Newsletter of the EU Crimario, a project of the Critical Maritime Routes programme.

EU CRIMARIO PROJECT
CRITICAL MARITIME ROUTES PROGRAMME

NEWSLETTER n° 1 - December 2015

Foreword

First steps of EU CRIMARIO

With the conclusion of the formulation phase (July 2013 - June 2014), **the concept of the CRIMARIO project** was proposed to the potential partners and beneficiary countries during a validation workshop held in Abu Dhabi (April 2014), following the invitation of the United Arab Emirates authorities.

Following the signature of the contract in December 2014 between Expertise France (implementing agency) and the European Commission, the selection of the consortium members and the recruitment of key experts were finalised in February 2015. The project activities were presented to numerous officials of the European Commission, during a kick-off meeting (April 2015, Brussels).

The official launch event (July 3rd 2015, Brussels) gathered countries from the Indian Ocean region, including the signatories of the Djibouti Code of Conduct, which expressed their views and interest to the activities foreseen by this new project.

Support of EU CRIMARIO for tackling the maritime crime

Since the inception phase, EU CRIMARIO has been facing challenges in relation to the sensitive domain of exchanging maritime data and information, at national and regional level, but it is vital to overcome these challenges.

Through a collaborative methodology with the Indian Ocean rim countries, it is expected a regional ownership since the early stage and the development of a **culture of maritime situational awareness**. Concretely, CRIMARIO brings its advice to the authorities when establishing information sharing policy, and data sharing agreements; in addition, training sessions will be provided in close collaboration with Indian Ocean partners.

CRIMARIO working on initiatives in the maritime domain

CRIMARIO supports the new political process led by Kenya, through the 4 centres' initiative

(**Mombasa Protocol**).

Close synergies are continuing with **EU MASE programme** (MAritime SEcurity) in the respect to the establishment of the regional IFC in Madagascar.

Special focus: Expert working group

Networking and the community of practitioners are key principles when exploring new fields of cooperation in the maritime domain where several aspects border the sensitive area of national sovereignty.

In this respect, two regional **Expert Working Groups (EWG**) were foreseen – one on information and data sharing and one on training. Each EWG comprises of representatives from Indian Ocean selected countries and international organizations' experts.

The EWG on information sharing is expected to provide advice to the Region to enhance and consolidate the mechanism of information sharing and explore new methodologies for the achievement of the Maritime Situational Awareness.

The first meeting of the EWG on information sharing, held in Mombasa on 9-10 December 2015, gathered around 30 participants. CRIMARIO introduced the topics for discussion, providing theoretical principles and understanding. Concepts and case studies (concept & model of Information Fusion Centre, sample of data sharing agreement) were presented.

They concluded on the working methodology and the way forward were agreed with the finalisation of the terms of reference.

Missions conducted

The project leaders, Michele Stallone and Marianne Peron-Doise, met the decision-makers of the South Indian Ocean islands (Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles) in November 2015. They introduced the Mombasa Protocol and they were requested to identify synergies in support of the MASE programme.

They participated to the coordination meeting of focal points and national experts, related to results 4 and 5 of MASE programme (21-22 September 2015, Antananarivo).

Expert working groups

The first working group (information sharing) was held in Mombasa on 9-10th December 2015, gathering around 30 international experts and representatives of selected countries. This working group was organised back to back to the MASE working group.

Consortium meeting

The 9 European partners implementing EU CRIMARIO met in Paris on 15 October 2015 to discuss their respective contribution to the project activities (provision of expertise, knowledge and lessons learned) and their views on the way to better achieve a robust maritime governance.

Participation to events

Michele Stallone attended as observer the **G7 High-level meeting on maritime security** "Enhancing Maritime Security – Connecting Regions – Governing the Commons" held in the German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin on 14th December 2015.

In the agenda

Expert working group on training /

capacity building: first meeting planned on June 2016

Training sessions: the first will start during the first quarter 2016

Mombasa Protocol: 1st interim Governing Council to be organised during the first quarter 2016 in Kenya.

Participants to the first expert working group, jointly with MASE workshop, Mombasa, 9-11 December 2015

Working from the region, a **core team of five experts** is conducting the activities according an annual working plan:

Marianne Peron-Doise, project director, in charge of providing political advice

Michele Stallone, project coordinator, in charge of coordinating and implementing the activities

Dave Nattrass, maritime information sharing component manager, in charge of information policy and guidelines

Olivier Bézier, training component manager, in charge of training strategy, and definition of training programme in new domains

Isabelle Gachie Vinson, communication expert, in charge of defining communication strategy and implementing the related activities.

Expertise France (EF), as the contracting agency, is responsible for the whole project management, and liaison with the European Commission. EF project managers: **Audrey Abit** and **Laetitia de Tarlé**.

Our LinkedIn page   CMR Website

EU CRIMARIO project :   Funded by   Implemented by   EXPERTISE FRANCE