2017 SAR OPERATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA
# ANNO 2017

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FOREWARD

“...the deep sense of humanity of your work is the added value of your professionalism...”

With such words the President of the Italian Republic wanted to thank the men and the women of the Italian Coast Guard, engaged on a daily basis on “a multitude of tasks entrusted to the Coast Guard, by the Republic”, making “il Corpo” a one-of-a-kind institution between the other national one.

With such spirit and responsibility, in the 2017 Coast Guard kept performing its tasks in the Mediterranean Sea complex scenario, countering migration flows, without ever losing sight of its main task: saving lives at sea.

The activity report analyzes phenomena under various points of view and by areas of operations, showing, once again, how flexible the Corpo in its use is.
THE MIGRATION PHENOMENA IN GENERAL

1.1 NUMBER OF MIGRANT ARRIVED IN ITALY FROM 1991 TO THE PRESENT

The following graph represents the migration flow that interested Italy from 1991 until 2017, with multiple peaks in the last four years, related mainly to the Libyan migration flow.

During the years, the variations of each migration flow is different: there are many geo-political causes, such as the crisis in Albania of the early ‘90 of the last century; the so-called “Arab Spring” started at the end of 2010, involving several African and non-African Countries. Such situation, plus the Libyan political instability, has been an exploited by the many who want to reach Europe, escaping from wars or, simply, looking a better economic future.

It’s really difficult to generalize phenomena with different characteristics, modus operandi, and underlying reasons, of course.

The graph summarizes the numbers of migrants arrived in Italy, either if them arrived autonomously without being previously intercept at sea (from now on: undetected), or after a SAR/Law Enforcement operation. Obviously is not possible to track the numbers of who disappeared on its arrival in Italy (without identification at sea or after landing).
Focalizing the analysis on the last four years, it's clear that the migrants arrived in such years are about the 75% of all the migrants arrived in the last 26 years.

However, it should be highlighted a change of pace in 2017, respect 2016: in that year the arrivals were over 180,000 units; in 2017 the total number is around 120,000 people, with a substantial reduction (-61,892, amounting to -34%).

Although the above mentioned tangible reduction in the number of arrivals, the number of SAR and Law Enforcement ops executed by the Italian Authorities is substantially the same (-8%). That is proof of the continue efforts made also during the year 2017.
The following graph compares the number of events handled by Italian Authorities and the number of migrants rescued during SAR Ops, Law Enforcement Ops and migrants found on land.

It’s to underline that the largest part of migrants were rescued during SAR ops, under the coordination of MRCC Rome; however, even if the migrants intercepted at sea or found on land are just the 5% of the total, such number cannot be neglected, due to the problems connected to border vulnerability.

**Event type and number of migrants**

1.2 **NAZIONALITY’**

According to the data provided by the Minister of Interior, that’s in charge of the identification of foreigners arriving in Italy, the very large part of them comes from Horn of Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.

The greatest part of migrants comes from Nigeria, Guinea and Ivory Coast. The percentage of migrants coming from Eritrea is far lower than in the past; even larger is the reduction of people arriving from The Gambia. Immigration from Bangladesh and Mali has increased significantly. Syrian migration trend keeps strongly reducing.

**Top 5 declared nationalities - 2017**
Top 5 declared nationalities - 2016

- **Nigeria**: 37,551
- **Eritrea**: 20,718
- **Guinea**: 13,342
- **Ivory Coast**: 12,396
- **The Gambia**: 11,929

Top 5 declared nationalities - 2015

- **Eritrea**: 39,162
- **Nigeria**: 22,237
- **Somalia**: 12,433
- **Sudan**: 8,932
- **The Gambia**: 8,454

Top 5 declared nationalities - 2014

- **Siria**: 42,323
- **Eritrea**: 34,329
- **Mali**: 9,938
- **Nigeria**: 9,000
- **The Gambia**: 8,707

**Source**: Minister of Interior
During the 2017, the percentage of unaccompanied minors rescued on-board is essentially unchanged. Their presence on-board is an issue both during the operative and the on-board management phase (on rescue vessels) and on the on-ground subsequent phases at the Place of Safety.

