



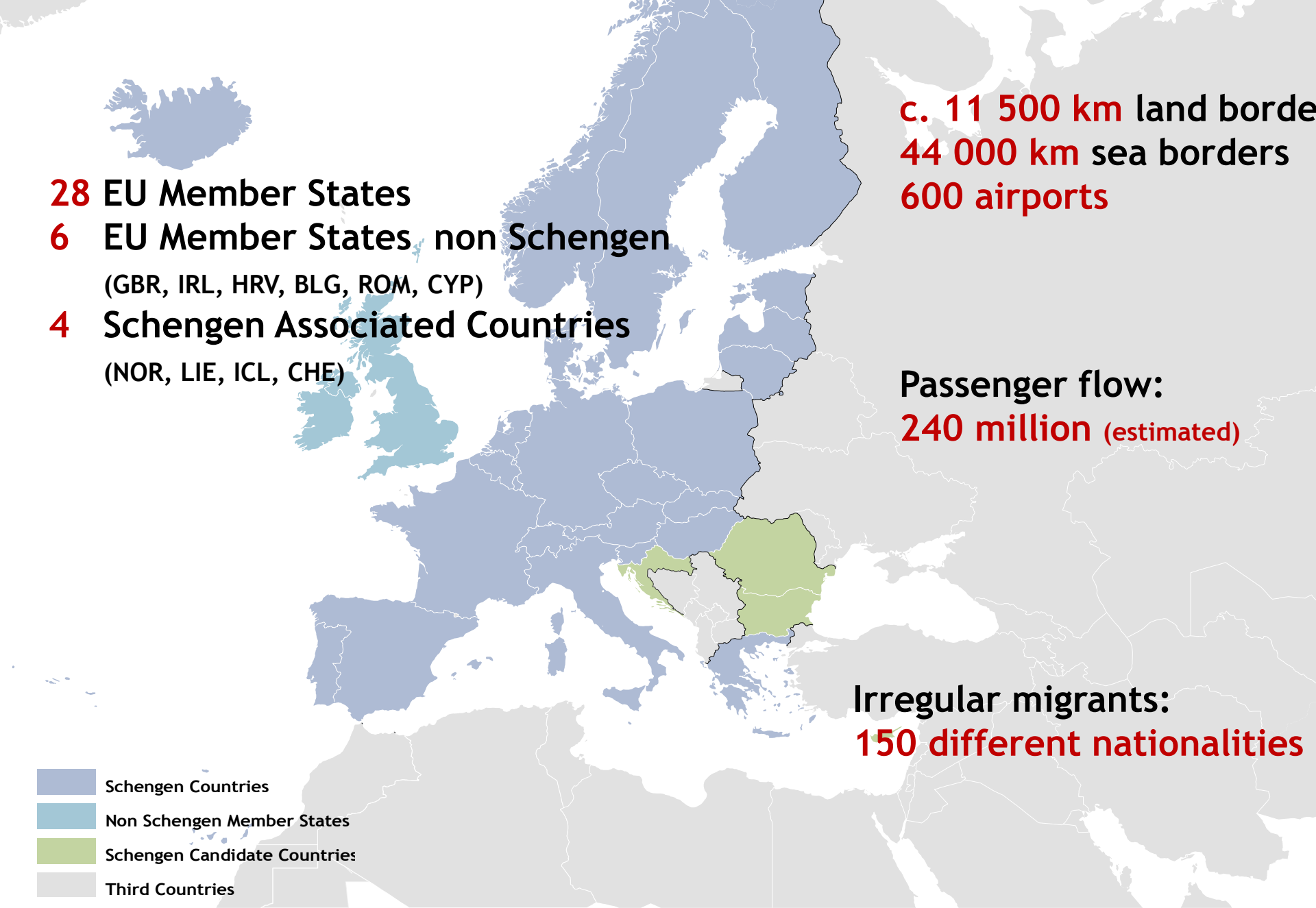
# Latest phenomena and Frontex activities at the EU external borders.

Pawel Suchanek  
C&P Manager to the Director  
Operations Division

EMN educational seminar, IOM Bratislava  
25-27.08.2015

## KEY POINTS:





- ✓ EU Borders
- ✓ Risks for border management / IBM
- ✓ Illegal border crossings - figures
- ✓ Frontex - facts and mandate
- ✓ Facilitation of illegal immigration phenomena
- ✓ Frontex operational activity
- ✓ JO Triton, JO Poseidon, WB area and Hotspot Concept
- ✓ EU Policy Cycle / EMPACT
- ✓ JADs and JOT MARE support
- ✓ Eurosur
- ✓ Frontex and fundamental rights policy

- 
- 28** EU Member States  
**6** EU Member States non Schengen  
(GBR, IRL, HRV, BLG, ROM, CYP)  
**4** Schengen Associated Countries  
(NOR, LIE, ICL, CHE)

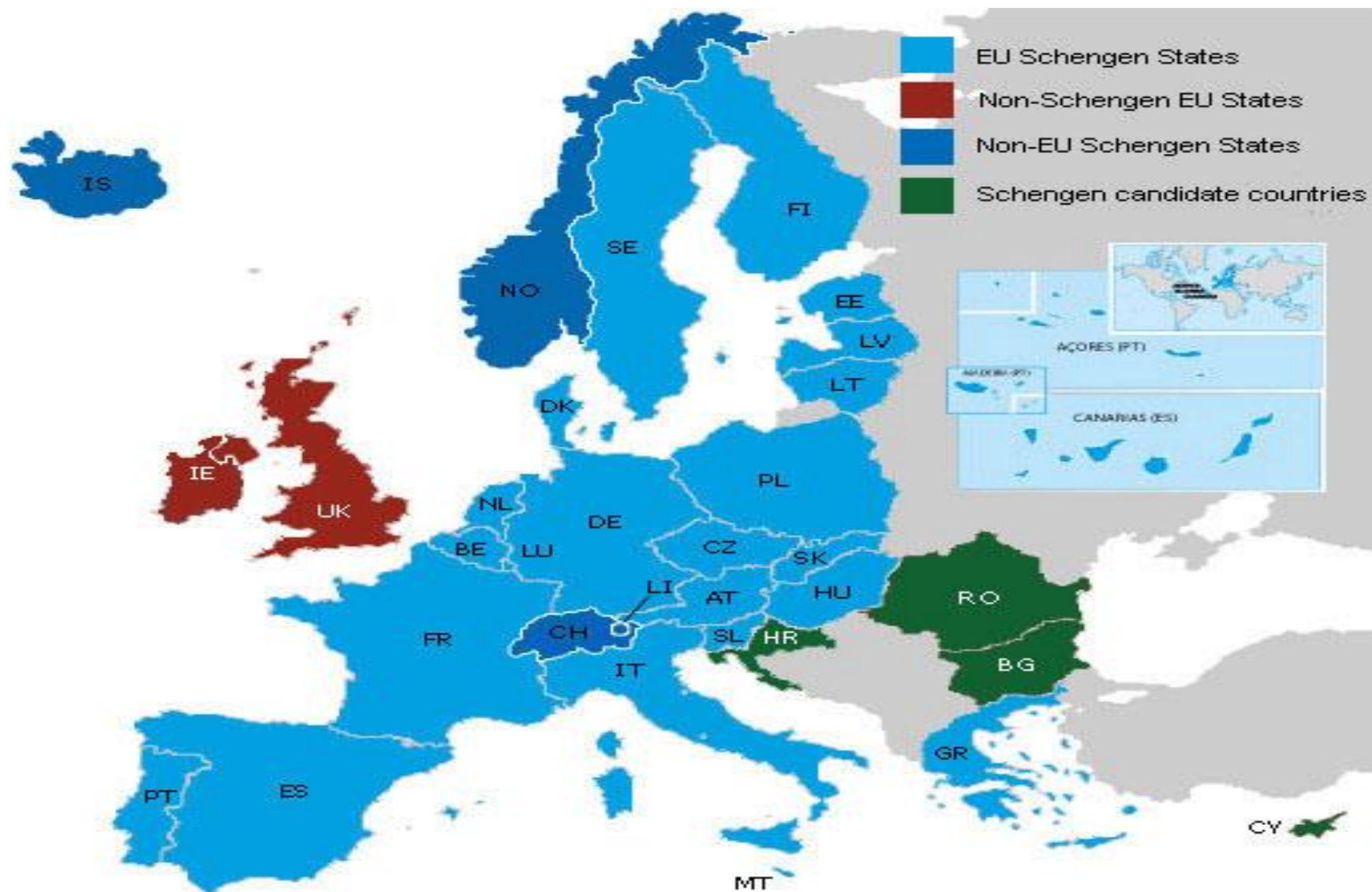
**c. 11 500 km** land borders  
**44 000 km** sea borders  
**600** airports

**Passenger flow:**  
**240 million** (estimated)

**Irregular migrants:**  
**150 different nationalities**

-  Schengen Countries
-  Non Schengen Member States
-  Schengen Candidate Countries
-  Third Countries

