The operations, according to the research, were successful in the sense that they did not result in casualties, but they also added to the number of migrants and refugees on the move, and the longer and more dangerous the journeys become, the more vulnerable they are to exploitation and abuse.

More than 886,000 migrants and refugees have arrived in Europe so far this year, with the number of arrivals in October alone, at least 90,000, according to IOM and UNICEF. In September, the organization said that 80,000 migrants had died or disappeared during their journey, and the number of deaths so far this year, the 589 deaths so far this year, according to IOM and UNICEF. "It's a big drop," he said, but added that the figures are still very high.

He said the slow-down last month was linked to "document attempts to apply for asylum in Argus but also a crackdown on migrant smuggling and other illegal activities.

European Union migrant and refugee numbers have been particularly challenging for some northern European countries, which have experienced a major influx of people trying to get to the UK or Germany, where there is a stronger legal infrastructure.

The European Commission has warned that the situation could become "critical" if the number of migrants continues to rise, and has called on member states to take immediate action to reduce the flow of people into the EU.

"Lampedusa is of exceptional importance, we are all delighted that our political will has been so evident," said EU Commissioner Johannes Hahn, ahead of a summit in Brussels on Wednesday to discuss the migrant crisis.

"It is a big step forward," he added, noting that the deal reached in Brussels on Tuesday means that the EU will work together to address the crisis, which has seen hundreds of thousands of people trying to reach European shores.

"We have made a significant move," said Hahn, adding that the EU will now focus on finding solutions to the root causes of the crisis, such as poverty and instability in countries of origin.

However, the commission acknowledged that there is still much work to be done, and that the situation remains "challenging and complex."