating with the Maritime Domain Initiatives

CRIMARIO II was established to pursue two main objectives: **(1)** enhancing information exchange and analysis, and crisis/incident management; **(2)** strengthening inter-agency cooperation in maritime surveillance, policing, investigation and judicial matters.

After a preliminary inception phase, CRIMARIO II developed its 3-year Work Plan in close collaboration with EU bodies and potential partners. In fact, CRIMARIO II's collaborative approach will focus on enhancing cooperation and complementarity with regional Information Fusion centres (IFCs), national maritime operations centres (MOC), national maritime information sharing centres / joint operations centres (NMISC / JOC), regional actors (IMO/DCOC, UNODC, IOC, ASEAN, IORA, RECAAP), fora (such as IONS) and third countries active in the Indo-Pacific (EU Members States and EU partners such as India, Japan, USA, Australia). In this context, CRIMARIO II will continue to engage with its traditional partners and seek to build new partnerships with countries in South and Southeast Asia.

CRIMARIO II is a four-year EU funded project, with a budget of EUR 7.5 million (May 2020-April 2024), and implemented by Expertise France.

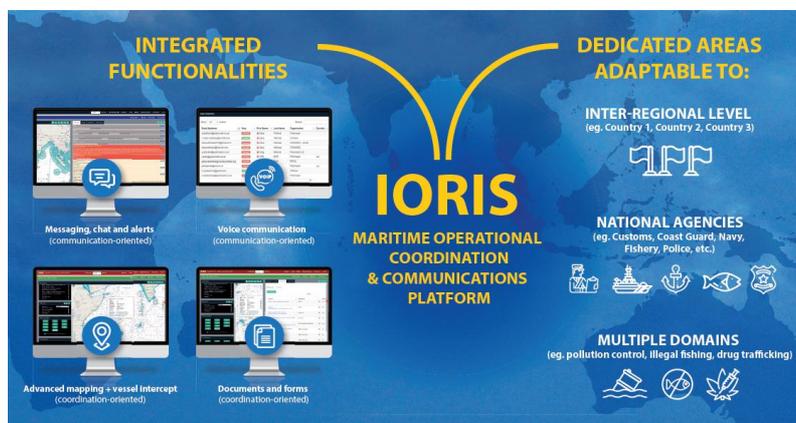


The activities are structured in 4 main areas being IORIS geographical expansion, governance and development; the Sharing and Enhancing Information and Technology (SHARE.IT) interoperability framework; capacity building exercises; and Lessons Learnt webinars under the Tuesdays Second Chance concept.

The Innovative SHARE.IT Gateway

Whilst IFCs and MOCs in the Indo-Pacific region are already operating information-exchange systems, there is currently no technical framework which facilitates the flow of information between these centres. In order to plug this gap, CRIMARIO II has established SHARE.IT, aimed at developing interoperability and maritime situational awareness. This is being accomplished by setting up a community of stakeholders with the ambition of developing a common technological solution, to be able to link existing information-exchange systems together.

Indo-Pacific Regional Information Sharing (IORIS) Platform



The IORIS Maritime Coordination & Communications secure platform enhances the interagency collaboration at national/ regional level, its functionalities integrating messaging chat and alerts; voice communication; advanced mapping and intercept; documents and forms sharing.

Today the IORIS community is composed of 419 users from 12 countries / organisations including 19

administrations in the Indo-Pacific. An ongoing training programme, delivered by a pool of certified instructors, ensures a smooth deployment of the platform. The next step is for CRIMARIO II to incorporate countries and regional organizations into a governance structure, to sustainably manage the IORIS hub.

Enhancing MDA Capacity through Maritime Exercises

CRIMARIO II is organizing and/or participating in maritime exercises with the objective of enhancing and exercising interagency collaboration at regional and national level. The IORIS platform is often used as the primary communications tool during the exercises in conjunction with other tools.

These events are opportunities for EU Member States to exchange expertise and experience with their partners in the Indo-pacific, and to promote some of the core values of the European Union.

CRIMARIO II is also partnering in multinational exercises involving several countries and initiated by the key partners of the region (USA, India, France, etc.).

Lessons Learnt Webinar - Tuesdays Second Chance

CRIMARIO II created Tuesdays Second Chance, a series of lessons learnt webinars that are intended to bring together professionals from across the Indo-Pacific region, to examine a wide variety of case studies that have maritime security and situational awareness at their heart.

The intention is to provide insight into these cases, presenting participants with challenges faced when dealing with such situations, promoting discussion, and informing national administrations of the lessons learnt from past cases.

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