

FRONTEX EVALUATION REPORT

JO Triton 2017

Operational Response Division
Field Deployment Unit

Approved by

[signed]
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1. Background information

1.1. Brief risk assessment

Over the last five years, Italy's external sea borders in the south and the east have been one of the main sea areas affected by irregular migration from North African countries (Libya, Tunisia and Algeria) and from Turkey, as well as by the secondary movements of migrants originating from Greece. Italy is both a transit region for irregular migrants heading to other European Union Member States and, a final destination, mainly for migrants arriving from sub-Saharan countries.

The intelligence gathered shows that criminals acting in different countries of departure coordinate their activities, for example with regard to acquiring vessels, hiring skippers and/or smuggling drugs.

The following factors had an impact on the size of the migratory flow moving towards Italy by sea during the JO Triton 2017:

- a) 'Push factors'
 - The unstable and unsafe situation in Libya.
 - The activities of extremist groups mainly in Somalia, Nigeria and Libya.
 - For some nationalities, strict dictatorial regimes and ethnic conflicts were identified as the main 'push factors'.
 - Political instability and corruption, lack of future employment prospects and economic problems were the main 'push factors' for the vast majority of the interviewed migrants.
- b) Opportunities
 - Well-established mechanism for the recruitment of would-be migrants in Libya and in transit countries, mainly Sudan and Niger.
 - Lack of effective control by the Libyan authorities over its territory, mainly at its land borders with Niger and Sudan, and the consequent inability to prevent embarkations and to launch crackdown on criminal networks.
- c) 'Pull factors'
 - Low number of returns compared with the number of arriving irregular migrants.
 - Maritime assets patrolling areas close to Libyan territorial waters in order to rescue migrants departing from Libya. Furthermore, the use of civil vessels to rescue migrants close to Libyan territorial waters was clearly perceived by people smuggling networks as a 'pull factor'.
 - Large diaspora of fellow countrymen of migrants in EU Member States encouraging them to reach EU and, in many cases, financing their trips.

Apart from the aforementioned threats, the following factors have to be considered in the context of seaborne immigration in the Central Mediterranean region:

- A high ratio of migrant fatalities in 2017 in the Central Mediterranean region. According to IOM¹ statistics, there was roughly a 44% decrease recorded in 2017 compared with 2016. However, of all routes used to enter the EU illegally, the Central Mediterranean still ranks first as regards the number of fatalities.

Source: <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/>

- A high number of minors, especially amongst Guinean, Ivoirian, Gambian, Bangladeshi, Eritrean and Nigerian nationals.
- Migrants arriving undetected in Italy mainly from Tunisia and, to a lesser extent, from Algeria and Turkey.
- Despite the decrease in the number of arrivals in 2017 compared with 2016, Italy was under constant pressure from irregular migration flows.
- The difficulties faced by migrants from North and West African countries when attempting to use traditional routes to enter the EU, such as the Western and Eastern Mediterranean routes.

1.2. Operational aim

The operational aim of the JO was to provide increased technical and operational assistance to the Host MS regarding the control of the external borders, coordinating the operational activities at the external sea borders to control irregular migration flows, to tackle cross border crime and to enhance European cooperation on Coast Guard functions.

The operational aim was implemented in full compliance with the relevant EU and international law, the respect for fundamental rights in particular the access to international protection and the compliance with the principle of non- refoulement and taking into account the recommendations of the Frontex Consultative Forum.

1.3. Period of implementation and operational areas

In accordance with the provision of the Operational Plan, the joint activities started on 1 February 2017(00:00h LT) and ended on 31 December 2017 (24:00h LT). The operation was extended for one month until 31 January 2018 (totalling to 12 months) by Host MS and Frontex Executive Director's decision.

The operational area (OA) was divided in six different areas: Mike (M)1, Mike (M)2, Mike (M)3, Mike (M)4, Lima (L)1, Lima (L)2 and Lima (L)3.

Based on risk analyses, all operational areas were activated for the duration of the operation.

1.4. Participants

The Host MS was Italy, while the Home MS were: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and United Kingdom².

1.5. Financial information

The budget initially planned for JO Triton 2017 was 45,000,000 €. After adjustments, the final budget committed amounted 45,196,554.76 €.