# Europe's Borders' complexity



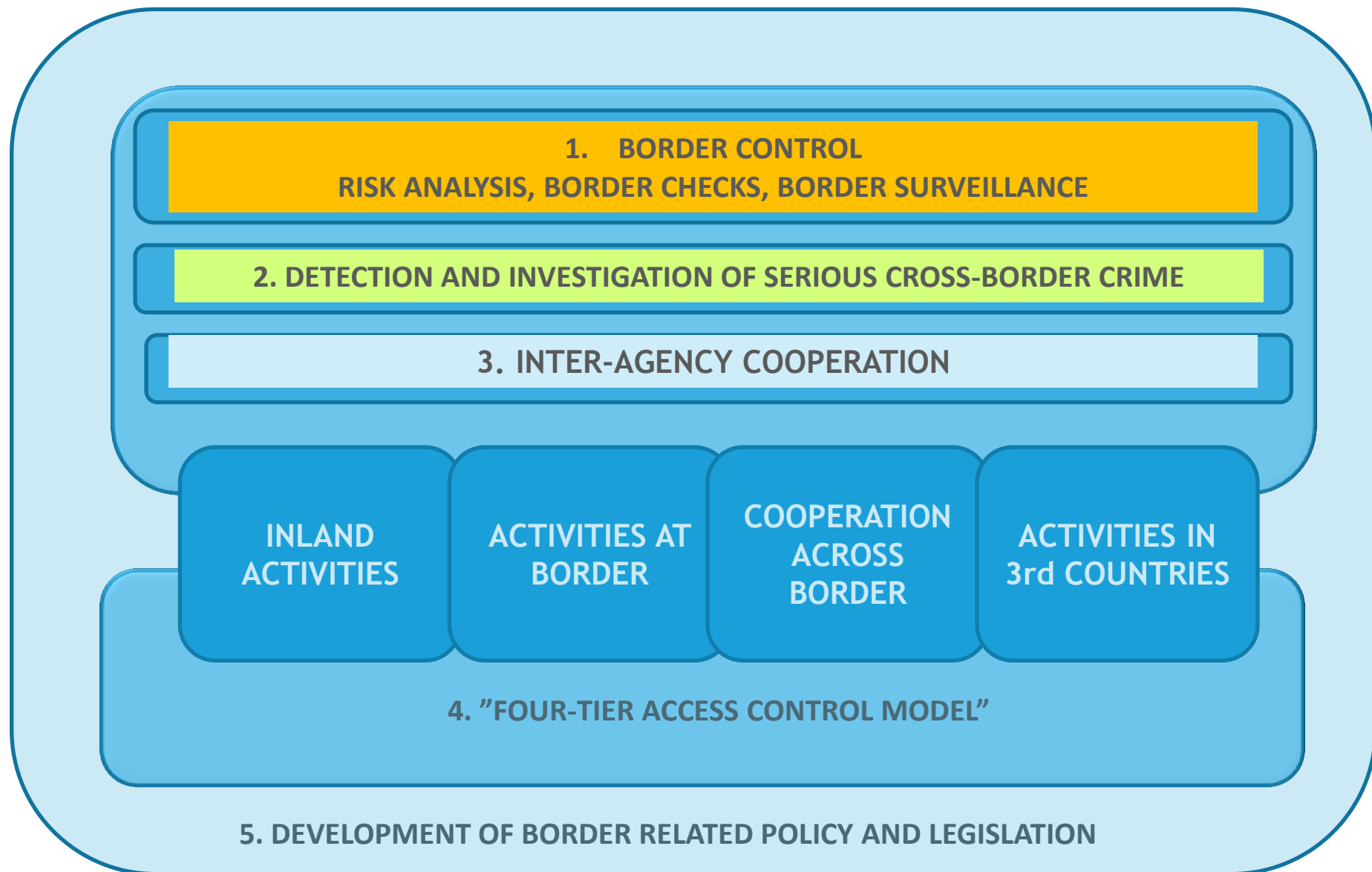
# SAFE BORDERS ?

- Trafficking of human beings:
  - Sexual exploitation of woman,
  - Slave labor,
  - Child pornography and abuse,
  - Trade in human organs.
- Weapon and explosive trafficking,
- Modified, counterfeited food products,
- Tobacco, alcohol, mineral oils smuggling,
- Counterfeited goods,
- Maritime safety and fishery, piracy
- Stolen vehicles, boats, engines, other goods...
- Drugs trafficking ...

# SAFE BORDERS ?

- Hazardous substances influx (chemicals, biological...) → crisis management,
- Corruption and fraud,
- Stolen work of arts,
- Falsification/forgery of documents,
- Terrorism related threat,
- Wanted Criminals, Genocide perpetrators
- Phytosanitary safety /crops, plants/,
- Environmental safety,
- Diseases and Outbreaks /Ebola virus/
- Sport hooligans (football stadium bans holders),
- Irregular migration...

# EU concept on Integrated Border Management (IBM)



# Frontex - basic facts

Frontex - the European Agency for the Management of the Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the MS of the EU

Operational : since 3 October 2005

Daily management: Executive Director Fabrice Leggeri; 3 Divisions

Governance: Management Board with 28 voting members

Staff: ~ 300 (75 SNE)

Budget 2015: 114 million EUR

Seat: Warsaw + LOs in Brussels and Piraeus



# Mandate

1. Joint Operations
2. Risk Analysis
3. Training
4. R&D
5. Pooled Resources
6. Joint Returns
7. External Relations
8. Rapid Interventions
9. Common information sharing environment



TO COORDINATE OPERATIONAL COOPERATION  
BETWEEN MEMBER STATES IN THE FIELD OF  
MANAGEMENT OF EXTERNAL BORDERS

# Objectives for joint operational activities

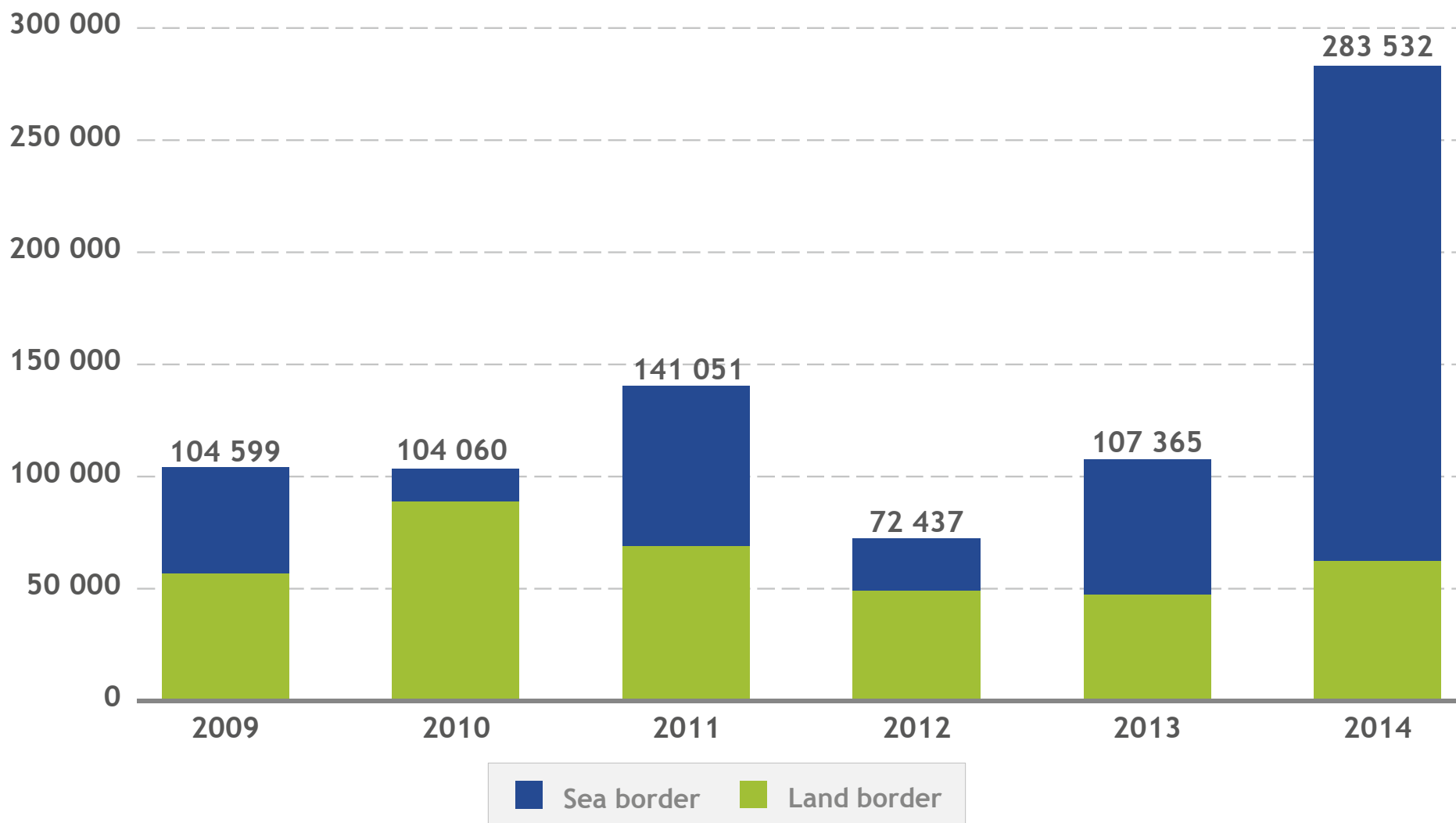
- To facilitate interoperability and flexible response to **irregular migratory** phenomena
- To support national border control authorities in prevention and combating **cross-border crime**
- To improve **effectiveness** of border control
- To contribute to the control of **secondary movements** towards EU
- To establish and exchange **best practices**
- To develop and use **permanent platforms** for coordinated cooperation
- To further develop **inter-agency** and **3<sup>rd</sup>C** cooperation
- To strengthen the EU MS border management **capacity**

# Multifunctional character of Frontex JO - some results of 2014

- Over 43 tons of hashish/marihuana and 35 kg of cocaine seized, worth in total ca. 64 million EUR.
- The intercepted contraband of 24 million cigarettes worth in total ca. 2,800,000 EUR.
- Several cases of sea pollution and illegal fishing
- In total, during 2014 joint maritime operations 1,086 suspected facilitators apprehended.
- Apprehensions of irregular migrant / return ops

