

French participation in the European CRIMARIO II project

Launched in 2015, the European Critical Maritime Routes Indo-Pacific Project (CRIMARIO) is an initiative financed by the European Union aiming to strengthen maritime safety and security in the Western Indian Ocean, particularly through the development of maritime safety capacities and enhancement of maritime domain awareness (MDA). Following the success of CRIMARIO I (2015-2019), the European Union decided to extend the programme in 2020 for another four years to cover Asia and the Pacific with the launch of CRIMARIO II. The aim is to interconnect the entire Indo-Pacific region under the project.

This project translates in concrete terms the European Union's cooperation strategy adopted in 2021, with the aim of contributing to maritime safety in the entire Indo-Pacific region, by promoting an open, rules-based regional maritime architecture.

CRIMARIO II has two main objectives: enhancing information exchange and analysis, and crisis/incident management, and strengthening international cooperation in maritime surveillance, policing, investigation and judicial matters.

Maritime domain awareness, crucial to sovereignty and security

Implemented by Expertise France with European financing (€17.5 million), the CRIMARIO II project focuses on national capacity building with a focus on information sharing and regional cooperation on maritime domain awareness. It has two main components: the dissemination of the IORIS, a neutral and secure platform for communication and management of maritime events, and the implementation of training programmes and workshops with partner countries.

CRIMARIO II helps EU partners and organizations in the Indo-Pacific to improve the governance of their maritime areas by promoting cooperation regarding maritime safety and security and by helping authorities fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The project aims to enhance cooperation and complementarity among Information Fusion Centres (IFCs), Information Sharing Centres (ISCs), Joint Operations Centres (JOCs), National Maritime Operations Centres (MOCs), regional organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), as well as with dialogue forums, such as the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), currently bringing together more than 35 countries, including several Pacific island nations.

Components of the CRIMARIO II project

The IORIS platform enhances inter-agency collaboration at national and regional levels. Its main purpose is to provide a tool for planning and coordinating maritime operations, and to provide command and control functions for crisis/incident management. Information sharing and fusion centres in the region can use IORIS to access enriched data and disseminate it.

The development of the SHARE.IT Interoperability Framework, established in partnership with UNDOC and information fusion centres in the Indo-Pacific region, helps to improve maritime situational awareness.

The design of tailor-made training packages to meet the specific needs of individual partner countries of CRIMARIO II: these packages could be in the fields of law enforcement, addressing

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operational maritime law, evidence compilation, forensics amongst other topics; and maritime safety, primarily addressing search and rescue and tackling marine oil pollution incidents.