The level of payments, on 23 March 2018, was equal to 36,773,412.36 € (81.41% of the committed budget). The amount of 8,398,691.46 € (18.59%) was still to be paid.

² Based on bilateral agreement between Host MS and the United Kingdom.

2. Achievement of objectives

2.1. Enhance border security

- Carrying out maritime border surveillance in order to detect, identify and intercept the suspicious objects of interest and persons within the operational area, to prevent unauthorized border crossings, also taking into account that some situations may involve humanitarian emergencies and distress situations at sea
- Preventing and tackling cross-border crime including smuggling of migrants, trafficking human beings and terrorism and taking measures against persons who have crossed the border illegally as well as reporting other illegal activities detected to the competent national authorities
- Fostering MS operational structures: National Coordination Centre (NCC)/International Coordination Centre (ICC)/Local Coordination Centres (LCCs).

Partially Achieved

2.2. Technical and operational assistance to SAR

- As a part of joint maritime operations concept assist MS respective authorities in conducting SAR operations in order to render assistance to persons found in distress at sea, whenever and wherever required.

Achieved

2.3. Support MS on carrying out coast guard functions

- Establish and enhance cooperation with EFCA and EMSA and with the national authorities carrying out coast guard functions responsible for maritime safety, security, search and rescue, fisheries control, customs control, general law enforcement and environmental protection, to increase maritime situational awareness and to support coherent and cost-efficient action
- Provide, in cooperation with EFCA and EMSA, services, information, equipment and training
- To produce common risk analysis involving EFCA, EMSA and Frontex for emerging risks at maritime domain

Partially achieved

2.4. Enhance operational cooperation

- High level of MS participation in the operational activities
- Enhanced cooperation between the national authorities of the Host MS as well as on an international level
- Enhanced cooperation with other Union agencies and bodies or international organisations in the frame of JO³
- Seeking an active involvement of Third Countries in the operational activities

Achieved

³ Excluding EMSA and EFCA, which falls under the general objective "Support on carrying out coast guard functions"

2.5. Identify possible risks and threats

- Carrying out debriefing activities to obtain operational information and personal data related to perpetrators of cross-border crimes through interviewing migrants, to be further processed and analysed
- Operational analytical products will be shared with stakeholders to maintain and improve situational awareness and support operational planning and implementation

Achieved

2.6. Establish and exchange best practices

- Delivering and supporting workshops, meetings, other networking events to participants
- Delivering and supporting operational briefings/debriefings to all participants of the JO including information on the fundamental rights and access to international protection
- Building on MS capacity by implementing activities related to administrative solutions, standardisation, fleet management and operational technologies as well as technical solutions/best practices linked with EUROSUR and/or EU CG Functions and other cooperation
- Supporting targeted training activities

Partially achieved

2.7. Enhance collection and exchange of information, including personal data

- Collection of operational information in a timely manner from all operational actors involved, in particular information on incidents, as well as on identification and registration of migrants reported in JORA
- Processing at the EU level of personal data relating to individuals suspected of involvement in the migrants' smuggling, THB, terrorism or other cross-border crimes
- Distribution of operational information to all operational actors through the respective authorised channels
- Seeking standardised format and quality of the reports and interviews
- Use of the "Guidelines for JORA Incident Template" giving detailed information on definitions and establishing a set of priorities when selecting the appropriate attributes

Partially achieved

2.8. Support to migration management

- Assisting in screening of nationality, document checks, fingerprinting and registration of third-country nationals

Fully achieved

2.9. Frontex Staff Exchange

The service was provided under Maritime Portfolio of activities 2017.

The core idea was to activate the specialised staff of MS authorities, develop their abilities and to bring an added value from the know-how of this network of practitioners. The MS staff was involved in working visits to counterpart structures, workshops and common initiatives under Maritime Portfolio of activities 2017. As a result, the involved officers learned from each other, exchanged experiences, shared best practices and gradually harmonised the operational procedures.