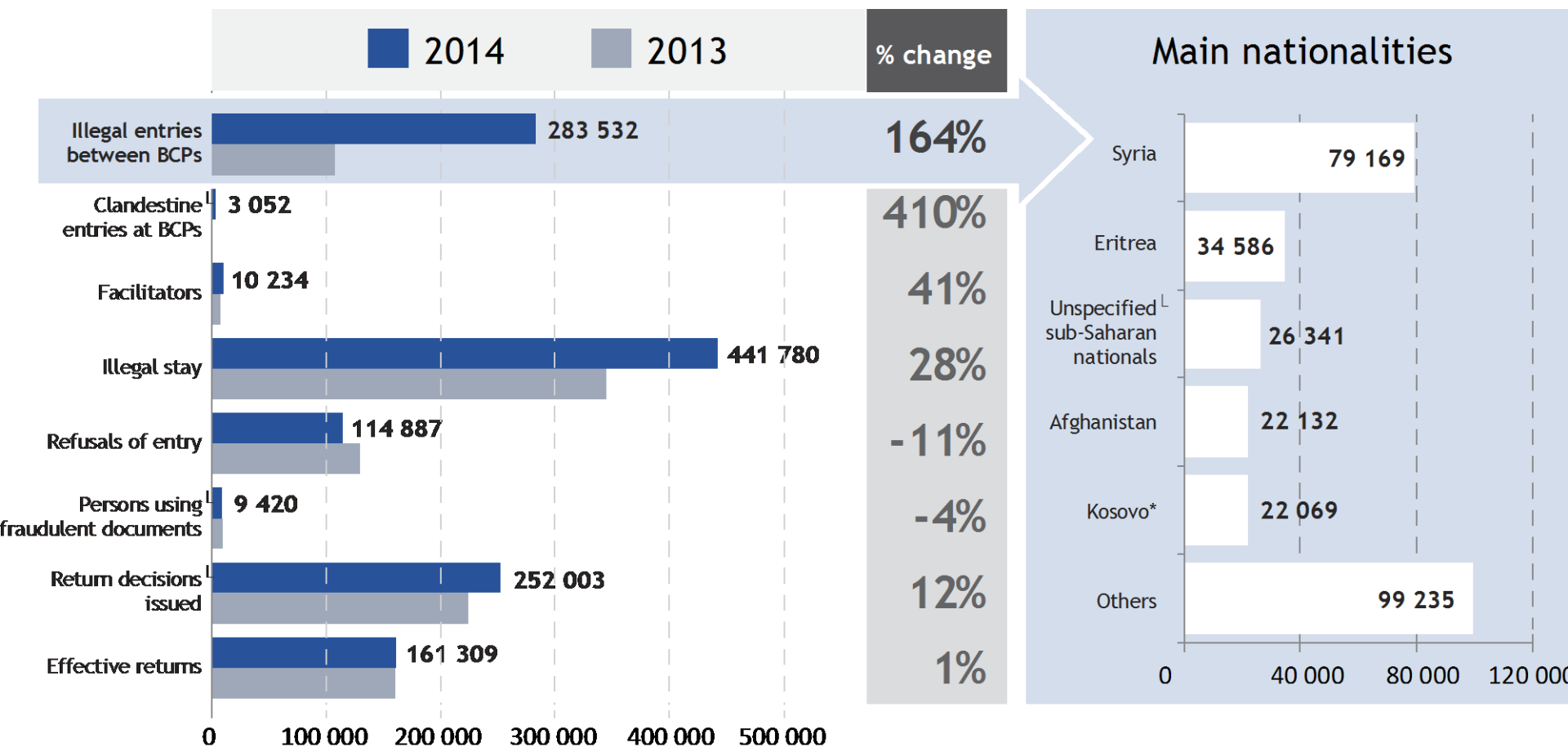


# Illegal border-crossings 2009-2014



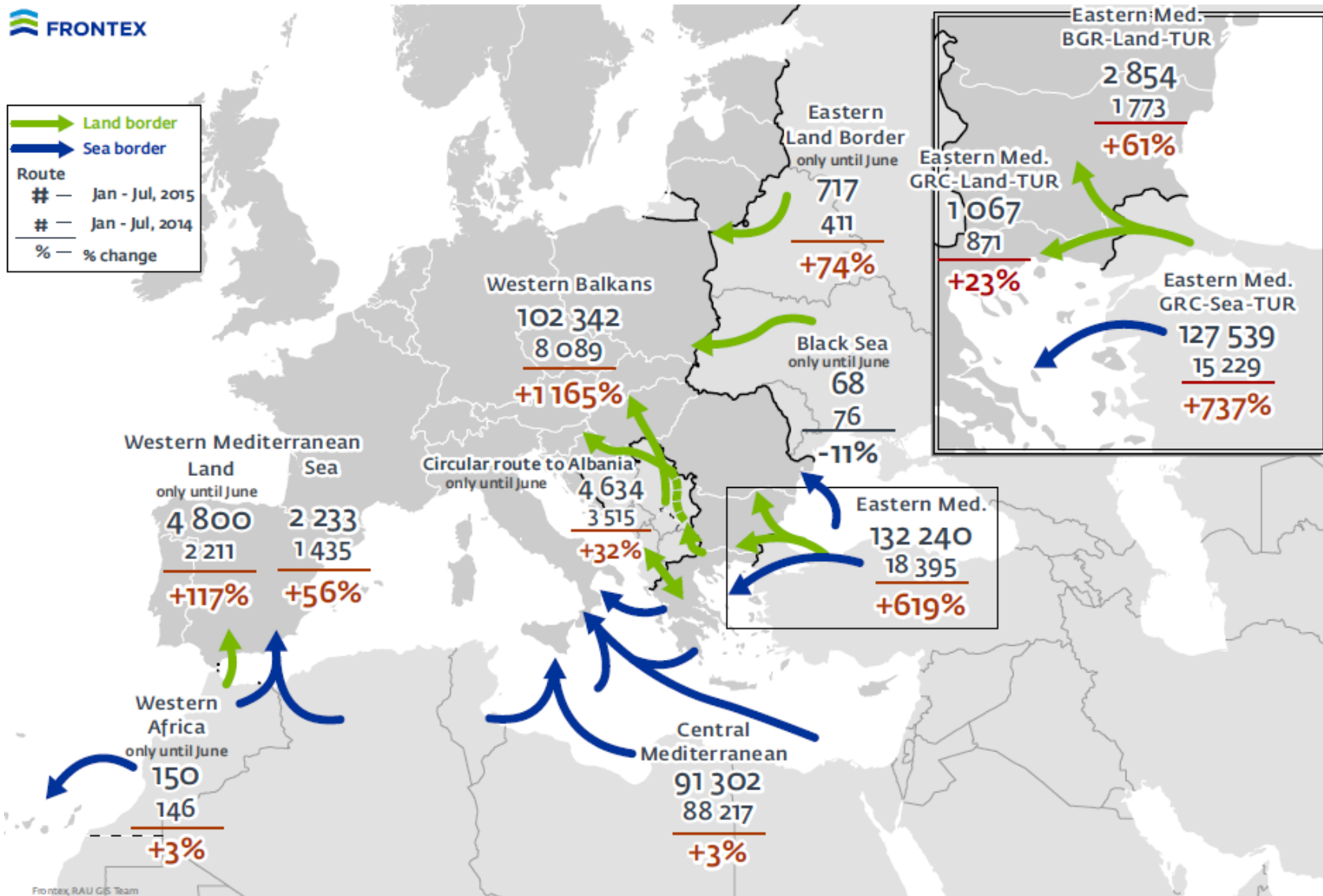
# Key figures 2014

## Illegal border-crossings



# Illegal border crossings: overview by routes Jan-July 2015

Jan-July 2015



# Main nationalities & departure countries

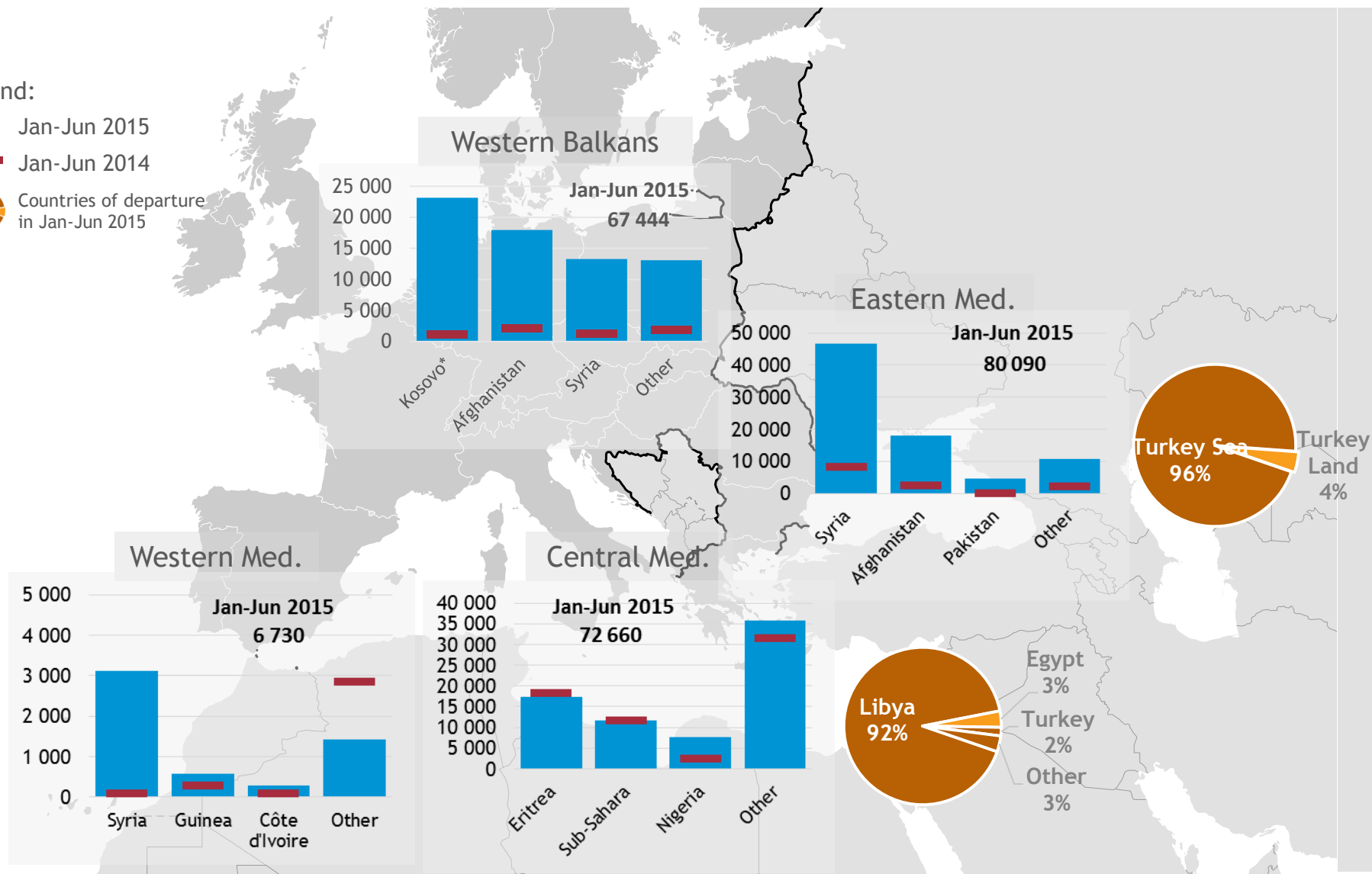
Jan-June 2015

Legend:

Jan-Jun 2015

Jan-Jun 2014

Countries of departure in Jan-Jun 2015



\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



## April 2015 - Italy

- 400 migrants lost their lives at wooden fishing boat
- 700 migrants drowned after the wooden fishing boat, capsized near Libya when a Portuguese cargo vessel was coming with aid





## 22.08.2015 - Search and Rescue

29 ongoing incidents with estimated 5400 migrants have been reported by the Italian authorities. MRCC Rome received distress calls from rubber and wooden boats in LBY SAR area outside the operational area of JO Triton. SAR operations with the involvement of Frontex co-financed assets initiated.

