



University of Macedonia
Department of International
& European Studies

The European Integrated Border Management and the role of **FRONTEX**



Presentation Outline

01

The Area of Freedom, Security and Justice of the EU and the Contemporary Multilevel Challenges



02

The Establishment, the Role and the Evolution of Frontex



03

The Concept of the European Integrated Border Management

04

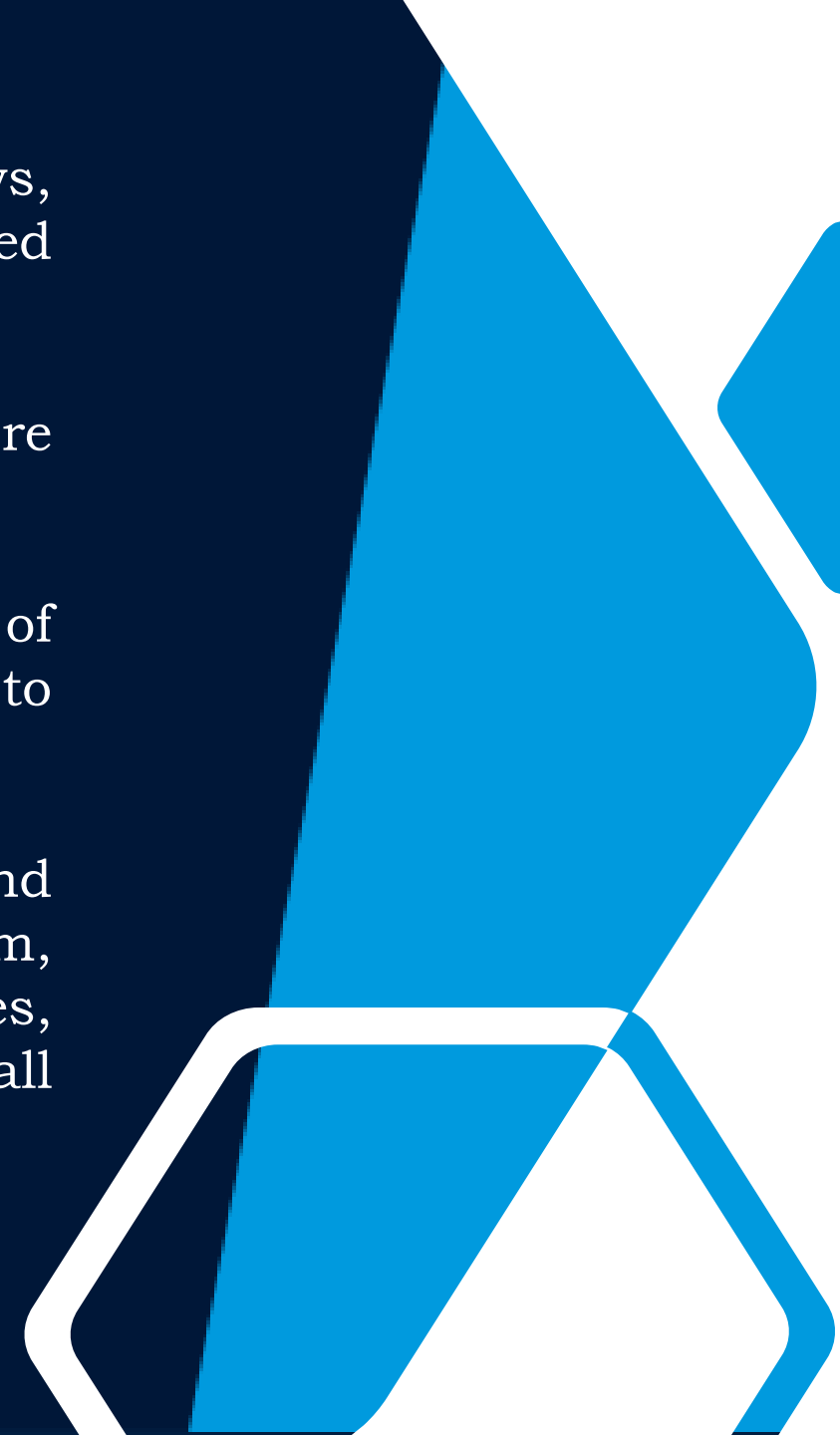
Frontex's Technical and Operational Strategy

05

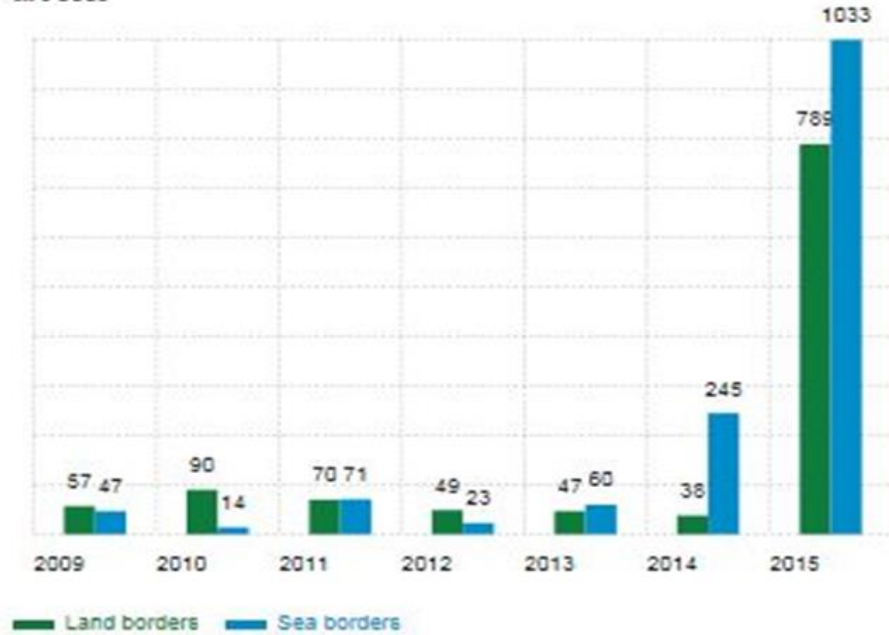
Concluding Remarks



- During the last decade, EU had faced vast migration flows, corresponding to a large increase in the number of logged asylum applications and requests
- At the forefront Greece, Cyprus, Spain and Italy were disproportionately effected as key entry countries
- The migrant/refugee (mixed) crisis peaked in the summer of 2015, when so many people risked the perilous journey to Europe
- The rapid increase of migration flows, has raised new and updated older challenges, regarding asylum system, European internal security, humanitarian challenges, migration phenomenon, integration and the overall management of the EU's external borders



In 1 000s



2015 irregular border crossings had a 17-fold increase compared to 2013

Western-Central-Eastern Mediterranean Routes

Central Route, monthly average:

14.222 for 2014

12.829 for 2015

Eastern Route, monthly average:

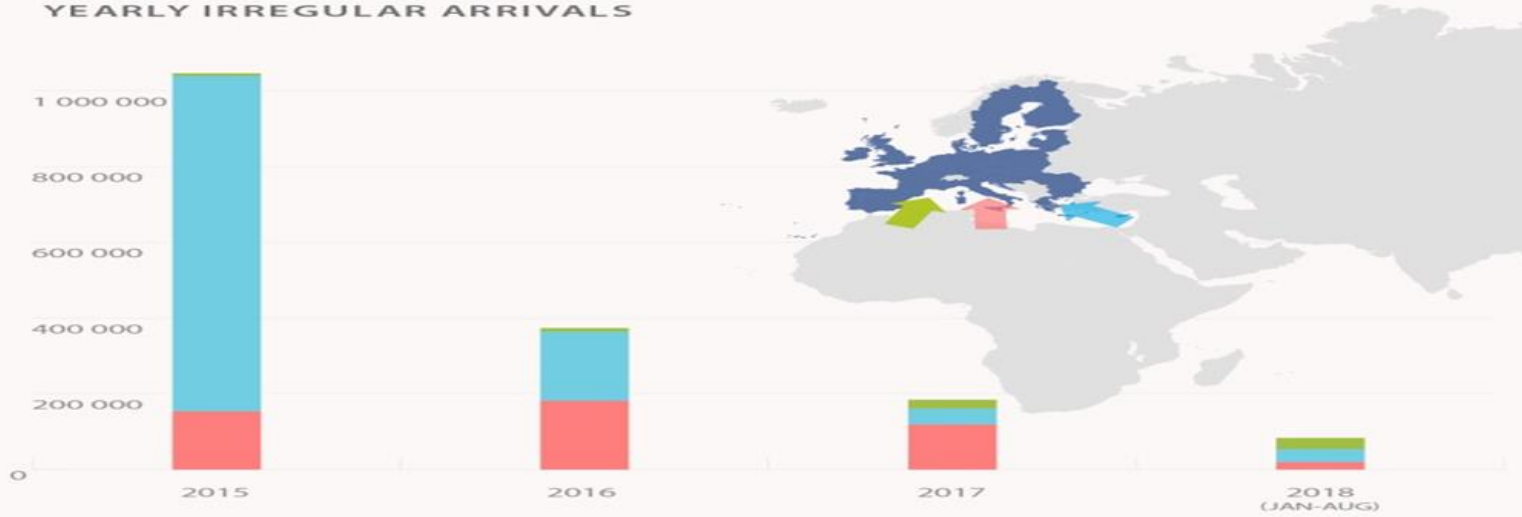
73.782 for 2015

61.439 for 2016



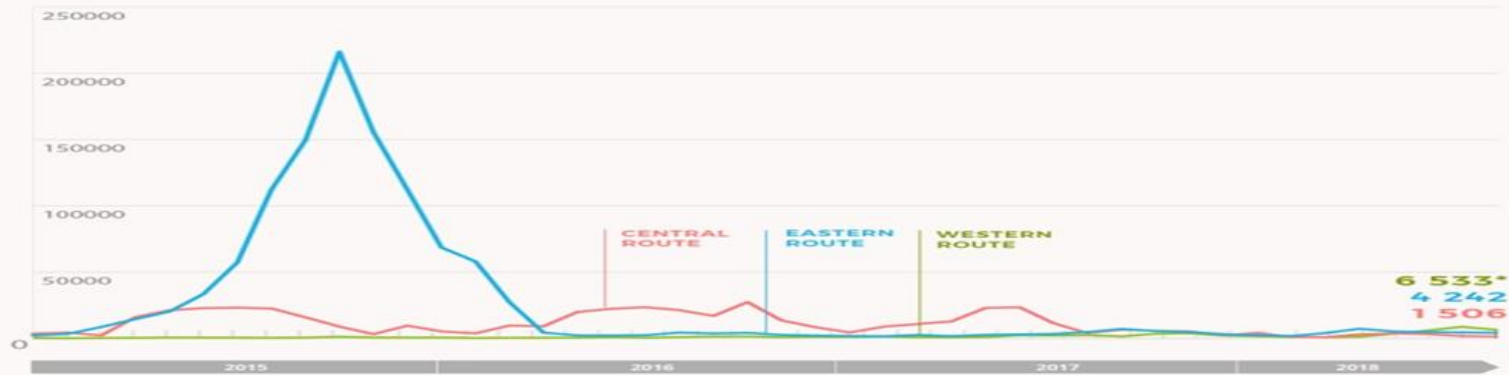
Migration flows: Eastern, Central and Western Mediterranean routes

YEARLY IRREGULAR ARRIVALS



Source : Frontex

MONTHLY IRREGULAR ARRIVALS 2015 - AUGUST 2018



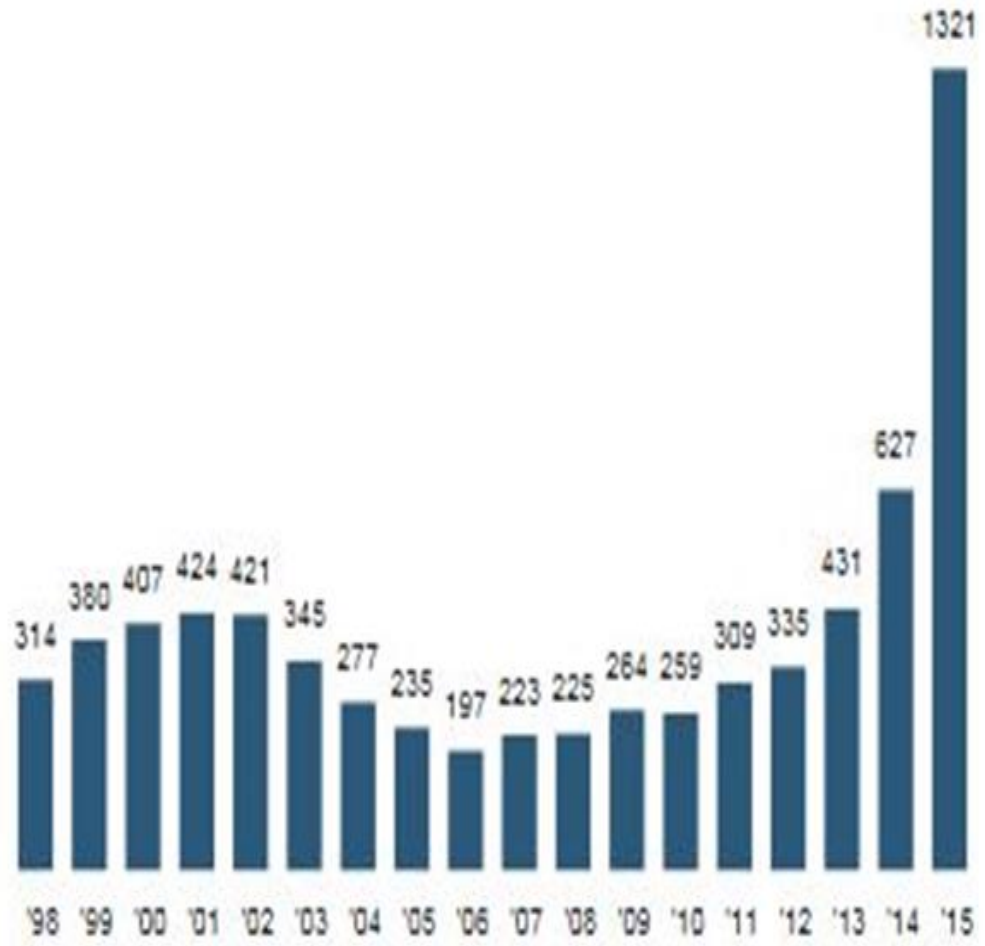
Source : Frontex
* Data from joint operations (sea crossings)



