

# **Search and rescue on the central Mediterranean migratory route**

The work of Sea-Eye

---

Julian Sassenscheidt

Sea-Eye Medical Team

# Introduction

---



# Topics

- Migration across the Mediterranean
- Emergence of civilian sea rescue
- Sea-Eye
- Onshore Work
- Data acquisition

# Migration across the Mediterranean

---

# Migration across the Mediterranean

- Migration over the Mediterranean has occurred for thousands of years in all directions
- Thousands of crossings from the northern shore of Africa each year since the mid-1990s

# Main routes

## **Western Mediterranean**

Morocco and sometimes Algeria to Spain

## **Central Mediterranean**

North Africa to Italy and Malta

## **Eastern Mediterranean**

Turkey to Greece (and sometimes Cyprus and Bulgaria)

# Main routes



**Figure 1:** Migratory routes

# Central Mediterranean

- Considered the most deadly migratory route
- > 22000 deaths and disappearances since 2014<sup>a</sup>
- Many silent and unrecorded shipwrecks

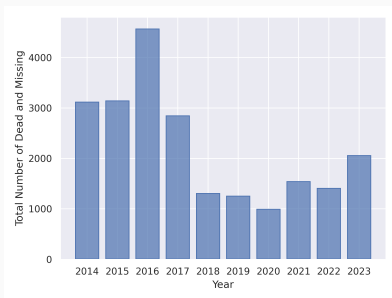
---

<sup>a</sup>IOM Missing Migrants Project

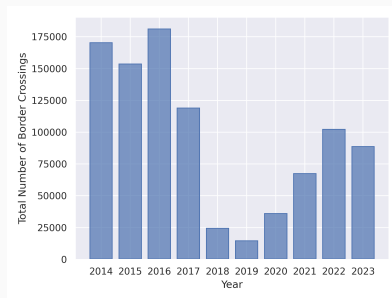


**Figure 2:** Sinking rubber boat

# Central Mediterranean



**Figure 3:** Dead and Missing (Data source: IOM Missing Migrants Project)



**Figure 4:** Arrivals (Data source: Frontex)

## Central Mediterranean



**Figure 5:** Rubber boat in the Mediterranean on July 23rd, 2017



## Central Mediterranean



**Figure 6:** Rubber boat in the Mediterranean on July 23rd, 2017

# Central Mediterranean

Mediterranean on Juli 25th, 2017

## **Emergence of civilian sea rescue**

---

# 2013 Lampedusa shipwreck

**October 3rd, 2013**

Shipwreck with 366 victims close to the shore of Lampedusa



**Figure 7:** Coffins in Lampedusa



**Figure 8:** Wreck in 2014, 50 meters deep on seabed

# 2013 Lampedusa shipwreck

## Italy boat sinking: Hundreds feared dead off Lampedusa

© 3 October 2013

## Mediterranean 'a cemetery' - Maltese PM Muscat

© 12 October 2013

## Lampedusa boat disaster: Death toll rises to 232

© 7 October 2013

World Africa Americas Asia Australia China Europe India Middle East United Kingdom

## Italy shipwreck: Scores dead after boat sinks off Lampedusa island

Hada Messia, Ben Wedeman and Laura Smith-Spark, CNN

Updated 8:44 PM EDT, Thu October 3, 2013

The New York Times

*Sinking of Migrant Boat Off Italy Complicates Politics in Germany*

Lampedusa boat tragedy is 'slaughter of innocents' says Italian president

Figure 9: Headlines

# Mare Nostrum

- October 18th, 2013: Italy launches *Mare Nostrum*
- Marine operation by Italian Navy and Italian Air Force
- At least 150000 migrants saved
- Expensive (~9 billion € per day)
- Lack of support from other EU countries
- Blamed as a *pull factor*



**Figure 10:** Source: Giorgio Perottino / Reuters

## **"Mare Nostrum" sei "Beihilfe zum Schlepperwesen" gewesen**

Zugleich verteidigte der Minister trotz der dramatischen Flüchtlingsbilder auf dem Mittelmeer [das Ende der italienischen](#)

## **German Minister of Interior: "*Mare Nostrum was aiding human trafficking*"**

furchtbare Boote gepackt und losgeschickt und wenig später die italienische Marine angerufen, sie möge sie retten. Das habe den Schleppern geholfen, Milliarden Gewinne zu erzielen.

