

## **EU ROLLS OUT PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE MARITIME SECURITY**

The European Union through the EU CRIMARIO (Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean) project rolled out its first phase of training in Kenya on maritime data visualization in February 2018. The project is part of its advocacy for regional cooperation and interagency coordination in the control of crimes and incidents at sea. The training drew participation of 17 participants from Kenya and Madagascar and aims to build capacity of specialized staff of state and military agencies in maritime data visualization in order to enhance maritime security in the region.

The Kenyan delegates who benefited from the training were officers from the main agencies involved in the surveillance of maritime domain which included the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), Kenya Ports Authority (KPA), the Kenya Navy, the Kenya Police and the Kenya Wildlife Services. The Participants learned how to mine data provided by Automatic Identification System (AIS) sources and use specified applications for viewing and editing data. An AIS is an automatic tracking system used on ships and by vessel traffic services for identifying and locating vessels by electronically exchanging data with other nearby ships, AIS base stations and satellites.

The EU- CRIMARIO project aims to strengthen maritime safety and security in the wider Indian Ocean region by supporting coastal countries in enhancing Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA). In Kenya, the EU- CRIMARIO collaborates closely with the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA), which is the national focal point of the project. It has established a training program on maritime data analysis and the Training of Trainers. The CRIMARIO project is also working with KMA to strengthen the Automatic Identification System (AIS) national network as well as install an AIS regional server.