10 ongoing incidents with already 2371 migrants rescued

19 ongoing incidents under Investigation by MRCC Rome with estimated 3000 migrants

Additional 16 satellite distress calls from LBY SAR area were investigated

...

# April 2015

## Mediterranean Sea

Migrants from  
Ghana and  
Nigeria



Migrants from  
Senegal, Ivory Coast  
and Mali,

Christian  
asylum  
seekers



Muslim  
asylum  
seekers

Thrown into water by other migrants judged by the religion

## May 2015 - Syria



The Syrian operative claims that 4,000 covert ISIS gunmen had been smuggled into EU - hidden amongst refugees

## May 2015 - Norway

- 10 persons linked to al-Nusra Front (al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria) and IS /Daesh sent among UN selected refugees

## May 2015 - Italy

- Terrorist searched by Tunisia for the attack in National Bardo Museum in Tunis in March 2015 arrested in Italy (arrived with migrants seeking international protection)

# Migrant smuggling - increasing challenge

- Irregular migration is mainly facilitated
- Migrant smuggling is a high-profit-low-risk crime => attracts criminals & fuels CBC and terrorism
- Flexible networks, tied to other crimes, money laundering
- Significant pressure and violence towards migrants, increasing unscrupulousness now bringing border control and SAR to limits
- Threat to rescuers and border guards; firearms use





# Facilitated irregular migration

## Social networks

الطريق الى اوربا added a new photo 23 hrs

لبنشر الى البحر 7 hrs

هذا ننصح أهلنا وأبناء بلدنا

See Translation

See Translation

Like · Comment · Share

رحلات مرسين إلى إيطاليا 12 hrs · Edited ·

009050702

See translation

Like · Comment · Share

Human translation

Coming soon  
God willing trip  
Please do not call  
God bless

Abu alla edin  
Normal contact  
Viber 00201120

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/damlage2>

Google translated: 7 hours ago  
In the name of God the Most Gracious  
Warning .....  
More than one source said  
compatriots not to risk their lives  
Wiser and our trust in you  
Oh God, is pleased nor otherwise

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/damlage2>

Google translated: 12 hours ago  
40-meter-long boat equipped with  
For inquiry if one would like to  
Source: <https://www.facebook.com/damlage2>

Specific Disclaimer: Frontex takes no responsibility for the accuracy and reliability of the information provided to the recipient and may not be reproduced without the prior written consent of Frontex

رمزي صيراني's photo. shared لاجئ من الموت الى الموت 7 hrs

لاحي من الموت الى الموت رمزي صيراني

شرح طفولي لعمليات الانقاذ اليوم  
أحمر = قوارب  
أسود = بوارج  
أخضر = حالة غرق  
النقط باللون الأسود = أرواح بالبحر  
بترجاكم تحسوا بهالشيء ....  
بترجاكم لاتصدقو كلام أي مهرب يقول البوارج موجودة بالمى عم تستنى بس تبعو نداء  
بترجاكم تفهمو شو معنى طلع ٢٠ مركب بال ٢٤ ساعة هاد الشى أكيد بيكون صعب انو سفن الانقاذ  
تكون قليلة لأنهمكل سفينة أنقذت أشخاص بخطر ترجع للشط وتنزل الناس وترجع مرة ثانية تستلم نداء  
تاني وهاد الشى ممكن يسبب تأخير كبير بعمليات الانقاذ .

See Translation

Like · Comment · Share

Google / human translated: 7 hours ago

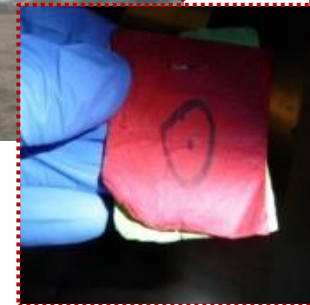
Childish explanation for rescue operations today

Red = Boats  
Black = frigates  
Green = drowning  
Black dots = lives at Sea  
Petrjaquem Thasso Bhalhi .... [?]

Petrjaquem Atsedko [?] do not believe talk of any smuggler saying ships are present, but you call Petrjaquem Tfhmu [?] understand meaning of 20 boats in 24 hours. Thing is certain it is difficult to rescue boats because they worry about ships rescuing people going back to ... [?] disembark and come back again receive call again and this can cause a major delay in the rescue operations.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/damlage2>

System to facilitate  
embarkation of migrants  
on rubber boats (LBY)



*Boat  
assigned*



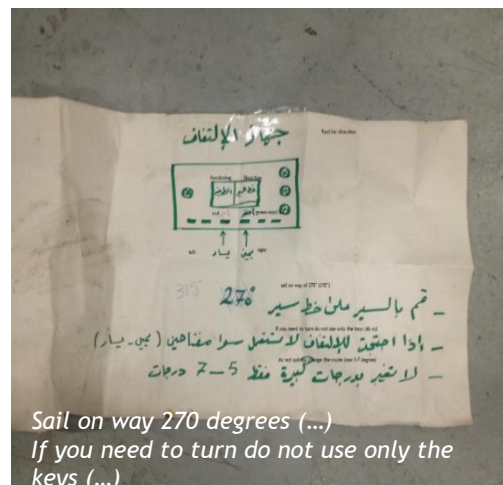
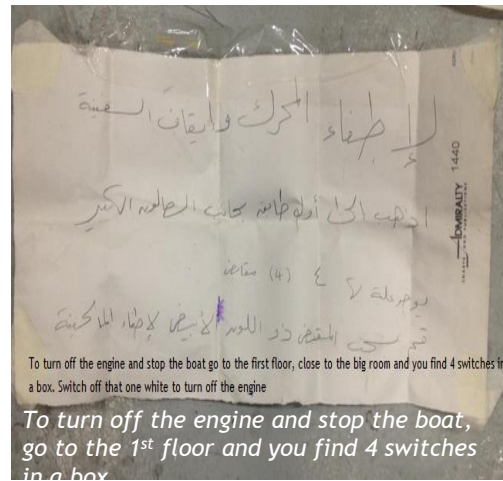
*Paid*



*Position in the  
boarding*



## Blue Sky



## Ezadeen



Source: Channel 4 News

# Facilitated irregular migration



Information  
(evidence) collection



It has been confirmed that boats left a drift after interception are reused by smugglers



# Frontex operational response

JO Focal Points Land 2015

JO Flexible Operational Activities 2015 WB

JO Flexible Operational Activities in Return 2015

Joint Return Operations

JO Focal Points Air 2015,

JO Focal Points Air 2015 Intermediate Manager

JO VEGA Children 2015, JO Alexis 2015, JO Pegasus 2015

JO EPN HERA 2015, JO EPN INDALO 2015, JO EPN MINERVA 2015

JO FOCAL POINTS SEA 2015

PPs such as PP Reference Manual 2015 / JO Triton, JO Poseidon...

## Latest EU dimension

### - illegal immigration / irregular migration -

- European Council conclusions from 23 of April
- European Agenda on Migration
- EU Action Plan against Migrant Smuggling 2015-2020
- Contact Group of EU Agencies on migrant smuggling
- Establishment of an operational Contact Point on migrant smuggling in each MS
- Reinforcement of JO Triton / JO Poseidon....
- EUNAVFOR Med - *European Union Naval Force Mediterranean* CSDP mission
- *COM Return Programme* ....

# Hot spot approach

Integrated and rapid cooperation platform  
Flexible regional tool for cooperation EU-external partners  
At external border sections