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

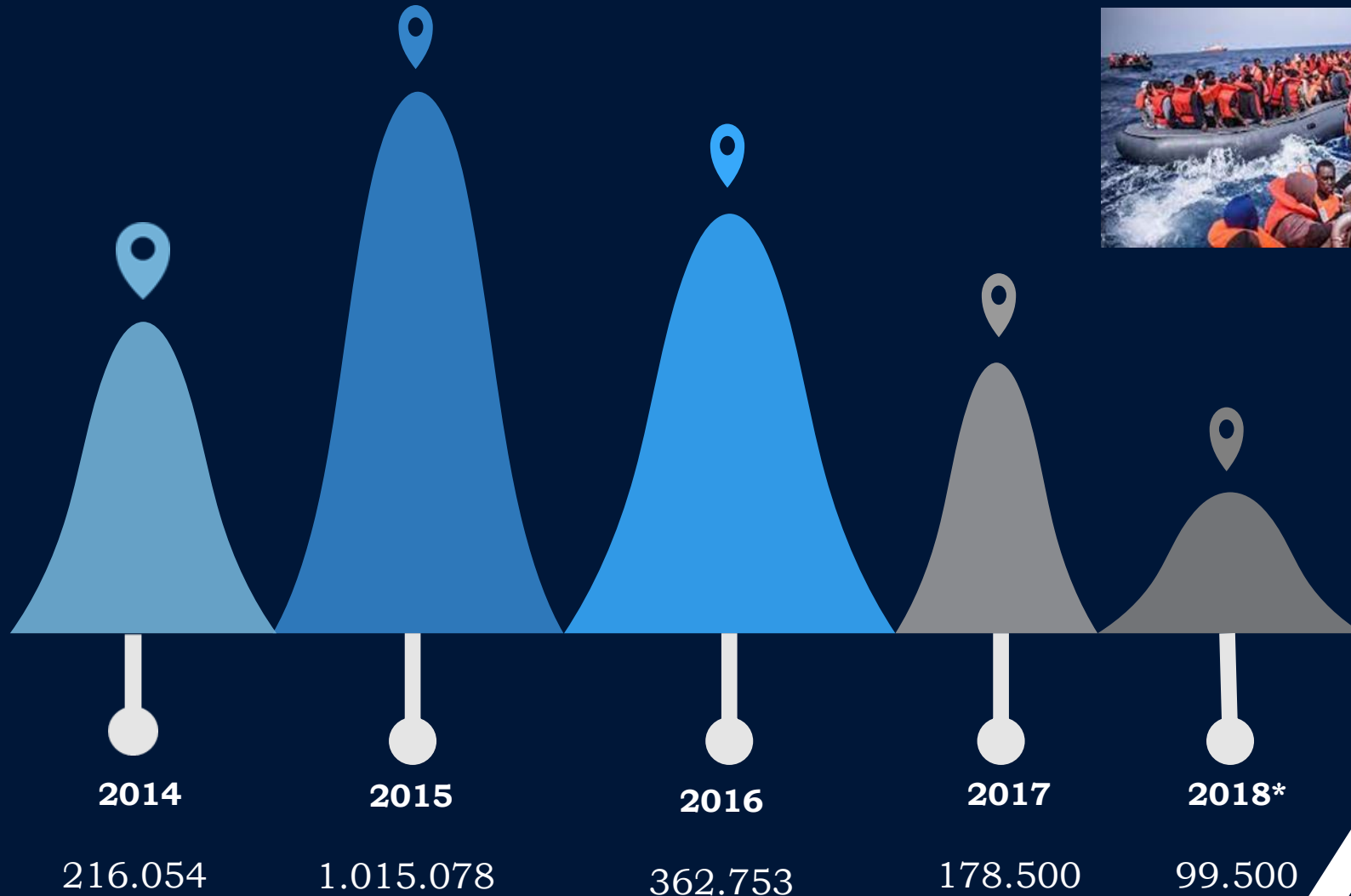
© European Union, 2018.
Reproduction is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged

In 1 000s



Total Number of Arrivals by Sea in Europe 2014-2018

(data by UNCHR/Operational Portal/Mediterranean Situation. *as of 30th September 2018)



Fatal Incident linked to Irregular Migration



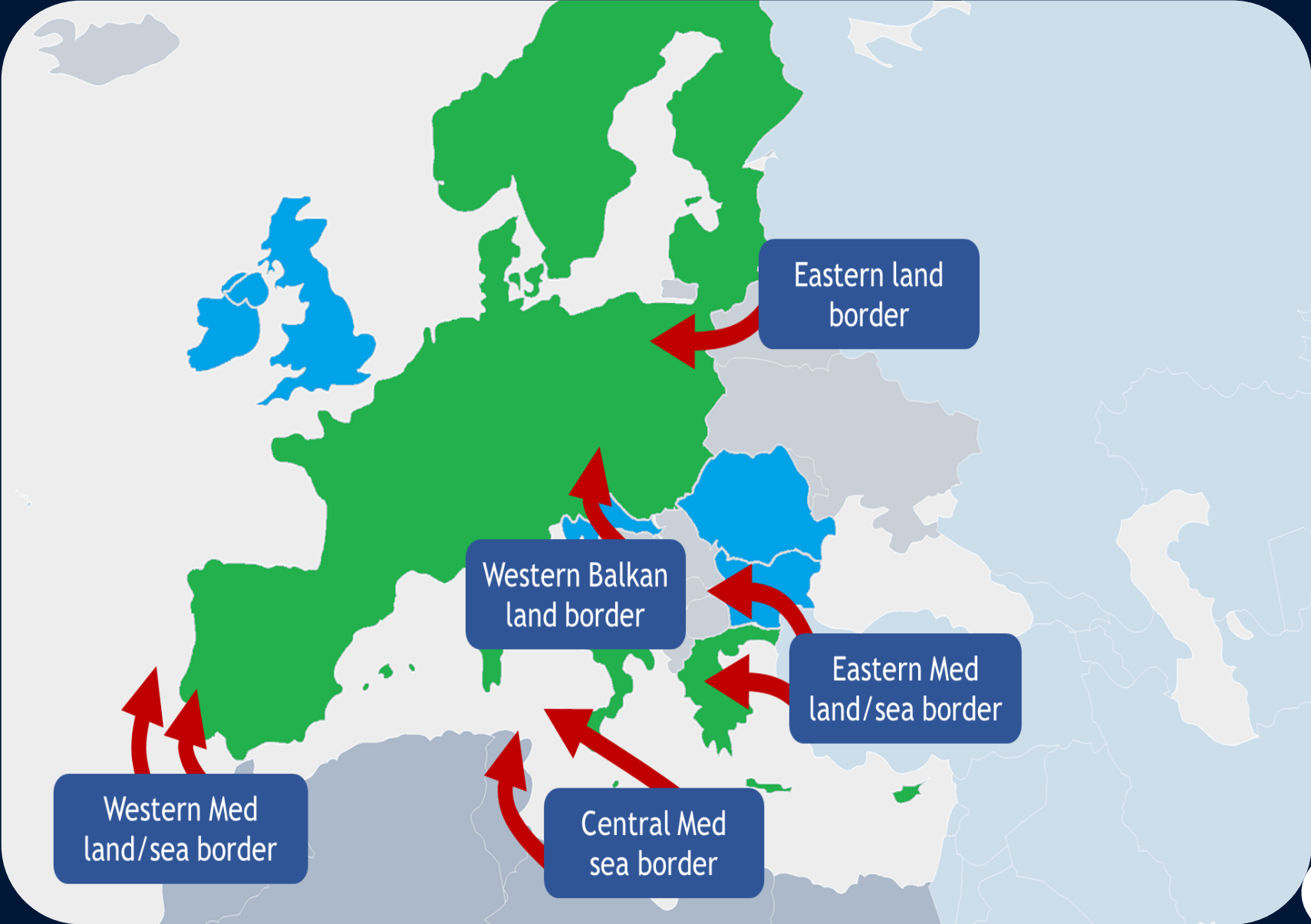
- EU's ultimate goal is to maintain a safe and protected area of freedom, security and justice, as defined by the Treaty of Amsterdam (1997)
- The well-being and promotion of its values globally, are also based, on the reliable provision of security and protection for European citizens
- The acknowledgment of this goal relies on the ability and the need to deal with current and future geopolitical instability, which produces inter-state conflicts, new asymmetric security threats & irregular migration flows from Europe's neighbouring countries and beyond