**1.3. GENDER: THE UNACCOMPANIED MINORS ISSUE**

![Bar chart showing migrants' arrived in Italy in 2017 gender](chart1.png)

![Pie chart showing accompanied and unaccompanied minors](chart2.png)

During the 2017, the percentage of unaccompanied minors rescued on-board is essentially unchanged. Their presence on-board is an issue both during the operative and the on-board management phase (on rescue vessels) and on the on-ground subsequent phases at the Place of Safety.
1.1 BY-SEA FLOW ANALYSES FOR THE 2017

The following table summarizes the evolution of migration flows in the last 4 years, focalizing the attention only on at sea operations, both SAR and Law Enforcement ones (even if, in some cases, such activities are performed simultaneously). On the table are not shown data with reference to migrants arrived in Italy by sea, but founded on land undetected (such data will be explained in the subsequent paragraphs).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE OF THE FLOW:</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIBYA</td>
<td>141,293</td>
<td>83,10</td>
<td>139,777</td>
<td>90,75</td>
<td>162,732</td>
<td>91,20</td>
<td>107,488</td>
<td>94,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAST MEDITERRANEAN SEA (EGYPT-GREECE-TURKEY)</td>
<td>27,262</td>
<td>16,10</td>
<td>13,377</td>
<td>8,70</td>
<td>14,974</td>
<td>8,40</td>
<td>2,246</td>
<td>2,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUNISIA</td>
<td>1,215</td>
<td>0,70</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>0,35</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>0,30</td>
<td>3,905</td>
<td>3,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALGERIA</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>0,10</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>0,20</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>0,10</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>0,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHERS</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>0,05</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above shown data, it's possible to make the following points:

- **THE LIBYAN FLOW**: significant decrease.

  Compared to previous years, both in percentage (-34% compared to 2016 and -23% compared to 2015) and in relative terms (-55,224 compared to 2016 and -32,289 compared to 2015), it's self-evident a trend reversal; anyway in absolute terms, the issue is still actual.

- **EAST MEDITERRANEAN FLOW**: significant decrease.

  Compared to previous years, both in percentage (-85% compared to 2016 and-83% compared to 2015) and in relative terms (-12,728 compared to 2016 and -11,131 compared to 2015), it does not look warring; anyway it's necessary to be warned about the dangers of such long sea route to reach Italian coast.
- **TUNISIAN FLOW**: significant increase.  
Compared to previous years, it may seem not that worrying in relative terms (+3,357 compared to 2016 and +3,362 compared to 2015); in percentage (+713% compared to 2016 and +719% compared to 2015) the enormous increase represents a word of criticism, to take into due consideration for the future operational planning.

- **ALGERIAN FLOW**: significant increase.  
Compared to previous years, it may seem not that worrying in relative terms (+486 compared to 2016 and +326 compared to 2015); in percentage (+402% compared to 2016 and +200% compared to 2015) the substantial increase represents a word of criticism, to take into due consideration for the future operational planning.

In the following tables is underlined the monthly flow evolution for the 2017, with the following considerations:

- **LIBYAN FLOW**: in steadily increase during the first months of the year: Such flow is increasing also if compared to the first 4 months of 2016. From the month of July, on the other side, the Libyan flow had a significant decrease.

- **EAST MEDITERRANEAN FLOW**: there are peaks during the summer, due to the better weather conditions (essential to carry out the cross of Mediterranean Sea) during such months.

- **TUNISIAN FLOW**: the trend is generally increasing during the year, with a peak during the month of October of about a +60%, compared to all the previous year.
- **ALGERIAN FLOW:** the flow is fluctuating during the year, with peaks during the months of September and October.