## EURTF - platform for interagency cooperation



EUROPOL



Operations

Risk Analysis

Investigation  
/Prosecution

Asylum

Information exchange and situational picture provision

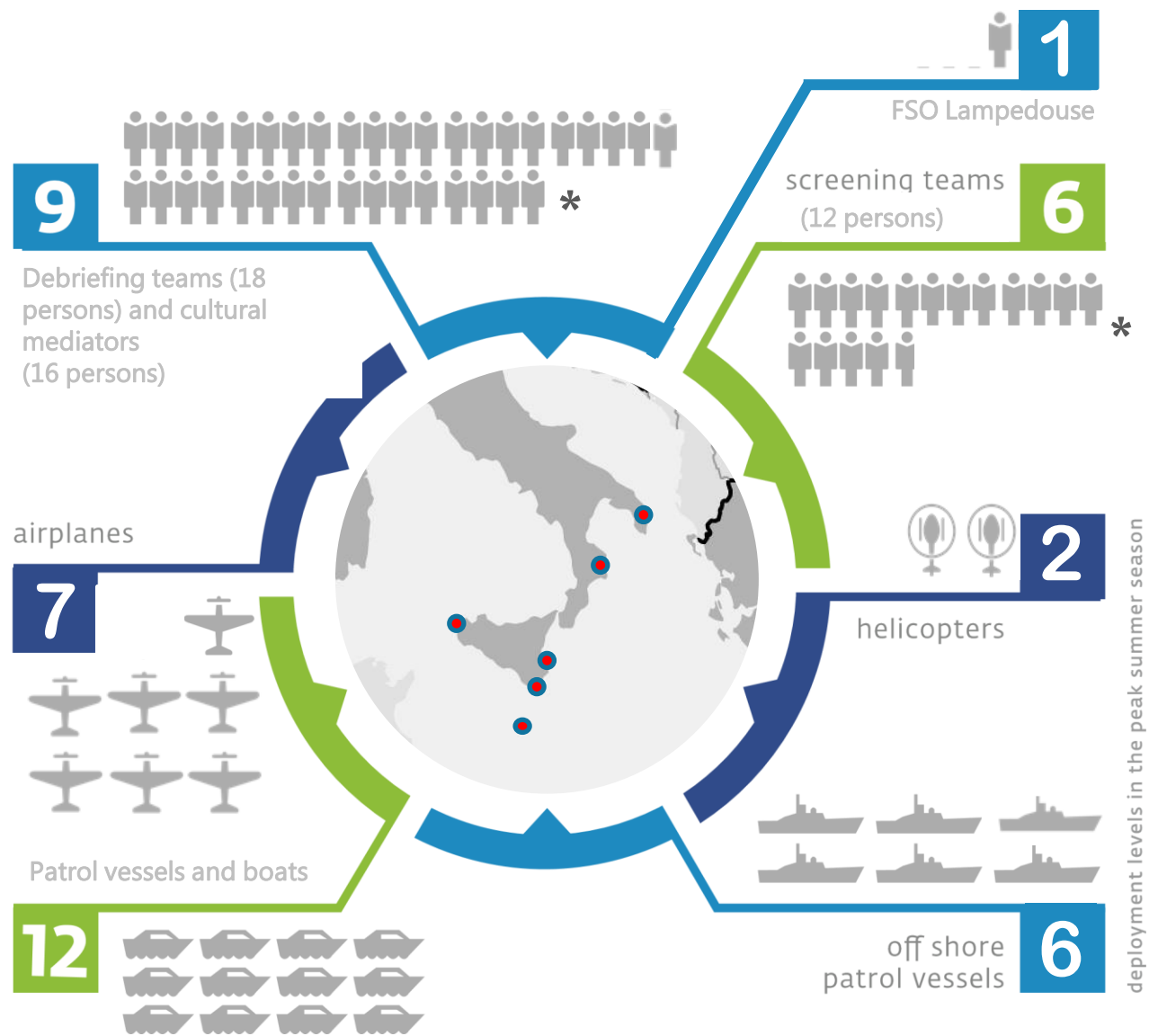
Horizontal Services

**Triton 2015 (ITA)**  
**Poseidon 2015 (GRC)**  
**Western Balkans**

## Core elements - Focus of activities

- Border surveillance: involving seaborne and airborne assets, using Eurosur/Fusion services (detection and tracking);
- Gathering of information and identification of facilitators through debriefing activities;
- Supporting national efforts on identification via screening activities;
- Supporting national efforts on SAR activities;

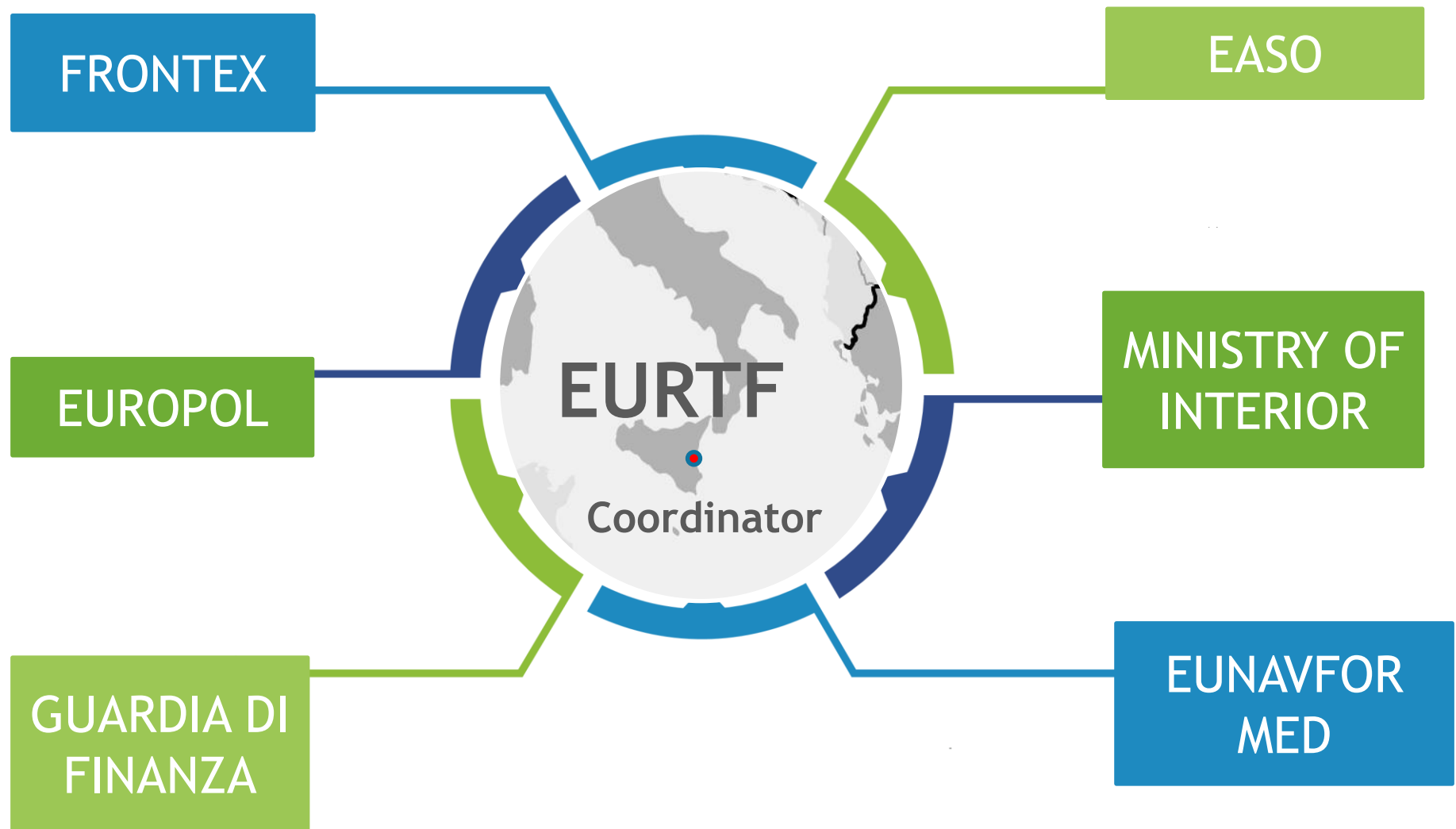
# Triton 2015: deployment overview



Previous budget  
with reserve  
18,500,000 EUR

Current budget  
37,700,000 EUR

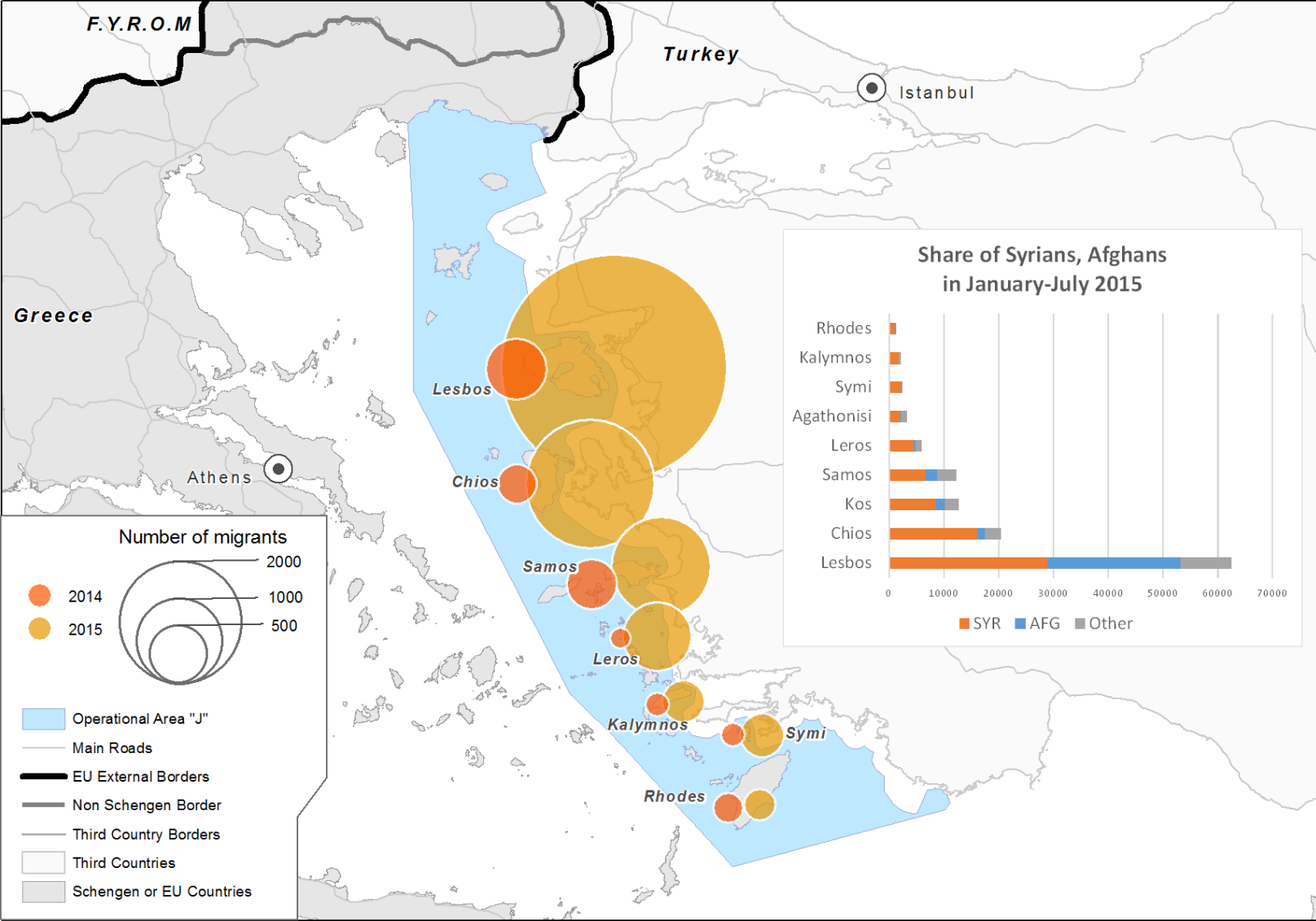
# Central Mediterranean: Hot spot implementation



