

How does Frontex Joint Operation Triton support search and rescue operations?



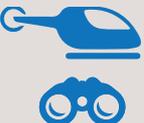
Frontex does not replace border control activities at the EU's external borders but it provides additional technical equipment and border guards to EU countries that face an increased migratory pressure. Triton is a Joint Operation coordinated by Frontex. This operation brings together border guard authorities and assets from 25 Member States and it is hosted by Italy.

All vessels, helicopters and aircraft provided by Frontex operate under the coordination of the International Coordination Centre (ICC), a coordination structure composed of Italian authorities, the Coordinating Officer of Frontex and representatives of border guard authorities of participating Member States.

Frontex does not have its own equipment but it relies on and finances the vessels and aircraft as well as border guards provided by various EU Member States. The guest officers' travel costs, insurance and daily allowance, including accommodation, are also covered by Frontex.

Step by step example of a search and rescue operation supported by Frontex Joint Operation Triton

- 1.** National border guards patrol at sea by vessels and aircraft under the coordination of Frontex.


- 2.** When such a vessel or aircraft detects a boat carrying migrants, the crew assesses whether they are in an emergency situation and transmits all information to the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)¹, and informs the ICC.


- 3.** The MRCC, which in Italy is managed by the Italian Coast Guard, coordinates the rescue operation with the assistance of vessels participating in the Frontex Joint Operation. The International Coordination Centre set up for Triton keeps the MRCC informed of the position of Frontex-coordinated vessels.



 The MRCC may also call on the assistance of commercial vessels based on information derived from using AIS (Automatic Identification System) or on a military vessel present in the vicinity of the SAR incident.
- 4.** Once rescued, migrants are taken to Italy.


- 5.** The national authorities conduct the immigration process (fingerprinting and identification). They also process asylum claims. Frontex helps the Italian authorities screen migrants to establish their identity and, with their permission, seeks to gather information about their journey, such as details on the smugglers, fees they paid and routes.



¹ Every country with a maritime border is responsible for coordinating search and rescue in its Search and Rescue Region and for this purpose it must ensure that the necessary arrangements are made for the provision of adequate search and rescue, including the establishment of a rescue coordination centre.