



In a long career serving at sea and shore-based operation centres in the Spanish Navy, Mr. Diego Canovas-Canovas has built a robust and wide expertise in port and maritime security, with a unique knowledge of the relations between international navies and the maritime industry and maritime crime, in particular in relation to piracy and drug trafficking issues.

A solid education background (MSc and seven years in a PhD program) has provided Mr Canovas-Canovas the skills and capacity to participate in sound research projects, like EU study on security in the ports of Guayaquil, focused on drug trafficking.

His service in the NATO Shipping Center sparked off his contribution to maritime security and his familiarity with the Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Guinea and the Mediterranean Sea, first, and then globally.

Diego was part of the key nucleus team for the transfer of OHQ ATALANTA from Northwood (UK) to Rota (Spain).

His work in CSDP Operation ATALANTA as JOC COORD and Shipping Advisor, and EU Projects (CRIMARIO, SECPORT, and closely cooperating with MASE) provides him with familiarity with EU approach to maritime security.

Diego is qualified in international standards (ISO 2800, ISO 45001, etc.) and is an IMO qualified Port Facility Security Officer, and Auditor, by Ports of State in Spain (MOT).

Diego has now re-joined Operation ATALANTA as Shipping Advisor.