Using the JO Triton 2017 as a platform, working visits to Italian Hotspots for MS officers took place within the Project. During their visit the visitors acted as observers, receiving information on migration management at Hotspots, possibly being present during the performing of relevant functions such as fingerprinting, document checking, screening, debriefing. Specifically, they shadowed the Frontex Support Officer, who was their first point of contact during their stay, guided them to and within hotspot locations, provided explanations on the migration management process and Frontex support/role. The visitors were also directed to the Italian Team Leaders within the hotspot for further explanations on the national perspective, applicable rules and procedures. This exercise involved 25 officers from France, Sweden, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Slovenia, and Finland.

2.10. Frontex Positioning System (FPS)

The FPS was installed on a trial bases on board of 3 Home MS OPV's deployed in the JO, as well as on board of 2 FWAs. It allowed the ICC to have a better situational picture regarding the deployed assets in the operational area. When fully implemented, FPS will provide improved situational picture allowing more cost-effective management of the operational activities.

2.11. EUROSUR Fusion Services

The Eurosur Fusion Services (Geospatial Information, Vessel Monitoring and Tracking, Tracking Vessel of interest, Vessel Detection, Maritime Simulation Module, Meteo and Environmental Information) were available to support decision-making, planning and execution of missions. Aligned with operational needs, these services were accessible via the Eurosur Network and the JORA Visualization Module.

Vessel Detection Service

The Vessel Detection Service (VDS) was activated in support of maritime surveillance activities. For the correct implementation and exploitation of the service, some VDS detections were verified by coordinating adequate follow-up actions, but not mandatorily. Activities were coordinated by NCC with the involvement of ICC, also according to the Frontex available assets and the general operational conditions (e.g. weather forecasts, operational needs, ongoing rescue activities or boats in distress to reach and assist). The outcomes of each detection and any follow-up actions were reported to Frontex, via the daily package and procedures in place.

During the implementation of JO Triton 2017 there were 447 VDS SWATHS with 3974 tracks detected. 294 SWATHS were inside the operational area and 153 outside the operational area of JO Triton 2017. Out of the 3974 tracks, 1107 were correlated with AIS, and 2849 were uncorrelated.

SWATHS outside JO Triton operational area but inside EUNAVFORMED operational area were sent to its FHQ in order to assist with the follow-up.

EUNAVFORMED performed 9 follow-ups, with the mention that the military operation had no assets in the area to conduct more follow-up activities.

Under the coordination of the Italian authorities, the aerial assets of the Host MS and participating MS in support of JO Triton 2017 performed 98 flights dedicated to follow-up activities for the identification of detected objects (tracks and targets).

Multipurpose Aerial Surveillance (MAS)

The Multipurpose Aerial Surveillance Service supported the maritime surveillance activities acting mainly as an early warning mechanism having the primary aim of surveillance and monitoring of the pre-frontier and remote areas. The surveillance operations were coordinated by the European Monitoring Team (EMT) established in the Frontex Situation Centre, where both NCC and ICC Rome officers were present. All sightings were reported to the competent national authorities for their follow-up, including to ICC Rome.

3. Operational results

The primary objective of the JO Triton 2017 was to provide support to the Host MS in managing its maritime borders, including saving lives at sea and monitoring parallel activities (such as trafficking human beings, smuggling, environmental crimes, illegal fishing). In line with these objectives, collecting operational intelligence from migrants during debriefing activities was established as one of the priorities.

According to the information available in JORA, from 1 February 2017 to 31 January 2018, 1 535 incidents were reported within the framework of the JO Triton 2017. Of these incidents, 1 459 were related to illegal immigration, involving the apprehension of 119 285 irregular migrants and the arrest of 296 people smugglers. A decreasing trend (-33%) can be noted in the number of migrants apprehended during the JO Triton 2017 compared with the previous year (178 064).

Most of the migrants apprehended in 2017 departed from Libya (106 339), followed by Tunisia (6 554), Turkey (3 761), Algeria (2 061), Greece (418) and Egypt (79). The main nationalities were as follows: Nigerians (17 402), Guineans (9 184), Ivoirians (8 883), Bangladeshis (8 822) and Eritreans (8 345). Moreover, migrants arriving from Western and Central African countries, mainly Nigeria, Guinea, the Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal, Ghana, Cameroon, Niger, Sierra Leone and Burkina Faso represented approximately 47% of the total number of irregular migrants that arrived in Italy in 2017. Whereas, the share of migrants arriving from the Horn of Africa/Sudan/South Sudan and of migrants from North African countries (mainly Tunisia and Morocco and, to a lesser extent, Algeria and Libya) each represented roughly 14% of the total number.