- 12.033 klm green/land borders
- 32.719 klm blue/sea borders
- 44.752 klm total border line
- 1.863 authorised border crossing points working 24/7
- 451 external green borders, 782 external blue borders, 630 air borders (airports)
- 3,5 mil. persons daily cross the internal borders of the EU
- In 2018, 577.228.100 passengers entered EU

Current Main Migration Routes



Frontières



Extérieures



FRONTEX

**French:
External
Borders**

- The creation of the single European space, relies on safe and protected external borders, which is achieved through the promotion and consolidation of appropriate/sufficient measures and actions of the competent border and coast guard national authorities
- In this context, the European Border and Coast Guard (Frontex) was created, in order to **ensure the integrated management of EU's external borders** and to enable the formation of the “Schengen area”
- Effective control and effective management of EU borders is a necessary condition for safeguarding the free movement of European citizens and their general security (central values of the EU)
- A crucial step towards achieving this common goal was the establishment of Frontex



- Frontex started its operation in 2005. Headquarters located in Warsaw/Poland
- In 2016 (EC 2016/1624) it was renamed the **European Border and Coast Guard Agency**, while its role was upgraded and expanded
- In 2019 (EC 2019/1896) the new/current Regulation came into force, making the Agency even more stronger
- All these years, Frontex has been the primary driver for operational coordination between EU Member States in the field of border control and surveillance, protecting the single area of freedom, security and justice



Vision

- The smooth and lawful transit of persons and goods across the safe, secure and well-functioning external borders of the EU

Mission

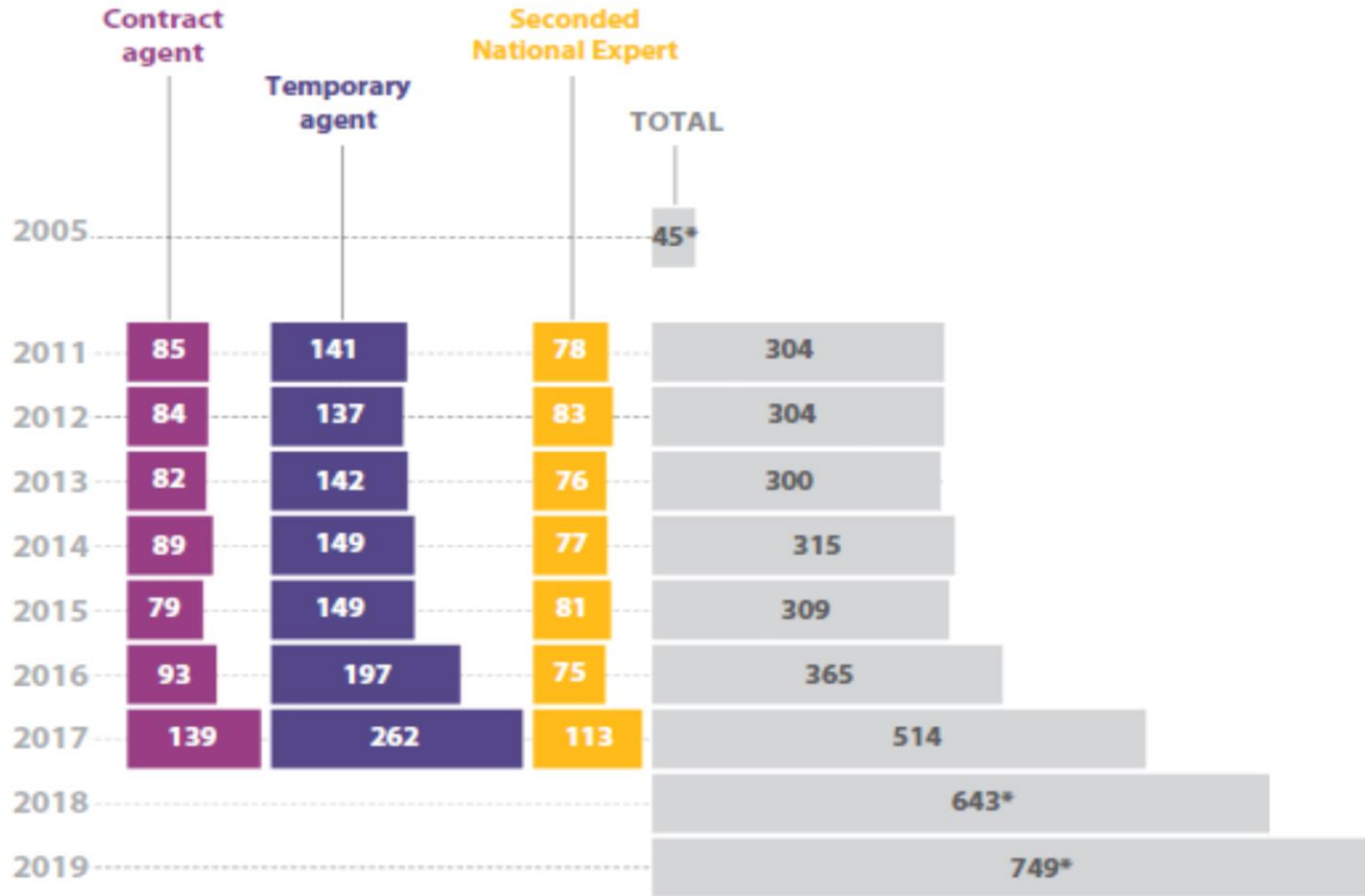
- Frontex controls the external borders in an integrated manner together with EU MSs

Values

- Professionalism
- Respect
- Cooperation
- Compliance
- Transparency and accountability
- Fundamental rights