**Other principal flows: monthly evolution**

![Graph showing monthly flow evolution of different regions including Libia, Tunisia, Algeria, and East Med. Peaks are observed in September and October.]
### SUMMARIES OF DATA REFERRED TO THE NUMBER OF MIGRANTS RESCUED AT SEA, SUBDIVIDED BY INTERVENED ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAVAL UNITS OWNER</th>
<th>N. OF MIGRANTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GUARDIA COSTIERA (ITALIAN COAST GUARD)</strong>&lt;br&gt;No Frontex</td>
<td>22,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARINA MILITARE ITALIANA (ITALIAN NAVY)</strong></td>
<td>5,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GUARDIA DI FINANZA</strong>&lt;br&gt;No Frontex</td>
<td>1,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CARABINIERI</strong>&lt;br&gt;No Frontex</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRONTEX</strong></td>
<td>14,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardia Costiera</td>
<td>6,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardia di Finanza</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carabinieri</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assetti altri MS</td>
<td>7,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMERCIAL VESSELS</strong></td>
<td>11,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOREIGN NAVY UNITS</strong></td>
<td>1,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EUNAVFORMED NAVAL UNITS</strong></td>
<td>10,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>114,286</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Number of Migrants Saved at Sea (S.A.R. Ops) or Intercepted at Sea (L.E. Ops) Referred to the Last Four Years Subdivided by Intervened Assets (Years 2014 – 2015 – 2016 – 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAVAL UNITS OWNED BY</th>
<th>RESCUED PEOPLE FROM JAN THE 1ST TO DEC THE 31ST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YEAR 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guardia Costiera</strong> (Italian Coast Guard)</td>
<td>38.047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Included units cofinanced by Frontex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marina Militare</strong> (Italian Navy)</td>
<td>82.952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guardia di Finanza</strong></td>
<td>1.601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Included units cofinanced by Frontex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carabinieri</strong></td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Included units cofinanced by Frontex</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Polizia</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commercial Vessels</strong></td>
<td>40.611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NGOs</strong></td>
<td>1.450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOAS • SEAWATCH • SOS MEDITERRANEE • SEA EYE • MEDICI SANS FRONTIERE • PROACTIVOS OPEN ARMS • BARCELONA • LIFE BOAT • JUGEND Rettet • BOAT REFUGEE • SAVE THE CHILDREN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First NGO’s vessel arrived during August 2014.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frontex – Except Italian Units</strong></td>
<td>978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During 2013 under operation HERMES. Operation TRITON is operational since November the 1st 2014, taking place of operation MARE NOSTRUM.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eunavformed Naval Units</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full operational since July 2015.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foreign Navy Units</strong></td>
<td>705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>166.370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.2 SAR EVENTS COORDINATED BY MRCC ROME

The 94% of SAR Ops involving migrants arrived in Italy were coordinated by Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre of Roma. The migrants arrived in the last 4 years have constantly exceeded the 100,000 units per year.

![NUMBER OF MIGRANTS](chart1.png)

![NUMBER OF EVENTS](chart2.png)

The 2017 was characterized by geopolitical events and operative evolutions in all scenarios, which lead to an overall decline of both the number of rescued migrants and the number of on field operations, compared to 2016.

The comparison between data from 2017 and data from the previous three years, shows a strong decrease (-31%) of rescued people, even if the number of events, in the same time laps, reported a slight increase (+1%).

Broadly speaking, the emergency situation keeps being severe, even worse than the 2014/2015 one, despite the general terms reduction compared to 2016.

It’s to underlight the high number of urgent MEDEVACs operated in favor of migrant, in the last part of the year.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SIMULTANEOUS SAR EVENTS</th>
<th>PEOPLE RESCUED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>19 MARCH THE 19TH</strong></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3.171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>5.498 PEOPLE RESCUED IN 41 SAR OPS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20 MARCH THE 20TH</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2.327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APRIL THE 14TH</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2.093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APRIL THE 15TH</strong></td>
<td>34</td>
<td><strong>4.817</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APRIL THE 16TH</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2.352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAY THE 5TH</strong></td>
<td>28</td>
<td><strong>3.351</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAY THE 6TH</strong></td>
<td>32</td>
<td><strong>3.579</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAY THE 18TH</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
<td><strong>2.197</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAY THE 19TH</strong></td>
<td>17</td>
<td><strong>2.123</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAY THE 23RD</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
<td><strong>2.136</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAY THE 24TH</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>2.234</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAY THE 25TH</strong></td>
<td>27</td>
<td><strong>2.851</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAY THE 26TH</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td><strong>2.384</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JUNE THE 16TH</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
<td><strong>2.656</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JUNE THE 25TH</strong></td>
<td>31</td>
<td><strong>3.377</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JUNE THE 26TH</strong></td>
<td>28</td>
<td><strong>5.383</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JULY THE 11TH</strong></td>
<td>23</td>
<td><strong>2.766</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JULY THE 12TH</strong></td>
<td>29</td>
<td><strong>4.194</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAY THE 18TH</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
<td><strong>2.197</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAY THE 19TH</strong></td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td><strong>5.383</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>JULY THE 11TH</strong></td>
<td>23</td>
<td><strong>2.766</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JULY THE 12TH</strong></td>
<td>29</td>
<td><strong>4.194</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The high number of deceases reported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), referred to the Central Mediterranean flow, are surely due to various factors such as: very bad safety conditions on board of migrants’ vessels; the high number of people on board; the total absence of individual rescue equipment; the human traffickers’ unscrupulousness, since them arrange the crossings also with very bad weather conditions and without skilled sailors on board; the migrants’ very precarious state of health even before leaving Libyan shore (malnutrition, poor sanitary conditions, torture etc.). Such conditions didn’t show up in other scenarios. It’s necessary to underline that the number of deaths recorded by UNHCR, mentioned below, includes also data related to accidents not known by MRCC Rome.