It is worth noting that the high number of Bangladeshi migrants arrived in the first half of 2017; they ranked fourth as regards to the main detected nationalities. Furthermore, Pakistanis represented approximately 3% of the total number of irregular migrants apprehended in 2017, while migrants from the Middle East and Far East represented roughly 4% of the total number of migrants. Also, the number of migrants from Western and Central African countries decreased by 42% during the JO Triton 2017 compared with the JO Triton 2016, while the number of migrants from Horn of African countries decreased by 50% and the number of nationals of North African countries increased by 116%.

During the JO Triton 2017, 187 fatalities were reported within the framework of the JO, showing a sharp decrease (-51%) compared with the 406 fatalities reported in the previous year. The number of fatalities corresponds with the operational facts, meaning the dead bodies recovered by the Italian authorities and not with the higher number of migrants that were reported missing. Moreover, according to IOM, the estimated number of fatalities in the Mediterranean Sea reached 2 751 cases during the period of the JO Triton 2017.

Of the total number of irregular immigration incidents (1 459) reported during the JO Triton 2017, 64% were reported outside the operational area while the remaining 35% were reported inside that area. Furthermore, 76% of these incidents were reported as SAR incidents, involving the rescue of 112 171 migrants. In addition, 29 incidents related to the smuggling of goods involving the arrest of 41 smugglers and the seizure of roughly 32 500 kilograms of cannabis, approximately 680 000 pieces of cigarettes were reported in the OA. Moreover, seven incidents related to pollution were reported during the JO Triton 2017. Furthermore, 38 incidents linked to preventions of departure involving the apprehension of approximately 3 690 migrants. In addition, 32 forged documents were found by the ALDOs during landings.

It is worth mentioning that during the JO Triton 2017, similar to 2016, JDTs and JSTs deployed mainly in Sicily and Lampedusa constantly referred to possible cases of trafficking human beings, mainly involving young females from West and Horn of African countries who were smuggled into the EU for sexual exploitation. The added value of the JO Triton 2017 was the ability to assist the Host MS authorities in managing the external sea borders in light of the high number of irregular migrants arriving in Italy.

4. Cooperation with other Union agencies and bodies or international organizations and third countries.

The concept of “multiagency cooperation” was implemented within the JO Triton 2017, enabling multifunctional approach aiming to improve the border surveillance at the external maritime borders, including the counter of cross-border criminality, also contributing to optimize cost-effectiveness of the activities of relevant competent authorities.

During the JO, Frontex facilitated cooperation with EUROPOL, EMSA, EFCA, EASO, UNHCR and IOM. In practice, the cooperation with the aforementioned institutions worked as following:

- **EUROPOL:** Ongoing full cooperation with Europol in order to support national authorities to dismantle the criminal networks involved in migrants’ smuggling, human trafficking, terrorism and other cross-border crimes through exchange of information and intelligence via Europol National Unit. Interviews containing personal data were sent directly to Europol, via PeDRA. Europol contributed to the operational briefings for Frontex deployed experts. As part of the briefings an informative package on profiling of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) was delivered to Frontex experts.
- **EMSA:** EMSA received the collected information (pictures and/or videos) related to seven possible pollution cases that were detected by participating asset during patrolling activities. No feedback was received from EMSA nor from the national responsible authority.
- **EFCA:** Cooperation with EFCA was based on the Standard Operating Procedures and the JO Triton 2017 Operation Plan Annex 9, which determined the framework of operational cooperation conducted within the operation. The direct results of the cooperation were 766 fisheries sighting forms filled and sent to EFCA by Frontex deployed assets, with 4 possible incidents detected concerning illegal fishing. Feedback on the issued forms and possible cases of illegal fishing was requested from EFCA and Host MS respective authorities. During the operation, EFCA was offered a possibility to deploy inspectors to Frontex co-financed assets to enhance the quality of fishery sightings. It is also worth mentioning that EFCA’s staff was deployed to ICC Rome twice during the implementation of the operation to deliver tailored briefings to participating MS NO’s and Host MS representatives.
- **EASO:** EASO and Frontex exchanged on regular basis information about the migratory flows, asylum seekers and intelligence on migratory patterns in the region from Frontex. Also the EURTF Catania real time information on the ongoing incidents was shared by Frontex with EASO, enabling them to prepare their experts for the landings. During the weekly meetings in EURTF a more in-depth picture of the past week and the upcoming events was provided by Frontex. EASO also presented their activities and results on a weekly basis.
- **UNHCR and IOM:** The activities of JO Triton 2017 were implemented in full respect for the fundamental rights of the migrants, specific information being provided to the deployed officers regarding this aspect. Both organizations were invited to provide specific briefings to the participants of the JO during the centralized operational briefings in Rome. Cooperation on spot in the hotspots and in non-hotspots disembarkation places was performed in line with the existing Standard Operating Procedure developed for

