



Deployment Report 2023
MARE*GO,
LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND and
GREEN

Licata, Italy * 10th December 2023





Prehistory

October 2022 to December 2022

At the end of October 2022, the association Mare Liberum e.V. announced that they would be discontinuing their work and wanted to hand over the sea rescue ship **MARE LIBERUM** to a good organization.

At the beginning of November, we traveled to Lesbos and looked at the ship, then wrote a usage concept. On 26.11.2022 we received the promise to take over the ship **MARE LIBERUM**.

One month later, on 28.12.2022, we bought the ship, which was now called **MARE*GO**, for a symbolic euro. On one hand, the name is a reminder of the Mare Liberum association and its great work for civil sea rescue. On the other hand, the GO is welded onto the hull and represents the old fishing identifier. For a ship that was built in 1917, there is so much history that deserves to be honored.



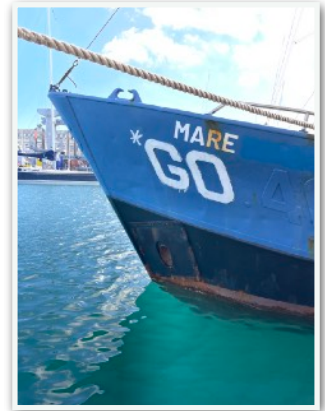
1. Preparation and crossing to Malta

January 2023

The year began travelling with **MARE*GO** to Malta, which has been owned by **Zusammenland gUG** since December 2022.

Removing her from her original berth on Lesbos and sailing from port to

port in Greece was a feat of strength. The preparations in particular were a challenge, as the ship had not been moved for some time and we had to deal intensively with the engines and technology. After two weeks on Lesbos, nothing stood in the way of a safe crossing and a crew of five made the way to Malta.



2. Shipyard time

February to Mai 2023

In February 2023, we started the shipyard time in Malta. The **MARE*GO** was put into dry dock and within three months all the rust removal and steel work was completed by a dedicated and resilient team. This team worked exclusively on a voluntary basis and we can express our gratitude to 30 people.



The restoration was followed by the conservation work. The ship shone in a beautiful yellow paint and a first visit from the CE surveyor took place in the dry dock. He gave us a really good outlook, a manageable and achievable list of tasks that still needed to be completed. Immediately after the **MARE*GO** was put back in the water, a successful stability test was done. The CE surveyor estimated the stability of the **MARE*GO** at 117 people plus crew.





RIBs LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND and GREEN

At the same time, we bought the largest RIB in the civil fleet for **Civilfleet Support e.V.**: **LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND**: 9.40 m long, with plenty of space and excellent handling, this RIB is more of a ship than a RIB. We repaired,



converted and agreed a contract of use for the newly created Mare Go gUG. This company also became owner of the **MARE*GO** in April. We organized the transport of the RIB **GREEN** from Brandenburg to Malta, again with the help of dedicated supporters. We also signed a contract of use for the "small" RIB **GREEN** (5.20 m) and took it on board the MARE*GO. This completed our operational unit. **GREEN** was still in private hands at the time and was made available to us on permanent loan.



3. Operations of the MARE*GO May to November 2023

In the meantime, the situation in the central Mediterranean changed very quickly, the fascist government in Rome developed new tactics to prevent the civil fleet from rescuing people and the opening of the Tunisian corridor led to high numbers of landings on Lampedusa.



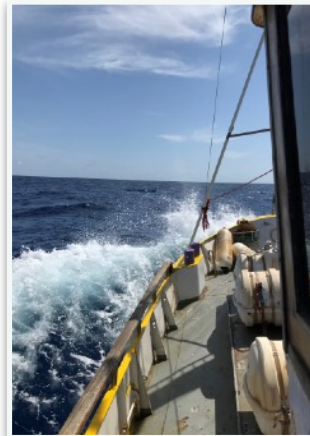
As a result, we decided to postpone the final work, move to Licata and make the necessary preparations with the first operational crew. At the end of May 2023, we began developing standard procedures, operational scenarios and worst-case situations. This work also benefited later crews and made a safe operation possible for crew and refugees.



1st deployment end of May - mid-June



At the end of our first deployment, we were arrested on Lampedusa: 20 days and a fine of €3,333. The reason: we had sailed to Lampedusa and not to Trapani, 30 hours away. The people we had to take on board were already seasick on their boat and in a very critical state of health. We could no longer ensure their physical and psychological integrity and human dignity and saw it as our humanitarian duty to guarantee them safety on land without any further detours or routes. We followed international maritime law, which weighs more than a decree by a fascist government.



Detention in June 2023

The detention of ships from the civil fleet would later prove to be a situation that affected many organizations and almost became the norm. The fine of the **MARE*GO** was financed by **Civalfleet Support e.V.** After very

fruitful discussions with the Sea Watch Legal Aid Team and other supporters, we decided not to take legal action against the imposed fine. This step was not easy for us either, but we wanted to focus our limited capacities on the following deployments and the organization of the ship.

Further deployments in 2023

June to November 2023

The second deployment followed directly after the end of the arrest, which was an important signal for us to send.

The **AURORA SAR** crew was released from Sea-Watch e.V. and thanks to a private appeal for donations by the band **Feine Sahne Fischfilet**, which received a lot of media attention, we had the budget to finance this and further deployments.



Thanks to our friends from **SARRelief**, we came into contact with the **Choose Love Foundation** between the deployments. With their donation, they ensured that we were finally able to buy the RIB **GREEN** from private ownership. After a meeting at a later date, it became clear that we wanted to stay in contact so that together we could get forces and materials to where refugees need them.

The third, fourth and fifth deployments and repairs were largely financed by **United4-Rescue**. Even though only the budget for one was requested, we were able to carry out



three deployments for the grant thanks to high efficiency, good management and the avoidance of damage.

Unfortunately, the October deployment had to be canceled. This was a major setback, as the planning reliability

had been excellent up to that point. We are still working out what we should have optimi-



zed and what we will do differently in the future so that no more deployments have to be terminated. However, this resulted in outstanding cooperation with **SY Dakini** and her captain Sampo Widmann, who acts additional to our tactical unit.

The last deployment of the year went according to plan, but the weather conditions meant that the crew had to sail back to Lica-ta at the end of the deployment without a rescue.

Conclusion

November 2023



At the end of last deployment, we can look back on a chaotic season in the Tunisian corridor. One that we faced with strength, reliability and great, committed people. According to our ideal intentions, we do not count any refugees. We are grateful for every person who was accompanied by the **MARE*GO** on the journey across the central Mediterranean.

To tackle the outstanding work to obtain the CE certificate, we started the winter shipyard in November 2023.





The RIB **LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND** has done a great job, but has also been put under a lot of strain by the ironboats and is therefore getting new tubes. We are building a new crane for the RIB Green to make launching easier and more effective. This will prepare us for 2024 so that we can be back where we are needed.

With our supporters United4Rescue, Choose Love, CivilFleetSupport, Run for Rescue and **lots of activists, friends and supporters!**

Fotocredits

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- * Sebastian Beierle
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