# Poseidon 2015

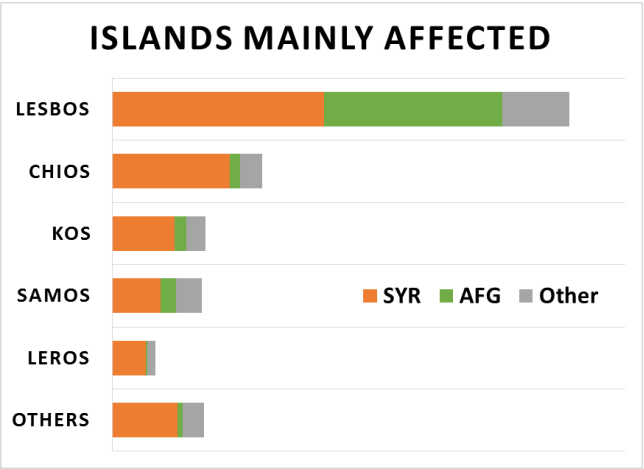
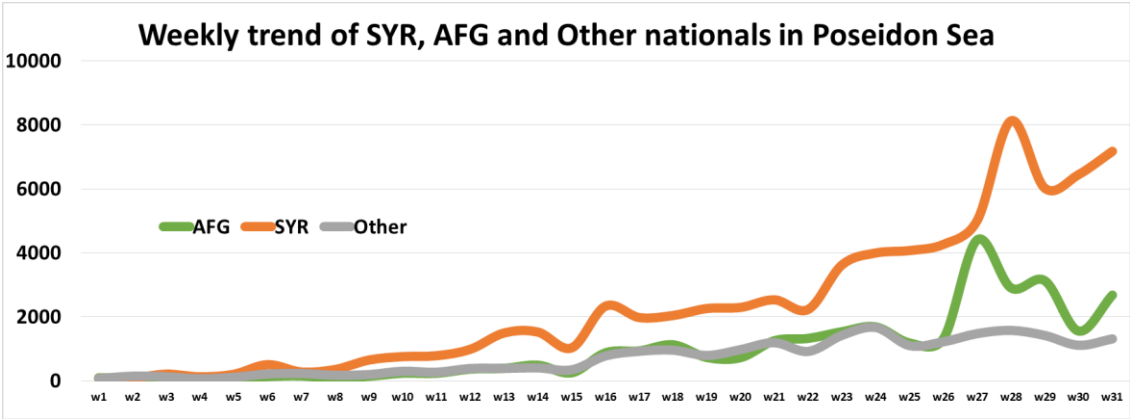
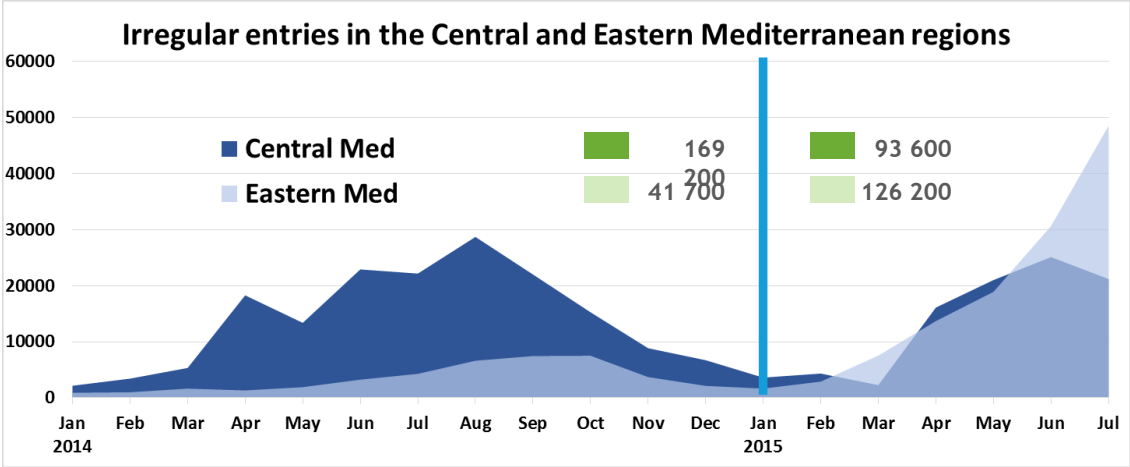


# Unprecedented number of arrivals in Eastern Mediterranean

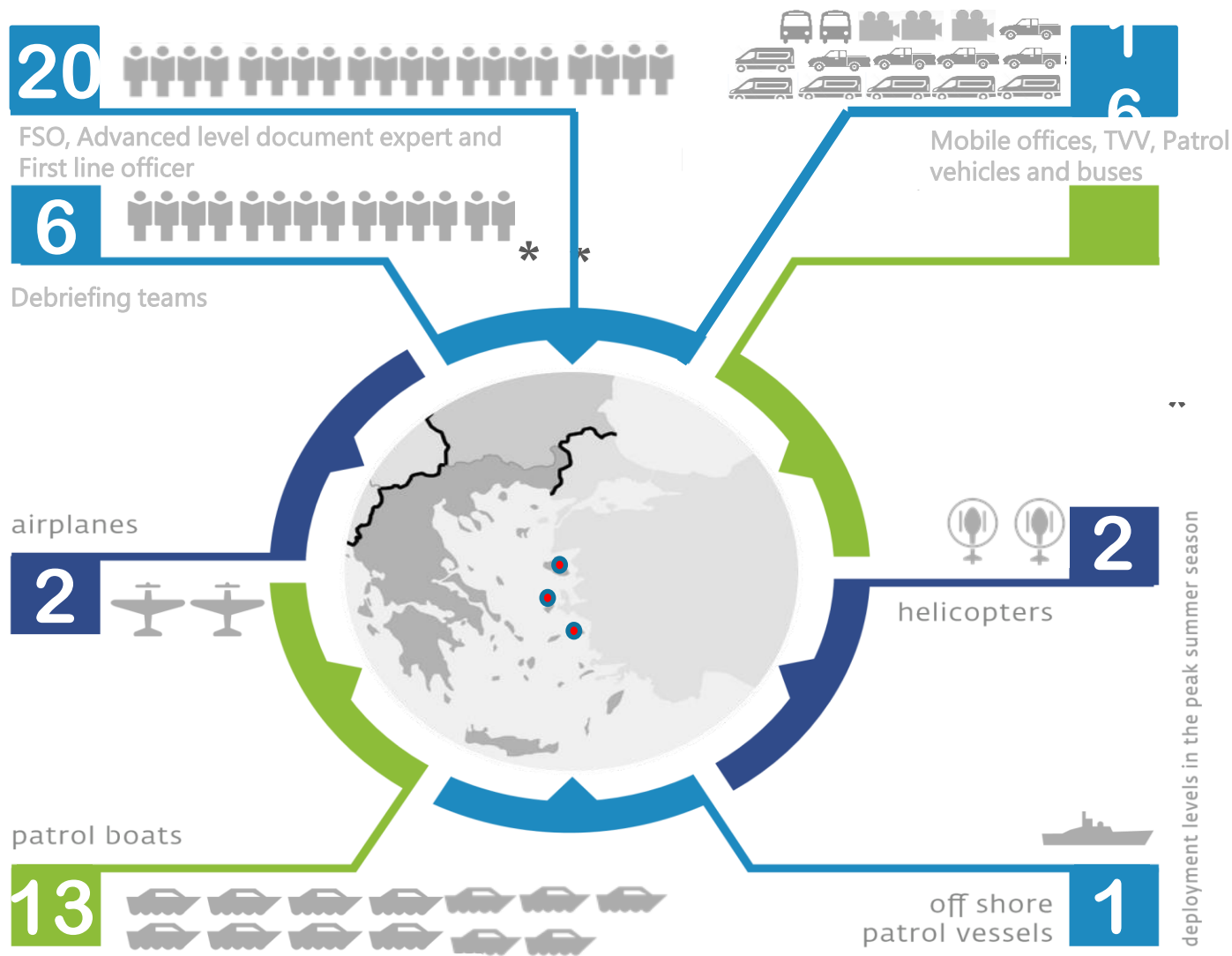


# Eastern Mediterranean

Jan - Jul 2015



# Poseidon 2015: deployment overview



# Hot spot approach in Greece: Frontex initiatives



- Proposal: Frontex Liaison Office to host EURTF

- Contacts:



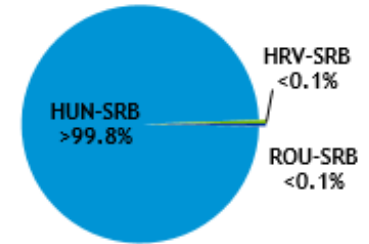
- Support of the EURINT pilot project Fast Reaction Mechanism

# Western Balkans

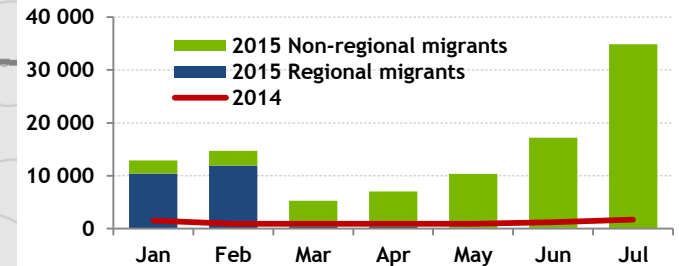
# Western Balkans: routes, trends, nationalities, highlights



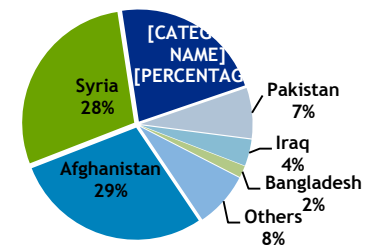
Migrant apprehensions at the HUN, HRV and ROU borders with SRB during Jan-July 2015