**Central Mediterranean**

- **2015**: 153,842 arrivals, 2,913 deaths and missing
- **2016**: 181,436 arrivals, 4,578 deaths and missing
- **2017**: 119,369 arrivals, 2,856 deaths and missing

**Eastern Mediterranean**

- **2015**: 856,723 arrivals, 799 deaths and missing
- **2016**: 1,734,501 arrivals, 441 deaths and missing
- **2017**: 2,971,846 arrivals, 2,37 deaths and missing

**Western Mediterranean**

- **2015**: 5,283 arrivals, 59 deaths and missing
- **2016**: 8,162 arrivals, 77 deaths and missing
- **2017**: 22,103 arrivals, 217 deaths and missing

**ANALYSIS OF BY-SEA ARRIVALS, COMPARED TO DECEASED AND MISSING PEOPLE AT SEA DURING 2015-2016-2017**

**Central Mediterranean**

- **2015**: 1,89% deaths + 23%
- **2016**: 2,52% deaths + 23%
- **2017**: 2,37% deaths + 23%

**Eastern Mediterranean**

- **2015**: 0,09% deaths + 116%
- **2016**: 0,25% deaths + 116%
- **2017**: 0,15% deaths + 116%

**Western Mediterranean**

- **2015**: 1,12% deaths + 74%
- **2016**: 0,94% deaths + 54%
- **2017**: 0,98% deaths + 44%

**SOURCE**: UNHCR
2.4 THE LIBYAN FLOW

As seen in the above, Libyan flow has a considerable negative trend compared to previous years. However, in absolute terms it persist to be a word of criticism, due to: human trafficker’s’ modus operandi; number of military and civil assets in the area; the presence in the scenario of Libyan Navy and Coast Guard units; geo-political situation of African continent.

In the first months of 2017, the Minister of Interior proposed to NGOs to subscribe the so called “Codice di Condotta” (Code of Conduct), with the purpose to set up a document to safeguard the security of migrants and operators. Such document, subscribed by the large part of NGOs, provides:

- the necessity of equip themselves with assets appropriate for rescue;
- do not trespass in Libyan territorial waters, except in case of immediate and credible threat to human life at sea;
- fulfil the obligation of do not turn off or retard the regular AIS (Automatic Identification System) and LRIT (Long Range Identification and Tracking) signals transmission;
- do not facilitate in any way the trafficker’s’ organizations, also avoiding them to retrieve and re-use engines and boats. It’s explicitly forbade to have any contact (direct or indirect) with the traffickers;
- to inform and update, about the ongoing emergency, the competent MRCC and the flag State Authorities;
- facilitate the investigation promoted by the Authorities.

The Italian Govern is pursuing activities to allow Libyan Navy and Coast Guard to improve their operational capabilities; there are several on-going projects as, for example, one for the personnel training, and one for the provision of adequate equipment.

In this respect, Libyan Authorities, are increasing their presence at sea, even if within specific areas; the 14th on December 2017, Libya filed a declaration at International Maritime Organization (IMO) about the declaration of a Search and Rescue Region (SRR), following a previous declaration of July, later cancelled by the December one. By the way, the presence in the area of Libyan units led, sometimes, to critical issues, due to communication difficulties with the naval on-duty assets; such problems were partially solved at the end of the year, when Italy launched operation “Nauras”.

In addition, MRCC Rome, acting over its sphere of competence, conducted mediation between Libyan Authorities and NGOs, due to reluctance to mutual cooperation, even during SAR Ops management. The commitment of MRCC Rome avoided accidents.

It was necessary to collaborate and cooperate with the MRCCs of Malta and Tunis, due really complex operations, characterized by very high number of migrants, lack of ships able to transfer migrants to POS, bad weather conditions. In such cases Malta and Tunis didn't accept the request to disembark migrants in their ports. In particular:

- MRCC Tunis declined the request to accept migrants because they were neither Tunisian, nor sailed from Tunisian shore, and the rescue vessel wasn’t Tunisian too; in addition, MRCC Tunis was not able to accommodate the very high number of migrants (578 in total), due both lack of notice and lack of space for the reception of migrants.
- MRCC Malta, instead, declined such request, because the operations were outside their SAR region, and for this reason they didn’t coordinate the ops.
2.4.1 THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

During the 2017, the presence of NGOs in the Central Mediterranean Sea – Libyan SAR operations area, decreased, due to various motivations.