the Italian Hotspots. Monthly working meetings were implemented between the UNHCR regional coordinators and FCOs in the EURTF.

In order to address operational challenges related with irregular migration flows as well cross-border crimes, third country observers, namely Albania, Georgia, Kosovo, Ukraine and FYROM, were invited to take part in the joint operation as observers. The participation of those observers was expected to result not only in mutually beneficial real time cooperation in the scope of the JO, but also in sustaining exchange of expertise and networking with the experts from participating Member States.

The deployments of the observers and their contributions served as welcomed addition to the situational awareness on the ICC and participating MS asset NO's.

5. Implementation of the Hotspot Concept and the European Union Regional Task Force (EURTF) Catania

In May 2015 following the European Agenda on Migration (May 2015), the EU Commission developed a Hotspot approach aiming to provide a platform for the EU Agencies to intervene, rapidly, in an integrated manner and according to their mandate, in frontline Member States when there is a crisis due to specific and disproportionate migratory pressure at their external borders, consisting of mixed migratory flows and the concerned Member State's inability to adequately cope with that pressure.

A Hotspot is defined as a border section or region with extraordinary migratory pressure and mixed flows that require reinforced and concerted EU-Agencies-support. In Italy Hotspots have been established in the 5 locations of disembarkation of the migrants rescued or intercepted at sea. Moreover the Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) incorporating the Hotspot approach, has been implemented in all other ports of disembarkation. As the implementation of the hotspot approach was directly connected with the activities of JO Triton 2017, it was an integrated part of the Operational Plan.

The general objective of the hotspot approach was to have 100% identification and registration of the third country nationals arriving at EU external borders and to step up the fight against people smuggling and trafficking human beings.

The management tool for the implementation of the Hotspot concept in Italy is the EURTF established in Catania, in which the following EU agencies and authorities were present: Frontex, Europol, EASO, ITA Mol, ITA GdF, ITA CC, ITA CG, EUNAVFOR MED and EU Commission.

On the spot, all Frontex activities were implemented according to Frontex mandate and in line with the Fundamental rights and the Operational plan:

- Operational monitoring, assessment and reporting of the procedures implemented by the Host MS in the management of the landings as well as proposing and advising on potential improvements and solutions (Implementation of SOP);
- Ensuring a seamless dissemination of operational information;
- Operational guidance and advising of deployed teams;
- Liaising with International Organizations or NGO's operating on the ground;

- Communication vis-à-vis with VIP's and the Media.

Frontex has the leading role in the management of the EURTF Catania as tasked by the COM to deal with the logistical and technical arrangements (service provider).

The presence of Frontex in the EURTF Catania was an added value to the implementation of the Hotspot concept and has allowed Frontex to:

- reinforce its presence on the spot - logistical and operational support to assets and experts deployed;
- ensuring that all co-financed assets received up to date briefings;
- ensure a trustful and constructive presence in the operational area;
- foster the daily cooperation with local authorities - assessment of needs at local level;
- effectively monitor the implementation of the operational activities and their link/integration into the national procedures;
- set a smoother and more practical exchange of operational information with EU partners;

Frontex and Italy agreed that foreseen full capacity deployment in each Hotspot would be: 10 fingerprinting experts, 4 screening experts, 4 debriefing experts, 1 document expert, 2 team leaders and 4 cultural mediators. In total and with full capacity, per Hotspot, Frontex deployed 25 experts per month. In given periods of time, and in agreement with the Italian authorities taking in consideration numerous factors, the level of the deployment could be reduced in a cost-effective perspective.