Migrant apprehensions recorded at the HUN-SRB border during Jan-Jul 2015 vs 2014

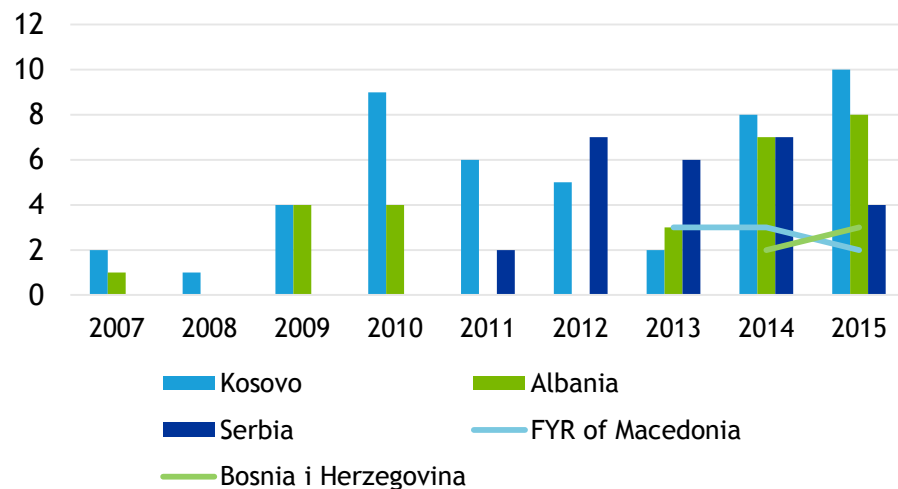


Main nationalities apprehended at the HUN, HRV and ROU borders with SRB during Jan-Jul 2015

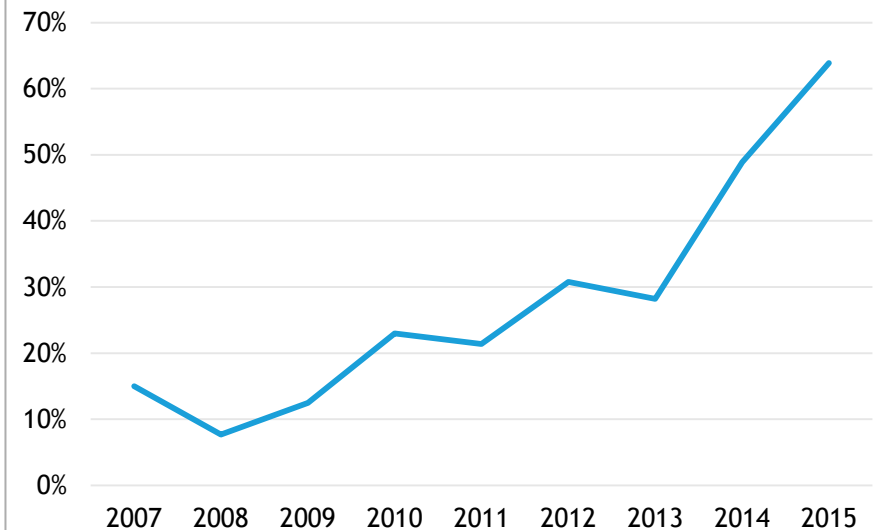


# Joint Return Operations to Western Balkans

Frontex coordinated JRO to WB 2007 - 30.7.2015

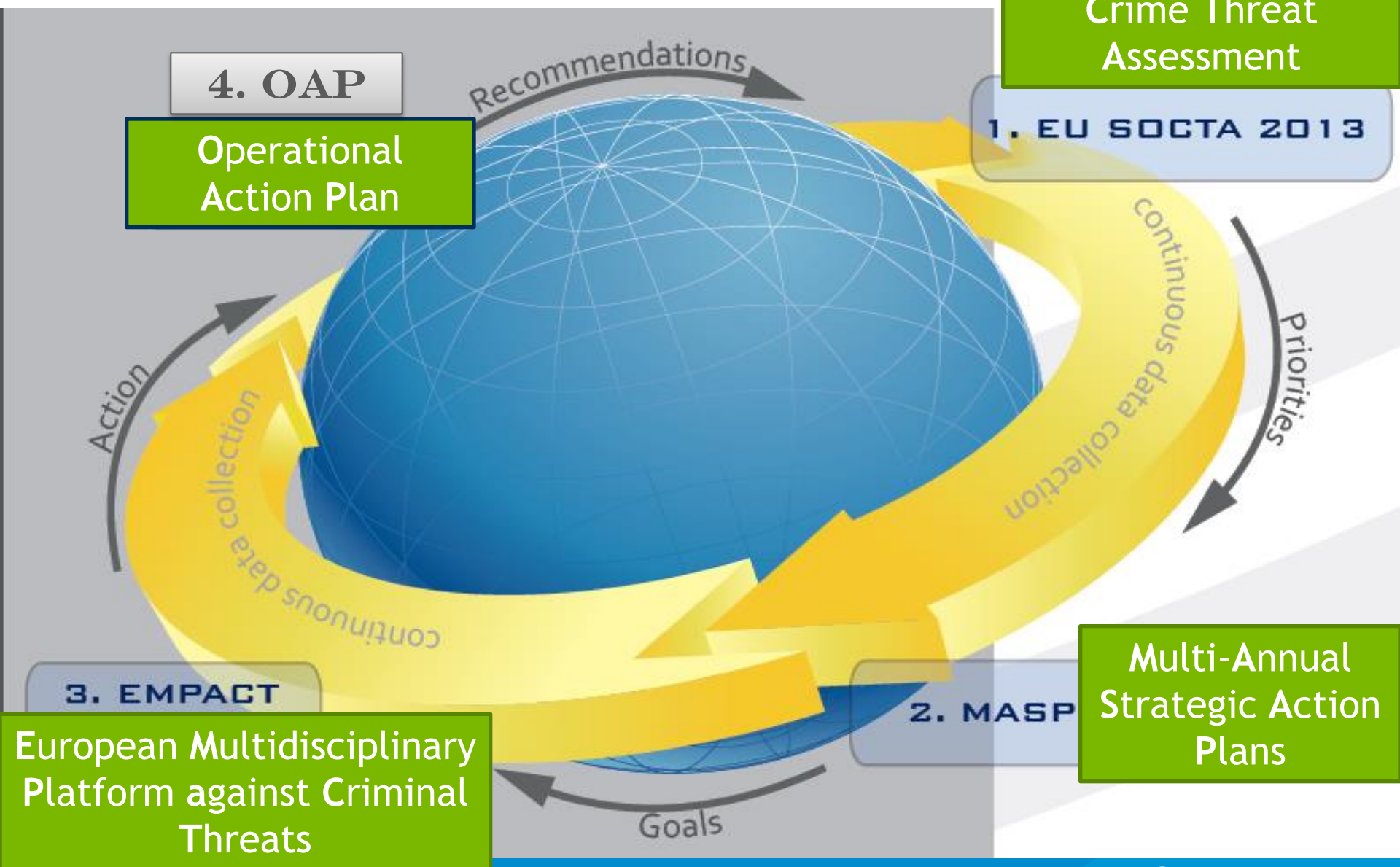


% of JRO to WB 2007-30.7.2015





# EU Policy Cycle and EMPACT





# EU Policy Cycle - EMPACT


**COSI**

Standing Committee  
on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security

**EUROPOL EMPACT  
Support Unit**

**Link to EUROPOL  
AWF/Focal Point**

# EU Policy Cycle / EMPACT Priorities for 2014-2017

- ❑ Facilitation of Illegal Immigration (Co-Driver)
  - ❑ Trafficking in Human Beings
  - ❑ Illicit Firearms Trafficking
  - ❑ Excise and MTIC (Missing Trader Intra Community) Fraud
  - ❑ Synthetic Drugs
  - ❑ Cocaine and Heroin
  - ❑ Counterfeit goods
  - ❑ Organised Property Crime
  - ❑ Cybercrime
- 
- FRONTEX  
involvement



### **Facilitation of Illegal Immigration (Co-Driver)**

- **7** actions/sub-projects **led** by Frontex
- **7** actions participated

### **■ Trafficking in Human Beings**

- **1** action co-led
- **4** actions participated

### **Illicit Firearms Trafficking**

- **4** actions participated



## Strategic Objectives

Facilitation of Illegal Immigration  
EMPACT Priority

- Improve the intelligence picture;
- Detect and disrupt the OCGs facilitating entry into and secondary movements within the EU;
- Criminals involved in corruption, the abuse of legal business structures and having huge financial assets;
- Regional dimension, to enhance cooperation with source and transit third countries;
- Document fraud / ID fraud’;
- Prevention, awareness, training and best practices sharing;
- Use of existing mechanisms and tools at EU level.

EU POLICY CYCLE 2014-2017  
**EMPACT**

```
graph TD; A[EU POLICY CYCLE 2014-2017  
EMPACT] --> B[Facilitation of Illegal Immigration Priority  
Co-driven by FRONTEX]; B --> C[annual Operational Action Plan 2015]; C --> D[Operational Action no. 5.3 (led by Europol)  
Joint Operational Team MARE];
```

**Facilitation of Illegal Immigration Priority**  
Co-driven by FRONTEX

**annual Operational Action Plan 2015**

**Operational Action no. 5.3** (led by Europol)  
**Joint Operational Team MARE**



- JOT MARE is led by Europol; co-led by ITA. Participated by GRC, ESP, MLT, NLD, BEL, GBR, DNK, DEU, CYP, PRT, SWE, FRA + **FRONTEX** + INTERPOL;
- Target: Facilitated illegal immigration via the Mediterranean Sea;
- Dimension: External border and the secondary movement;
- Actions: Information analysis and data cross-checks; direct support for investigations;
- Contribution to the European Council Conclusions from 23 of April 2015 and connection with JO Triton

# Joint Action Days

OPERATION  
ARCHIMEDES



JOINT ACTION DAY  
15-23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2014

- All types of crime
- 170 facilitators / 90 THB suspects arrested;
- 200 kg of heroin, 1.8 tons of cannabis;
- 200 potential victims of THB
- 10.000 irregular migrants apprehended in Frontex JOs

OPERATION  
BLUE AMBER

JOINT ACTION DAYS  
2015

- More targeted;
- Particular routes / specific criminal groups / certain regions;
- Direct link to EMPACT actions;
- Frontex in 4 JADs;
- Priority to airports, Western Balkans, Mediterranean.
- Firearms, drugs, stolen vehicles, THB, facilitation of illegal immigration, ID fraud...