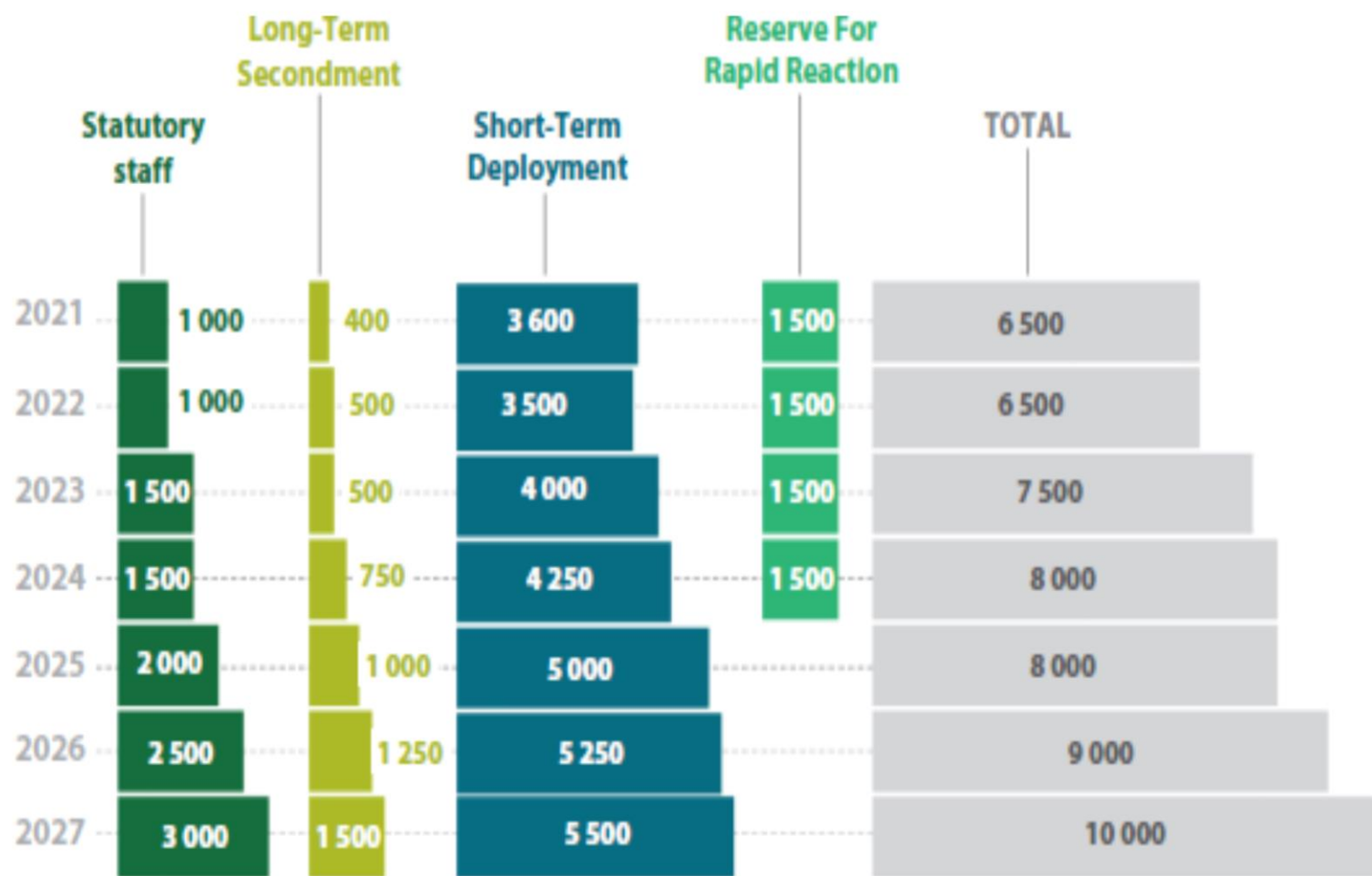
Frontex's Actual Workforce (2005-2019)



* Breakdown not publicly available

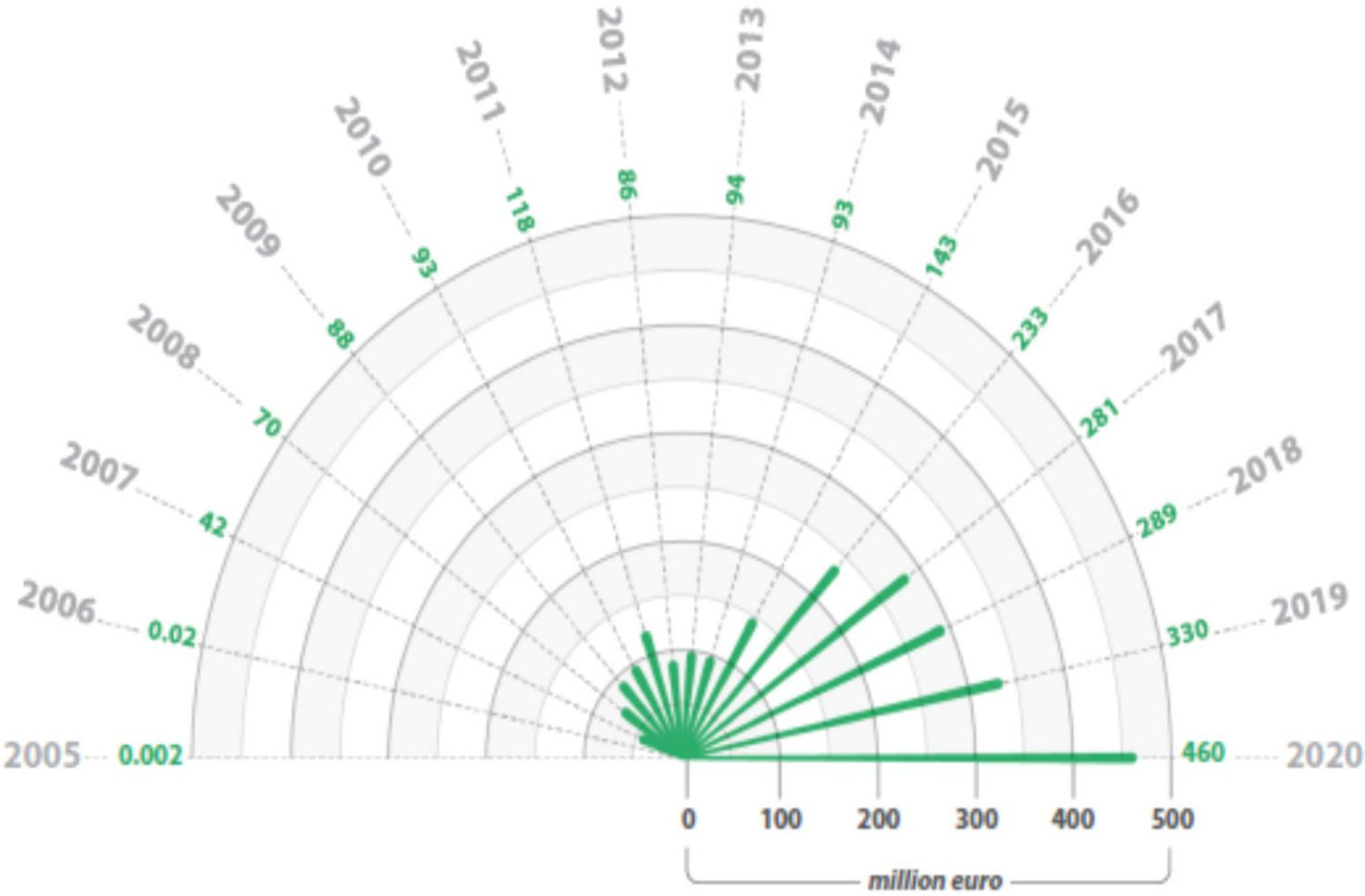
Source: ECA, based on Frontex's Annual Reports.