The following graphs represent the number of migrants rescued by NGOs respect to the total of rescue, and the SAR ops carried out by NGOs compared to those performed by merchant ships transiting the area.
2.4.2 SOURCE OF INFORMATION: THE USE OF SATELLITE PHONES AND DIRECT SIGHTING

The activation modes of MRCC Rome are changing: we passed from direct activation by migrants (45% of total requests in 2016, those were 80% in 2015) to indirect activation performed by air-sea military and civil assets, sighting units in danger.

The following graph represents the source of the first information received by IMRCC, about a vessel in danger in Libyan waters. There are two cases: when IMRCC is activated by the migrants in distress (directly or by a phone call made by activists or relatives) providing a Thuraya phone number present on board; when a rescue asset sightings migrants.

**FIRST SAR INFORMATION SOURCE**
(for statistical purposes, there is only the first source of activation, for each target rescued)

Analyzing sightings data, 1/3 of those was performed by air assets, both military and civil (NGOs); when a flying unit leaves the scene after an aerial sighting, it’s necessary to start a complex research mission, since usually there is a great distance between rescue units and distressed one.
The lack of satellite-phones on board of migrants' vessels, even fewer than in the past, resulted in a more intense and complex research activity for rescue assets in the area, and coordinated by M.R.C.C. Rome; it resulted in a higher risk for migrants' vessels as well, being those able neither to call for help, nor to be localized and rescued easily. It's useful to the IMRCC to know the phone number of a satellite phone on board of a migrant's vessel: it help to follow their routes and localization.
2.4.3 THE INCREASE OF MIGRANTS ON EACH VESSEL

During the 2017, migrants' vessels data revealed:

- a percentage decrease of number of rubber boats used;
- a percentage increase of small vessels (10/15 meters, with 50-60 migrants on board);
- a unchanged percentage of vessels.

In particular, the increased use of small vessels contributed, for sure, to increase strongly the SAR ops performed, even if the total number of migrants rescued decreased.

Types of unit used

The following graph shows the average presence of people per type of unit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nº RUBBER BOATS</th>
<th>Nº OF MIGRANTS RESCUED ON RUBBER BOATS</th>
<th>AVERAGE MIGRANTS/RUBBER BOAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>76.643</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nº SHIPS</th>
<th>Nº OF MIGRANTS RESCUED ON SHIPS</th>
<th>AVERAGE MIGRANTS/SHIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>17.370</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nº SMALL UNITS</th>
<th>Nº MIGRANTS RESCUED ON SMALL BOATS</th>
<th>AVERAGE MIGRANTS/SMALL BOAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>13.261</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.4.4 MEDEVACS
The numerous MEDEVACs coordinated by IMRCC, were a critical operative factor also in the 2017.

N. di Medevac e miN. of MEDEVACs and migrants
evacuated granti evacuati

2.4.5 CONCLUSIONS
As already mentioned several times before, Libyan flow represents an ongoing critical emergency, and it’s necessary to address this issue very carefully, keeping in mind all the factors able to change the situation, such as: Libyan Navy and Coast Guard in area; Minister of Interior action in the areas of migrants’ departure/transit; operations operated by NGOs.
2.5 THE TUNISIAN FLOW

Unlike the Libyan flow (that had a decreasing trend during the 2017), Tunisia one is increasing: the escalation due to the severe economic crisis, forced many, especially young people, to leave their Country, looking for better life, using Italy as gateway to Europe.

It’s necessary to underline the difficulty of the Tunisian Authorities in the contrast of migrants’ departures from their national shores. It’s also to emphasise how Malta RCC used to tag as law-enforcement-events (i.e. boats departed from Tunisian coasts and sailing through Malta SRR), cases that were, instead, potentially SAR events, involving usually small overcrowded boats, without any safety equipment onboard.

The highest peak was reached during October, when arrived as many migrants as in the other 11 months of the year.
2.6 THE ALGERIAN FLOW

For the same reason, even if smaller effects compared to the Tunisian flow, the Algerian flow has been really critical due to the high number of migrants landing undetected.