# EUROSUR Framework - business concept

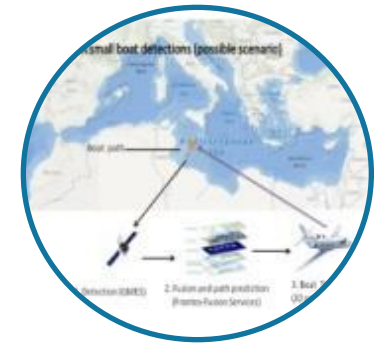
A common framework for exchange of information between MS and Frontex in order to:

1. Combat irregular migration
2. Combat cross border crime
3. Save more lives



Improved + enriched  
situational awareness

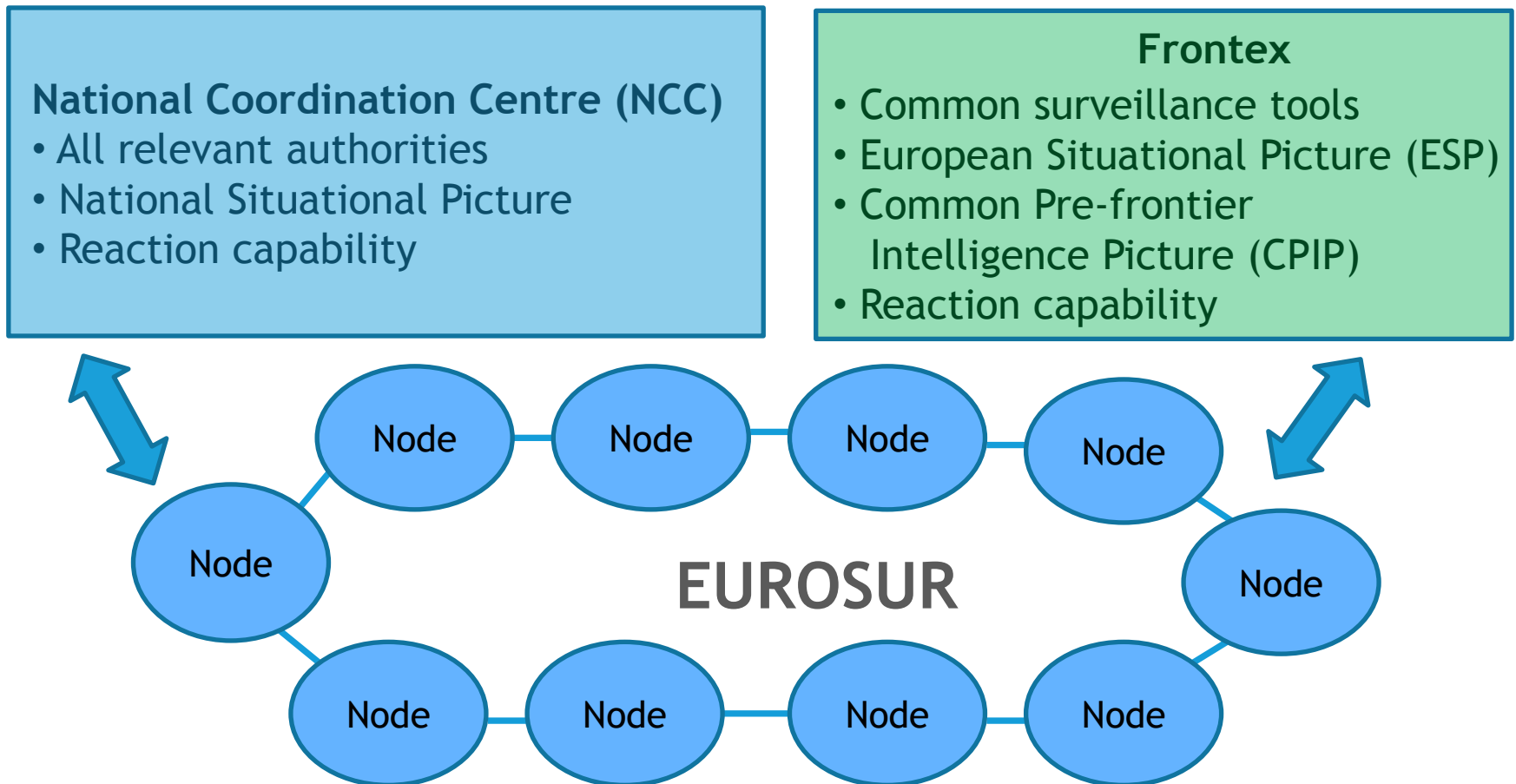
via  
impact level  
assessment



Increased systematic  
reaction capability

# EUROSUR

Exchange of information and cooperation between  
Member States and Frontex  
to improve situational awareness and reaction capability



# Fundamental Rights in Frontex activities

# Background

- **Frontex Regulation,**

**Article 1.**

“The Agency shall fulfil its tasks **in full compliance with the Union Law**, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights; the relevant **international law**, including the 1951 Geneva Convention; obligations related to **access to international protection**, in particular the principle of *non-refoulement*, and **fundamental rights**, [...]”

**Article 26(a).**

- Frontex shall put in place an **effective mechanism to monitor the respect for fundamental rights** in all the activities of the Agency.

- **Frontex Fundamental Rights Strategy (March 2011)**

*“Frontex considers that **respect and promotion of fundamental rights** are unconditional and integral components of effective integrated border management”.*

# Fundamental Rights (FR) Strategy and Action Plan

## Operations

- FR mainstreamed (RA, Oplan, Evaluation)
- FR operational briefings
- FR monitoring and incident reporting system
- CoC for all participants and CoC for JROs

## Capacity Building

- Streamline FR in Common Core Curriculum (CCC)
- Practical approach in FR trainings (staff and BGs)
- FR experts' profile for EBGT and training

## Tools

- Personal Data Protection
- Fundamental Rights Officer (FRO)
- Consultative Forum (CF)

# Consultative Forum

## FUNCTION

To assist the Executive Director and the Management Board in fundamental rights matters, with focus on strategic advice.

- Further development and implementation of the **Fundamental Rights Strategy**, **Code of Conduct** and **Common Core Curricula**.
- **Annual report** of its activities (publicly available).

## How?

- **Official Meetings:**
  - 3 times per year.
  - Next meeting 2015:
    - ❖ 5 November
- Adopts recommendations and opinions.
- Access to all information concerning respect for **fundamental rights**, in relation to all the activities of Frontex.

# Consultative Forum: Members

## EU Agencies



## International Organisations



## Civil Society Organisations



Red Cross / EU Office  
Bureau Croix-Rouge / UE





# Fundamental Rights Officer (FRO)

## Objective

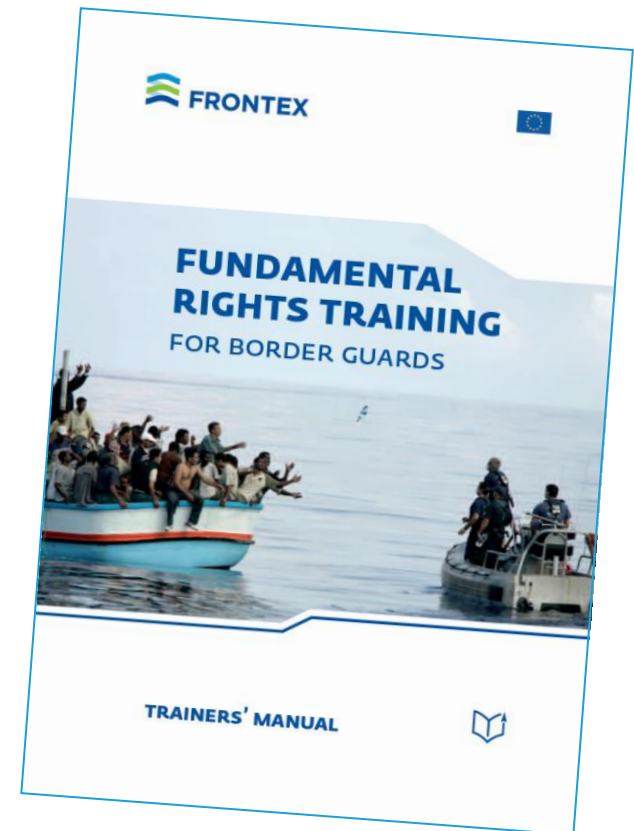
- Support and ensure **respect and promotion of fundamental rights** in all Frontex activities; with a special focus on operational activities.
  - FRO shall contribute to the mechanism for monitoring fundamental rights

## Tasks:

- Making **observations** on joint operations and pilot projects;
- Regular **reporting and monitoring** on FR compliance;
- Identifying **preventive and corrective measures**;
- Maintain a **record of possible fundamental rights incidents**;
- Follow up **implementation of the Frontex Fundamental Rights Strategy**;
- Contributing horizontally to Frontex fundamental rights issues.

# Priorities for FRO 2015 Work

- **Effective Fundamental Rights Monitoring System**
  - Follow-up and monitor incidents.
  - Record of possible FR incidents.
- **Joint Operations:**
  - Assessment in Final Evaluation Reports of JOs.
  - Implementation of FR aspects in Eurosur Regulation and Handbook.
  - Support to Risk Analysis.
- **Capacity building and training:**
  - Online tool Training on FR for Border Guards
  - Operational Briefings audiovisuals
  - FR training for Frontex staff.
  - FR within the training for EBGTs.



# Conclusions

- EU external border security is a complex task, requiring various actors
- Fight against facilitated irregular migration as well as cross-border crime is the important element of border management
- Frontex contributes to EU border security, but it is one of the actors
- External border control is only the element of migration management
- Critical factors of migration management are often outside border control operations: cooperation with countries of origin and transit - legal migration channels - SAR-operations - protection mechanism - fight against crime groups
- Situation in the Mediterranean Sea and WB implies the increase of costs and assets but shows somehow limits of border control
- Fundamental rights and Search and Rescue Operations are incorporated into daily performance of the Agency



**Latest phenomena and Frontex activities  
at the EU external borders.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION...**

Pawel Suchanek  
C&P Manager to the Director  
Operations Division

EMN educational seminar, IOM Bratislava  
25-27.08.2015