Capacity of the Standing Corps per Year and Category



Source: ECA, based on Regulation (EU) 2019/1896.

Frontex's Annual Budget



Source: ECA, based on Frontex's Annual Reports.

- The establishment of Frontex, among other things, ensures **the European Integrated Border Management (EIBM)** of the EU
- Effective border control is a migration management tool and a critical component of the EU's internal/external security
- Through external border controls, the free movement and safety of European citizens is ultimately ensured and protected from organized cross-border crime (e.g. drug and arms trafficking, trafficking, migrant smuggling), terrorism and all new forms of transnational criminality



- EU Member States bear **primary** responsibility for the management of their external borders
- Frontex has the mission of bringing together the competent national authorities of the EU Member States (e.g. Police, Coast Guard,) and the competent staff of the Organization, ultimately having **shared responsibility** for an effective EIBM

REGULATIONS

REGULATION (EU) 2019/1896 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 13 November 2019

on the European Border and Coast Guard and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1052/2013 and (EU) 2016/1624

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Article 6

Accountability

The Agency shall be accountable to the European Parliament and to the Council in accordance with this Regulation.

Article 7

Shared responsibility

1. The European Border and Coast Guard shall implement European integrated border management as a shared responsibility of the Agency and of the national authorities responsible for border management, including coast guards to the extent that they carry out maritime border surveillance operations and any other border control tasks. Member States shall retain primary responsibility for the management of their sections of the external borders.

Primary Activities in Implementation of EIBM

Situation
monitoring

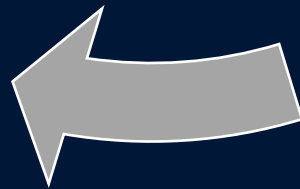


Risk analysis and
vulnerability
assessments



Operational
response

Return
operations



The Agency's tasks

Coast Guard
Functions

Risk analysis
and vulnerability
assessment

Training

Operations

Research
and Innovation

Returns

Combatting
cross-border crime

Situation
Monitoring

International
and EU cooperation

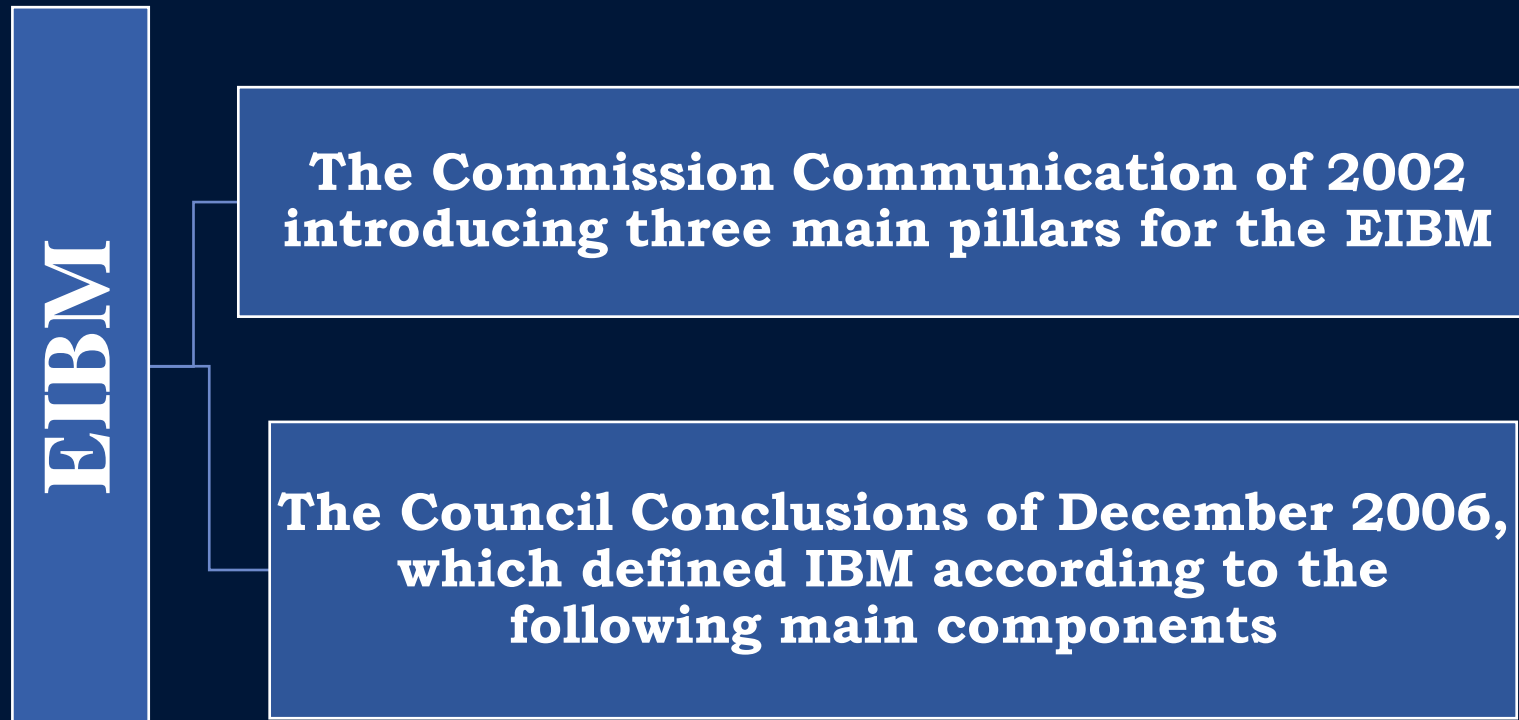
Respect
for fundamental
rights



**European Border
and Coast Guard
Agency**

The Establishment Process of the EIBM

- The legal and political framework of EIBM has been established in various strategic documents issued by the EU institutions
- Before Article 77 of the Lisbon Treaty, there were 2 main stages in the development, at a strategic level, of the EIBM concept



The Strategic Context of EIBM

- *“The EIBM is a fundamental condition for ensuring an area of freedom, security and justice and is therefore developed and implemented at the European and national level simultaneously”*
- *“The unified & harmonized application of border control rules and standards, is essential to effectively manage external border crossings, address migration challenges and contribute to EU security by combating serious cross-border crime and terrorism with full compliance and protection of fundamental rights standards”*