**Figure 11:** Süddeutsche Zeitung



NEWS - GLOBAL | 31 October 2014

## IOM Applauds Italy's Life-Saving Mare Nostrum Operation: "Not a Migrant Pull Factor"

**Switzerland** - IOM has paid tribute – on the occasion of the launch of the European Union (EU) Operation Triton in the Mediterranean – to the heroic work of Italy's maritime forces in rescuing at sea thousands of migrants seeking safety in Europe.

Under Italy's "Mare Nostrum" operation, some 150,000 so-called "irregular" migrants, many of them from the most troubled nations in Africa and the Middle East, have arrived safely over the past 10 months in Europe, where today many are pursuing claims for asylum.

IOM notes that despite the rescue efforts of Italy and other Mediterranean coastal nations – including Greece, Malta and Spain – an estimated 3,200 migrants have perished attempting to cross the Mediterranean in 2014, many of them victims of ruthless criminal gangs seeking to profit from the misery of men, women and children fleeing conflict and oppression.

Despite the rising number of migrants rescued, IOM does not believe that Europe is faced with an "invasion" along its southern coast, nor that the safety net provided by Mare Nostrum represented a "pull factor".

"The emergency is not in the number of people involved, but in the humanitarian and operational consequences," said IOM

**Figure 12:** IOM comment on the end of Mare Nostrum



## End of Mare Nostrum - Begin of private SAR

- End of Mare Nostrum on October 31st, 2014
- Superseded by Frontex Operation Triton
- Aim of Triton: Border surveillance
- 2015 several NGOs started to perform SAR operations in the central Mediterranean (MOAS, Sea-Watch, Sea-Eye etc.)
- Sea-Eye was founded

# NGO activity

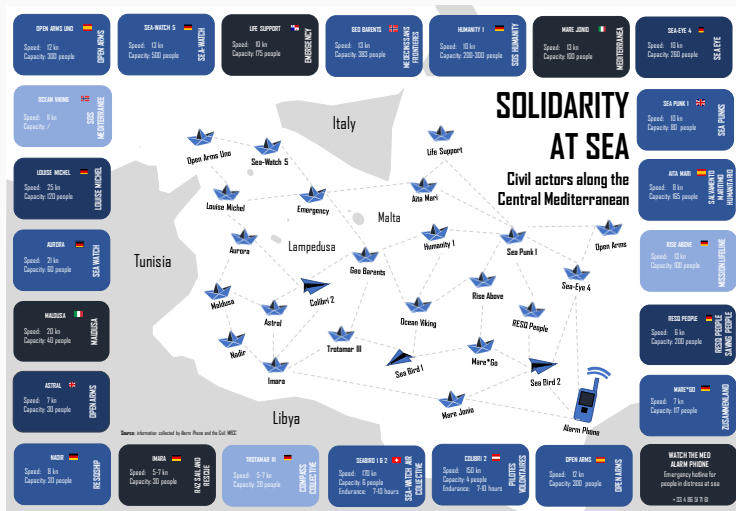


Figure 13: NGO activity (Source: Civil MRCC)

