

### East Mediterranean



### Central Mediterranean



### West Mediterranean



### West Africa



#### Legend

**Routes**

- Minor connecting land routes
- Connecting land routes
- Major connecting land routes
- Maritime routes
- Major maritime routes
- Exploited ferry lines
- Major air routes

**CHN** Main Asian countries of origin using air migration routes (ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 country code)

**CIV** Country code (ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 code)

**MTM Partner States**

**ECOWAS** (Areas of free movement of persons)

**SCHENGEN** (Areas of free movement of persons)

★ Capitals

● Main migration hubs

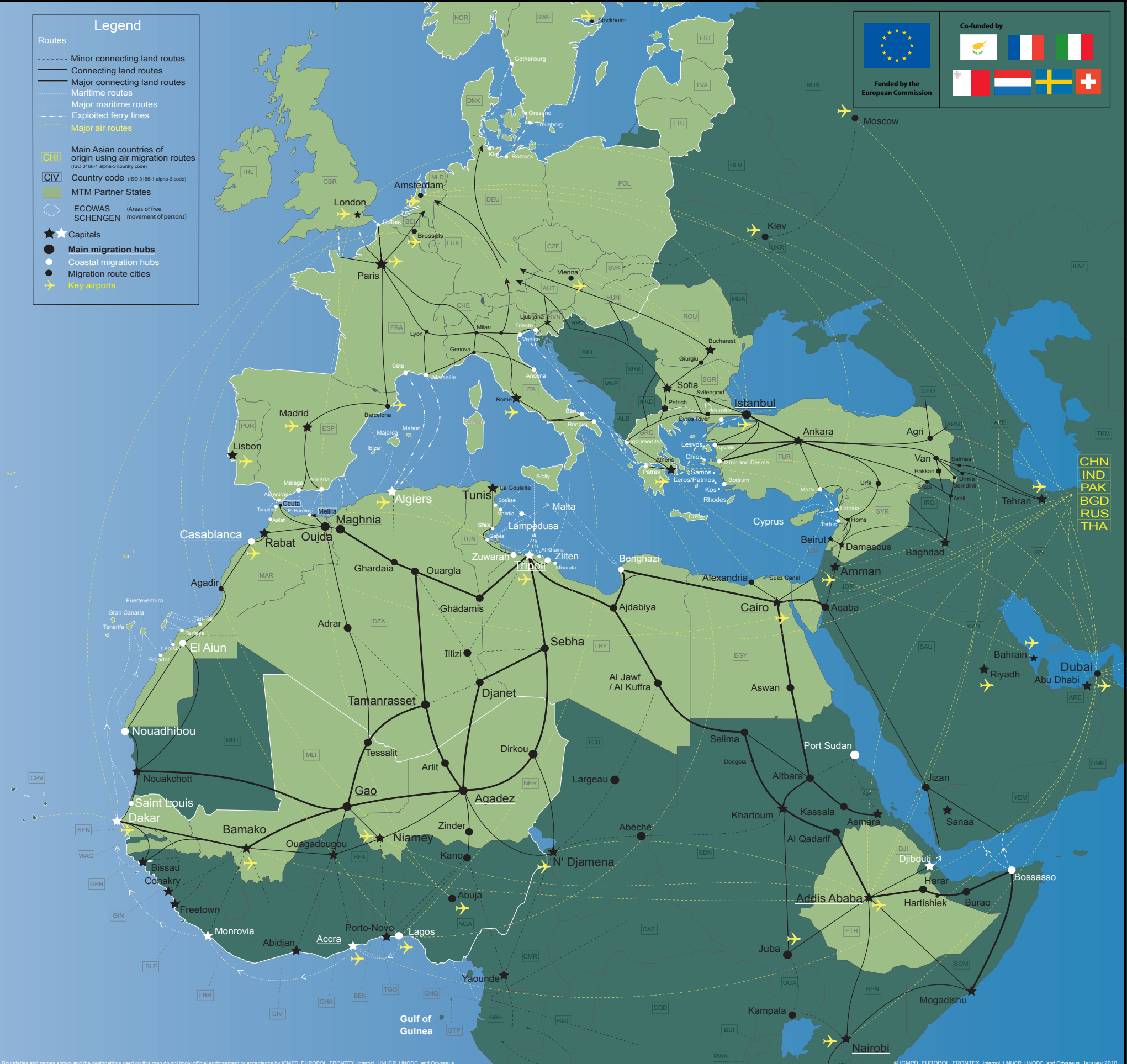
○ Coastal migration hubs

● Migration route cities

✈ Key airports

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The MTM Map on Irregular and Mixed Migration Flows is an output of the intergovernmental information exchange project Interactive Map on Irregular Migration Routes and Flows in Africa, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean Region (i-Map), implemented in the framework of the Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM), gathering officials from Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, 27 EU Member States, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Norway, Senegal, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

Project: Interactive Map on Irregular Migration Routes and Flows in Africa, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean Region (i-Map)	
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Thematic focus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irregular and mixed migration (main focus of current project)</li> <li>Migration and development (under development)</li> </ul>

Irregular migration movements towards the Mediterranean region and Europe originate in various regions of the world, including sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Asia. The specific **geographic focus** of the MTM i-Map project and of this map lies on irregular and mixed migration movements from sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East towards the Mediterranean region and Europe.

The map is a model, visualising key irregular migration routes. Routes are characterised by key migration hubs and known points of irregular border crossing, including land, sea, and airport borders.

Five major routes can be distinguished:

- The **West Africa route**, originating in West Africa, passing Mauritania, Morocco or Senegal, aiming for the Canary Islands
- The **West Mediterranean route**, originating in West Africa, heading northwards to the Maghreb and subsequently mainland Spain
- The **Central Mediterranean route**, originating in West Africa, transiting through Mali and/or Niger towards Libya, and crossing the Mediterranean Sea towards Italy or Malta
- The **East Africa route**, originating in the Horn of Africa, with two main branches. The first branch crosses the Gulf of Aden to Yemen and heads north-eastwards towards the Gulf or Middle East. The second branch heads northwards through the Sudan and leading to (i) an eastward extension to Egypt and east towards Israel, alternatively to Jordan, connecting to the East Mediterranean route, and (ii) a westward extension towards Libya, connecting with the Central Mediterranean route
- The **East Mediterranean route**, transiting the Middle East, heads towards the Mediterranean region (i) through Syria or Lebanon towards Cyprus; or (ii) through Turkey either to Cyprus, Greece, or Bulgaria

Irregular migration routes are not independent of each other. Developments influencing single routes, such as regional law enforcement cooperation, influence the relative attractiveness of other routes and thus lead to shifting of flows.

The migration routes and flows are of concern to all countries in the covered region. The geographic extension of each single route does not imply that persons making use of the route travel its full length. Origin countries may differ, destination countries may lie along the route, and persons may remain in transit countries for extensive periods of time, inter alia due to a lack of possibilities for irregular border crossings preventing further movement. Thus, the "status" of countries evolves with the flows and varies from countries of origin, transit or destination, or any combination of the three. Movements along the routes may occur by land, sea, or air travel, or a combination thereof. Both public transport and private means of transport are utilised. Particularly with regards to irregular border crossings, irregular migrants make use of facilitating services of individuals or organised crime groups. The flows are characterised by a mixed composition including, inter alia, refugees, persons in need of other forms of protection, economic migrants, and victims of trafficking. Management of mixed migration requires specific measures addressing each category, thus increasing the challenges to migration management systems and increasing their complexity.