*Migrants departed from Algeria*

*Migrants departed from Algeria: monthly development in 2017*
2.7 EAST MEDITERRANEAN SEA FLOW

Finally, migrants’ flow from the Eastern Mediterranean area strongly decreased compared to previous years. Human traffickers didn’t use overcrowded ships or fishing vessels, leaving those at sea after the use. The new modus operandi is the use of pleasure boats, where it's possible to hide migrants inside: in this way Law Enforcement operations are harder to perform before boats reach the shore.

The annual trend follows, closely, seasonal weather conditions.

Migrants arriving from Greece, Turkey, Egypt

Migrants arriving from Greece, Turkey, Egypt: monthly trend
THE MIGRATION PHENOMENA: MIGRANTS FOUND ON LAND

Data connected to migrants found on land are relevant as well. In this kind of events, migrants reach Italian shores undetected, bypassing surveillance put in place by air and naval assets on sea borders, being tracked by police on land, and then identified.

Even if numbers related to found on land aren’t high in absolute terms, such issue is a vulnerability of the system, for which we are maximizing the efforts.

Although an increase of assets, with the collaboration of EBCGA-Frontex, it is to underlight that the number of migrants landed undetected in 2017 is almost doubled compared with 2016, confirming the 2015 trend, as it is shown in the following graph.

![Found on land](image)

All migrants coming from Libya are found and rescued before their landing on shore, and then identified. The problem of found on land is related essentially to flow of migrants arriving from Tunisia, Algeria and Eastern Mediterranean (Turkey, Greece, Egypt).

The above mentioned flows, equally divides the total of found on land.
As shown in the following graph, instead, the trend in 2017 changes according to the flow took in consideration; it’s due to several and different political issue occurred during the year.
### 3.1 UNDETECTED COMING FROM TUNISIA

Undetected coming from Tunisia, reach Italy following or the Pelagian islands route (Lampedusa and Pantelleria) or the route passing by the south of Sicily (Siculiana and Porto Empedocle), using small boats for the shorter route, and small fishing boats for longer ones.

In the last year the ratio between total migrants coming from Tunisia in total, and the undetected one was directly proportionate.

#### undetected coming from Tunisia

![Graph showing undetected and total arrivals from Tunisia over years](image)

The higher number of undetected was registered during the month of September, when Italy suffered a stepping-up of migration pressure.

In the month of October, there was a peak of arrivals. Due to several agreements reached with Tunisia, higher number of assets in Lampedusa area (a mention is due to air asset Osprey of MAS project, powered by Frontex), there was a percentage decrease of undetected compared to the total of arrivals.

#### undetected coming from Tunisia: monthly trend

![Graph showing monthly trend of undetected and total arrivals from Tunisia](image)
3.2 UNDETECTED COMING FROM ALGERIA

Migrants coming from Algeria, reach Italy only following the course from Annaba to southern Sardinia (Porto Pino and Capo Teulada).

Despite the small boats sailed always this same course, their speed was a great problem for the assets in the area (surveillance was ensured by Frontex).

The ratio between undetected and total of arrivals coming from Algeria keeps to be very high.

According the 2017 analysis, almost all migrants arrived undetected in Sardinia.

The ratio between undetected and total arrivals lowered during the months of September and October, when assets of J.O. Triton and the air-asset “Osprey” reached the scenario, supporting the action of already in-area asset of F.S.C. - Frontex (project MAS).
3.3 UNDETECTED COMING FROM EAST MED

Despite the huge distances (compared to the 40 miles between Kelibia and Lampedusa or the 120 miles between Annaba and Capo Teulada) the use of pleasure boats, easy to conceal in particular during summer time, allows about the 50% of migrants to reach the shore, in particular southern Sicily (Vendicari and Capo Passero) and Apulia (Santa Maria di Leuca and Otranto).

Compared to previous years, the flow sensitively decreased, also in consideration of both, the 2016 agreements with Turkey and patrol operation performed by Italian and Turkey Coast Guard together at departure.

There peaks in the recorded data are related to the good weather condition during the summer time.

**undetected from East Med: monthly trend**
ACRONYMS

EBCG European Border and Coast Guard Agency
EUNAVFORMED European Union Naval Force Mediterranean
FRONTEX Frontières extérieures for “external borders”
IOM International Organization for Migration
MRCC Maritime Rescue Coordination Center
NGO Non-Governmental Organization
IOM International Organization for Migration
SAR Search and Rescue
SRR Search and Rescue Region
UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
J.O. Triton Joint Operation Triton