The Main Elements for Developing the EIBM*

- Inter-agency cooperation
- Development of EBCG capabilities
- Full respect of fundamental rights
- High level of professionalism of the EBCG
- Border control on the basis of risk analysis
- Further development of tolls enabling IBM
(e.g., harmonisation, comprehensive situation awareness and risk analysis, 24/7 reaction capability including rapid reaction, contingency planning, protection and saving live)
- Better integration with activities inside the Schengen-area and at internal borders, relevant policies, activities with third countries and the use of available EU funding enabling adequate resources

*European Commission Statements, March 2018 providing the political steering highlighting in the spirit of solidarity and fair share of responsibilities

Building Blocks of EIBM/The 11 Strategic Components

1. Border control
2. Search and rescue taking place in situations which may arise during border surveillance operations
3. Risk analysis
4. Cooperation between Member States supported and coordinated by the Agency
5. Inter-agency cooperation
6. Cooperation with third countries
7. Technical and operational measures within the Schengen area
8. Return of third country nationals
9. Use of state of the art technology
10. Quality control mechanism
11. Solidarity mechanisms, including the EU funding



11

Building Blocks of EIBM/Horizontal Components

**Fundamental
Rights**



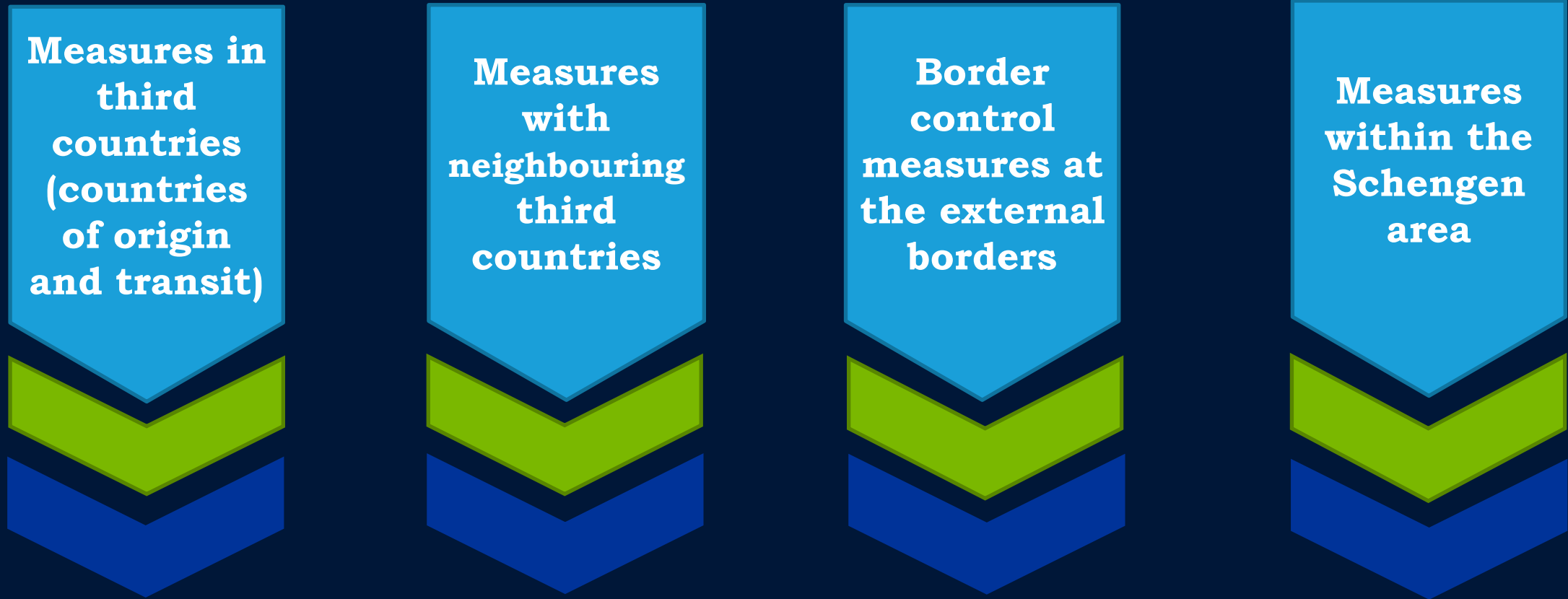
**Education and
Training**



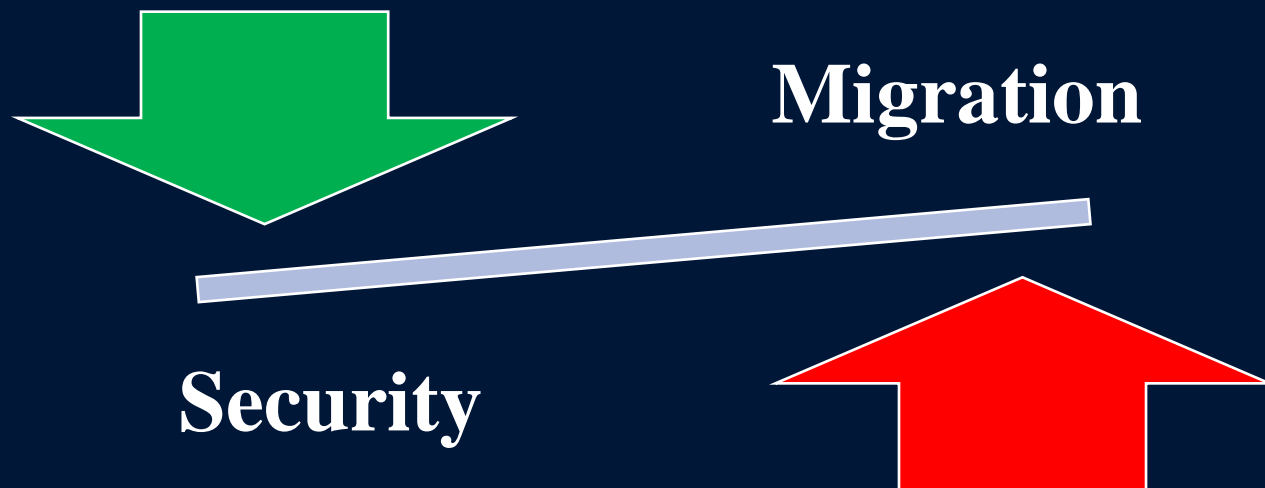
**Research and
Innovation**



Four (4) Tier Control Model



- Frontex must have the capacity to fight cross-border crime and terrorism at EU's external borders and their efforts should be strengthened to detect criminal groups and foreign terrorist fighters
- The European Commission stated that the EIBM, serves both the migration and security policies of the EU
- A fundamental purpose of Frontex's operation, is to establish effective, efficient and integrated management at the EU's external borders so that the objective of open but well-controlled and secure borders can be achieved