# Sea-Eye

---

## Sea-Eye Vessels: SEA-EYE (2016-2018)



**Figure 14: SEA-EYE**

## Sea-Eye Vessels: SEEFUCHS (2017-2018)



**Figure 15: SEEFUCHS**

## Sea-Eye Vessels: ALAN KURDI (2018-2021)



**Figure 16:** ALAN KURDI

## Sea-Eye Vessels: SEA-EYE 4 (2021-today)



Figure 17: SEA-EYE 4

## Sea-Eye Vessels: SEA-EYE 4

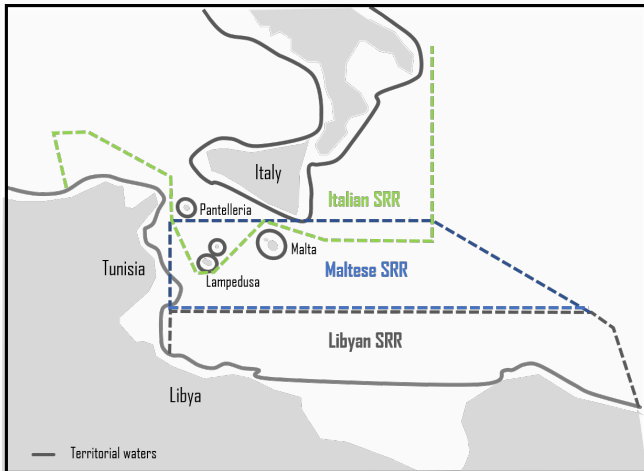
SEA-EYE 4 tour



# Onshore Work

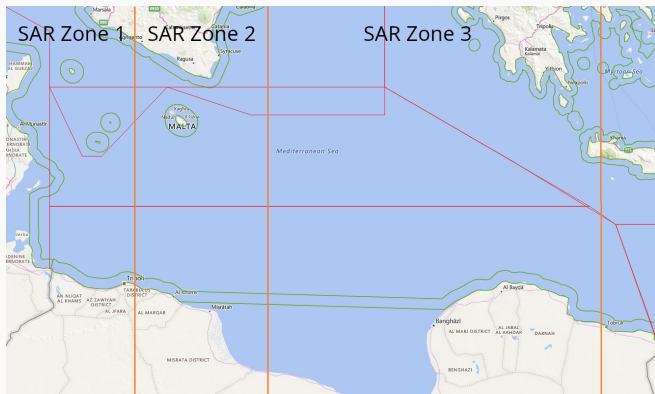
---

# SAR regions



**Figure 18:** SAR regions (SRR) in the central Mediterranean

# SAR zones



**Figure 19: SAR zones 1 - 3**



**Figure 20:** Search from sunrise to sunset

## Finding boats through...

- Sighting of a boat
- Coordinates from AlarmPhone
- Coordinates from civil planes

# Process of Rescue

- First contact via RHIB
- Distribution of life vests
- Disembarkation to rescue ship by RHIB
- Now: Post Rescue Team (PRT)



## Post rescue work & Data

- Number of children
- Number of pregnant women
- Nationalities
- Sometimes hundreds of rescued people
- Medical cases

## Port of safety

- Allocation by rescue center
- POS often far away from SAR zone
- Detention and penalty fees

# Medical cases

- Acute medical emergencies
- Fuel burns
- Hypothermia
- Exsiccosis / volume depletion
- Repetitive wound care (fuel burns)
- Organisation of medical evacuation
- [...]



# Data acquisition

---







Figure 22: Mastodon

## Medical Team needs

- Digitalisation
- Stock management
- Statistics

## PRT / HOM needs

- Integration of non-medical data

# Data flow

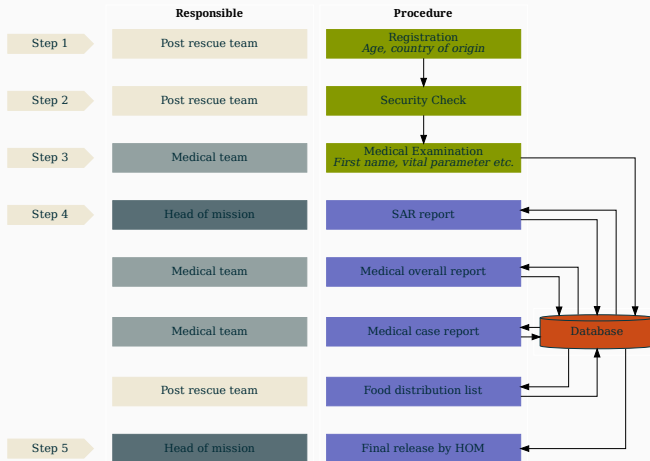


Figure 23: Post rescue data flow

## Technical situation

- Hospital laptop
- Onboard server
- GNU Health running in VM on server
- No production use yet

# Aim

- Wristband with QR-Code for every guest
- Organisation of non-medical information (*People before Patients*)
  - Number of guests onboard
  - Food distribution
  - Demographical data
  - [...]
- Medical information management
  - Medical data
  - Stock management
  - Torture and violence report
  - [...]

**Thank You**

---