Additionally, Frontex continued to deploy experts to important non-hotspot locations.

The constant presence of Frontex Operational Team at landings facilitated the implementation and further development of the agreed SOP also in locations not previously following the SOP.

6. Cooperation between JO Triton 2017 and EUNAVFOR MED

In light of the Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/778 of 18 May 2015, the European Union established a military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED-Operation Sophia). EU Council Decision 1385/2017 extended Op. Sophia's mandate until 31 December 2018. The mission's core mandate is to undertake systematic efforts to identify, capture and dispose of vessels and enabling assets used or suspected of being used by migrant smugglers or traffickers, in order to contribute to wider EU efforts to disrupt the business model of human smuggling and trafficking networks in the Southern Central Mediterranean and prevent further loss of life at sea.

This cooperation was defined through the exchange of letters between the Frontex Executive Director and the EUNAVFOR MED Operation Commander, dated in September 2015.

Taking in consideration that both JO Triton 2017 and the EUNAVFOR MED were addressing irregular migration and in particular the fight against cross-border criminality but with different mandates, aims, objectives, SOP's and using different typologies of deployed assets, it was of the utmost importance to clearly define the terms and conditions of the operational cooperation in order to maximize the effectiveness of the operational

activities in the South Mediterranean Sea and to ensure the consistency of the EU operational activities in the area.

The interaction with EUNAVFOR MED - Operation Sophia, took place on strategic and operational level.

7. Implementation of Regulation (EU) No 656/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council

7.1. Disembarkation in Third Countries

All the migrants intercepted or rescued were disembarked in Italy. Disembarkation in third countries has not been foreseen in the operational plan. As a result, no such action was carried out during the implementation period of JO Triton 2017. The operational area of JO Triton 2017 included the SAR regions of Italy and Malta. Nevertheless, the MRCC received many SAR requests from boats in distress in Libyan SAR. All the migrants rescued in the Libyan SARR were disembarked in Italy.

7.2. Procedures regarding the identification of persons in particular situations, vulnerable persons and THB

During 2017 Frontex had a high focus on the detection of vulnerable persons and the referral of these to the competent authorities. As the first contact with migrants was during the rescues, it was ensured that all crews have had a briefing on detection of vulnerable persons and that they were aware of how to act.

The MIR (Maritime Incident Report) became fully implemented and also widely used by non-Frontex entities as a tool to inform the Host MS authorities on potential vulnerable persons. The MIR was sent at first possible opportunity by the rescuing unit in order for the receiving entities to prepare.

Medical incident Report was also provided by the Frontex assets. All OPVs deployed in JO Triton 2017 had medical staff on board, and as such they were able to provide a preliminary medical assessment of the migrants.

All deployed experts working in the second line were likewise briefed on the detection of vulnerable persons and THB. This was done during the monthly pre-deployment briefing as a separate part.

Upon disembarkation, prior to any other action, local authorities tended to the basic needs of the rescued persons such as food and medical assistance. This initial procedure involved Red Cross, Save the Children, UNHCR, as well as members of the local Immigration Offices with the support of interpreters. Medical screening was implemented. Initial medical screening after the vessel moored, performed by a doctor in order to prevent spreading potential contagious diseases, second check performed upon disembarkation to individually evaluate the health state of each migrant and the potential need for immediate assistance.

During all activities Frontex deployed TM's, pay special attention to possible victims of THB. Migrants who in any way expressed fear of suffering serious harm if returning to the country of origin or former habitual residence were referred by the TMs to the TLs, who insured that the information was provided to the competent authorities.

7.3. Communication and cooperation channels

NCC, ICC and Italian MRCC were in permanent contact with each other. The NCC, as the direct partner of Frontex, assured the strategic and overall implementation of the JO and was responsible to declare, after consultation with the Dipartimento della Libertà Civile (Civil Liberty Department of the MoI) the port of disembarkation of the migrants intercepted or rescued. The ICC was responsible for the operational implementation of the JO and the reporting system. The MRCC, in its capacity of SAR authority in Italy, coordinated all search and rescue incidents in their area of competence.