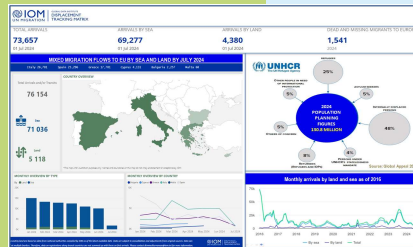## CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

Irregular migration remains one of the most significant challenges for the EU and continues to be characterized by mixed migration flows, often with the assistance of well-established smuggling networks. This scenario of the CISE-ALERT project probed the level of operational maturity of the CISE system against illegal migration smuggling networks.

The scenario tested the effectiveness of the CISE used by MOCs to seamlessly exchange operational information and to Command and Control their assets on scene, in the best way possible.

This scenario comes at a crucial time, as data of immigration flows show that this will remain a persistent challenge for EU resilience, and it gives credible answers about CISE's maturity to become a reliable tool.

INVOLVED STAKEHOLDERS

Illegal migration is a delicate problem for the countries of entry and the EU as well. The scenario involved the HMOD (Greece), EAMA (Bulgaria), Italian Coast Guard and MZI (Slovenia). HMOD as the initiator of the scenario, asks through the CISE for more information about a VOI suspected of illegal migration. The contributors start sending information and gradually build up a complete operational picture. The scenario probes how the CISE helped HMOD to effectively Command and Control assets to effectively deal with illegal migration effectively and in a lawful way as this is pivotal both in humanitarian terms but also for intercepting political attempts to put pressure on the EU.
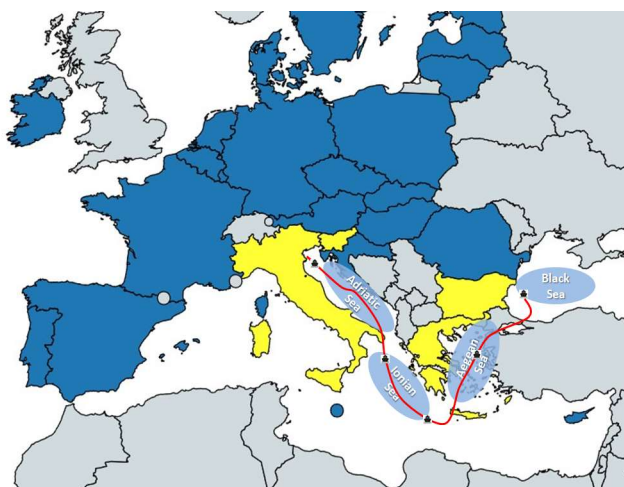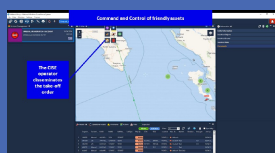
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25 - 26 April 2024

1 The Initiator (HMOD) provides CISE-ALERT participants with the MMSI numbers of Vessels Of Interest (VOI).

2 The suspected vessel is not transmitting the AIS and it is navigating through a Sea Line of Communication (SLOC) often used for illegal activities (trafficking of immigrants).

3 The cargo ownership or content is raising or confirming suspicion (e.g., owned by a person listed in the UN and EU Sanctions, stowaways/immigrants are found during Customs inspection, tested positive for explosives onboard).

4 The suspected vessel was observed performing abnormal behaviour (e.g., rendezvous at sea, sudden change of port of destination).

TRIAL SCENARIO DESCRIPTION

5 Inspection actions are started by HMOD assigned to patrol boat operational asset.

6 The Hellenic Maritime Operations Centre (MOC) deems it necessary to have aerial video footage of the AOI, and through the CISE asks for Operational Asset Assistance Request, since there was not any greek available air asset at that moment.

7 A helicopter and a drone from supporters are available to operate. HMOD confirms both operational assets which move to the provided location of the vessel and take video footage.

8 Documents (Video, Images, PDF) are exchanged between supporters and HMOD.
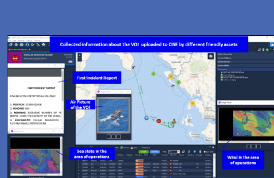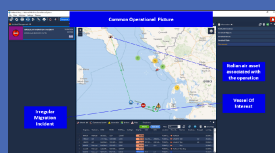

ADDED VALUE OF CISE IN EU MARITIME OPERATIONS

The results of the scenario justify that the CISE remedies some of the thorniest difficulties when it comes to combating illegal migration. For the first time, the CISE equipped MOCs with the capability to have:

- A common operational picture to coordinate their actions
- A single operational tool to disseminate orders to their assets

The CISE stops the siloed way that MOCs now work. The CISE fuses together all different Legacy Systems and procedures dispersed across the EU, into a single operational tool. Operational information seamlessly circulates through the CISE and it reaches any interested partner at any time.

CISE inaugurates a whole new working environment where partners share the EU values, and they all speak the common 'CISE language'.

Scan the QR Code for More Information on CISE ALERT project!

https://www.cise-alert.eu/