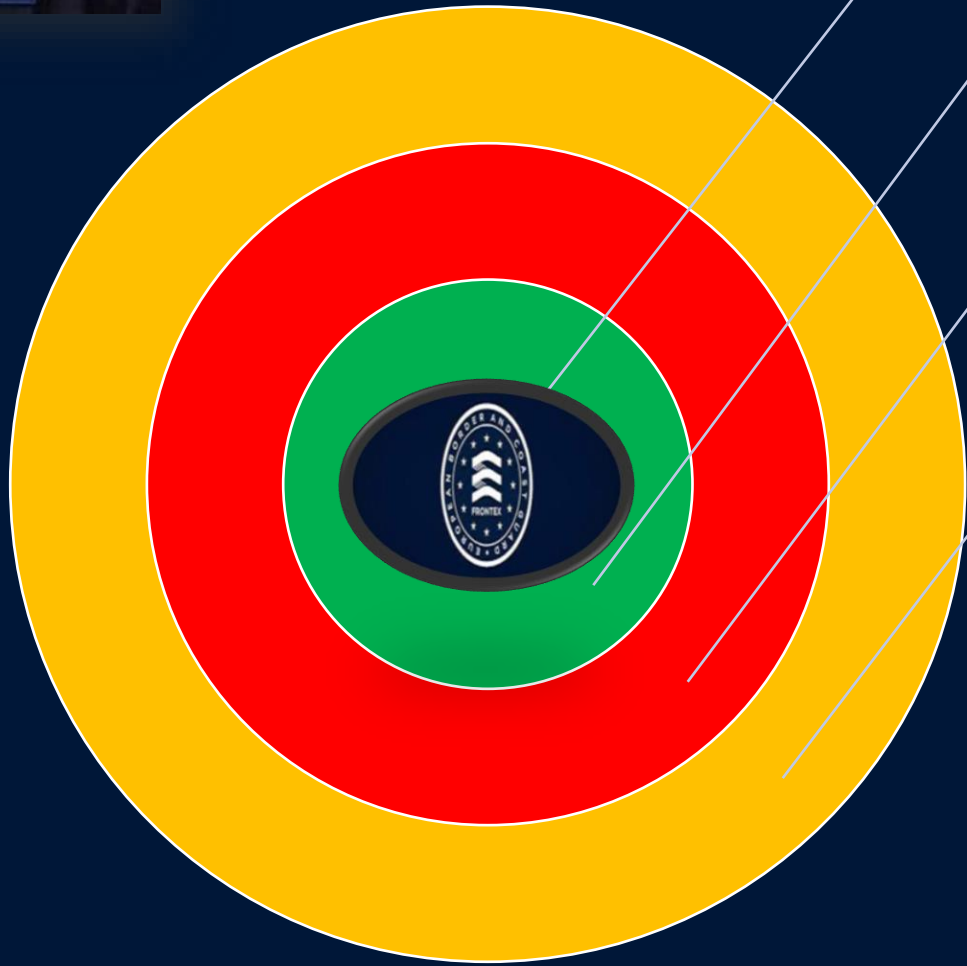


Inter-Agency Cooperation



#StrongerTogether





Frontex

EIBM

EU

The world



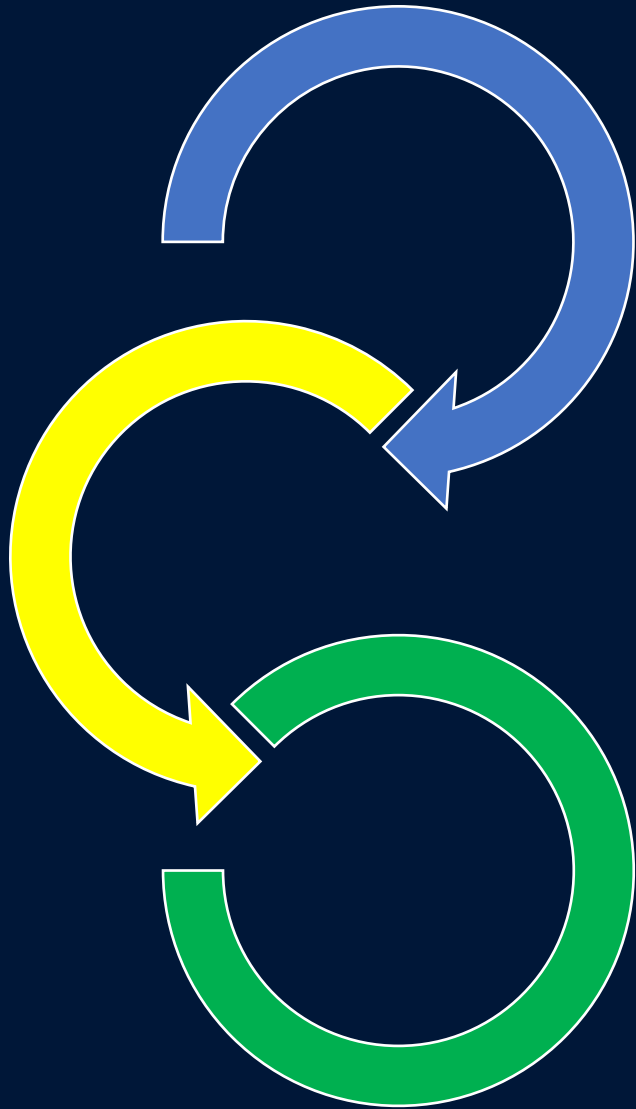
- In the content of EIBM, Frontex shall establish a **Technical and Operational Strategy (TOS)** for the implementation of the EIBM
- The purpose of TOS is to **operationalise EIBM** in a comprehensive manner at EU and national level
- TOS is designed to ensure a long term efficiency of the EBCG as a multilevel entity
- This enables coping with a rapidly shifting/evolving environment across the EU and a even more dynamic situation at EU's the external border



The TOS Legal and Policy Framework

1. Establishes common vision, mission and values of EBCG
2. Summarises the strategic context for the operationalisation of the EIBM at the internal-external nexus
3. Describes how the implementation of the TOS should be governed at European level
4. Operationalises the level of ambition for EIBM, set by the Commission and Council, through strategic objectives and specific objectives, which are to be implemented at European and national level
5. Proposes, on the basis of those objectives, a series of technical and operational actions and activities along with their respective expected added value, guiding the implementation of EIBM at European or national level

The 3 Pillars/Objectives of TOA in the Context of EIBM



Reduced Vulnerability of the External Borders based on Comprehensive Situational Awareness

Safe, Secure and Well-Functioning EU External Borders

Sustained European Border and Coast Guard Capabilities



- ✓ Effective management of the EU's external borders is of strategic importance for the Union and in particular for the functioning of the Schengen area
- ✓ Well-functioning external borders, enables the EU to prosper with the rest of the world, while protecting and securing the European area of free movement from existing and future emerging situations/problems and challenges at its external borders
- ✓ At the core of this effort, Frontex, has been assigned the task of implementing the EIBM with the joint responsibility of the Agency and the national authorities, responsible to perform border controls and border management in general at national level
- ✓ EU Member States shall ensure the management of their external borders in their own interest as well as in the interest of all Member States, in accordance with Union's legal framework
- ✓ Frontex is obliged to support the EIBM implementation by strengthening, evaluating and coordinating all stakeholders relevant actions

- ✓ The successful operation of the European Border and Coast Guard is based on a perfect system of coordination, communication and planning, between national and European
- ✓ A key objective is to develop a system of flexible and integrated use of information, harmonise the use of capabilities and create interoperable systems and tools at EU and national level
- ✓ Frontex in cooperation with Member States leads the process of harmonisation, integration and development of best practices in the field of IBM
- ✓ Fundamental objective of this strategy is to strengthen border management capabilities under a single and common European roof and vision

Thank you for your attention...

