



European Union Network for  
the Implementation and Enforcement  
of Environmental Law

# IMPEL Annual Report

## 2023



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# **Contents**

- 1. Introduction from the Chair of the network**
- 2. General Overview and introduction to IMPEL**
- 3. Key figures**
- 4. Main activities in 2023**
  - a. Network activities**
  - b. Project activities**

A word cloud visualization of terms related to environmental implementation. The words are arranged in a roughly circular shape, with the most prominent words in the center and smaller words towards the edges. The colors of the words are primarily purple, yellow, and orange. The words include:

- enforcement
- participation
- networks
- insights
- support
- challenges
- national
- projects
- tools
- use
- ensure
- dissemination
- develop
- across
- priority
- sharing
- communication
- peer
- practical
- priorities
- work
- good
- key
- new
- law
- areas
- ensuring
- information
- within
- approaches
- member
- expert
- knowledge
- activities
- project
- network
- help
- guidance
- improve
- programme
- environmental
- implementation
- impel
- authorities

## I. Introduction from the Chair of the Network – Ana Garcia

I am honored to have been the Chair of the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) from 2022-2023, on behalf of Portugal, together with Vice-Chairs Bojan Počkar (Slovenia), Kristina Rabe (Germany), and Jean Luc Perrin (France). During this period, a major number of environmental authorities provided the time of their experts to IMPEL work, namely Expert Team Leaders, Project Managers and Practitioners. Under IMPEL Multiannual Strategic Plan for 2022-2027, with full support from the European Commission, and under the signed Framework Partnership Agreement 2022-2027, many projects were implemented in 2022-2024, with a wide range of events, activities, which the main results and outputs are reflected to the public in IMPEL Website, and with specific forum and exchange of information through other tools, namely IMPEL basecamp.



The IMPEL network covers a wide range of topics from five thematic areas, Water and Land, Waste and Transfrontier Shipment of Waste, Nature, Industry and Air and Cross Cutting tools and Approaches. It continues to work to improve communication, dissemination and use of the outputs of these activities so they can be used not just by members of the network but be available for everyone that can be interested to use it, in different languages in European Union, working on capacity building and enhancement of tools, namely IMPEL website.

The network strives to make progress to support its Members, authorities, and practitioners on a more effective application of environmental legislation, and the cooperation between the 4 Networks, IMPEL, ENPE, EUFJE and EnviCrimeNet was always a priority, with a focus on our joint work on the new Environmental Crime Directive and the organisation of the 4 Networks Conference in September 2023.

Most of IMPEL's activities are carried out through projects and meetings in countries around Europe. IMPEL welcomed Ukraine and Montenegro as new Member Countries in 2023, and supported country capacity building events, events to promote exchange of knowledge and experience, and activities to foster cooperation between authorities involved in the implementation of national legislation, at European and national level.

IMPEL, with major contributions from its secretariat, continued to work on improvement of organisational procedures, including on travelling. It is essential that all member countries have the possibility to participate in and host meeting, to enhance cooperation, but as an environmental network we are very keen to reduce our own negative impacts on the climate by, where possible:

- more widespread use of new technologies ensuring that in person events like meetings/conferences/workshops can also have online participation

- preference of back-to-back meetings and more use of online meetings
- less use of planes for travel and incentivizing of train travel
- selection of easy-to-reach, environmentally friendly meeting locations and facilities for major events

The present IMPEL Board took the great initiative of drafting and presenting an annual report to establish a baseline for IMPEL activities from which the network can improve and ensure is transparent and accountable for its activities. So as a first step they have put together this annual report, the first of its kind for the network, to better explain our activities and outputs in 2023.

Ana Garcia, IMPEL Chair 2022-2023

## II. General Overview and Introduction to IMPEL

IMPEL is one of the most well-established environmental networks in the EU. An informal network was established in 1992 and the network was established as a legal entity in 2008 when it was registered in Belgium as an AISBL. The governance arrangements of IMPEL are set out under its Statutes and clarified in a set of internal rules.

IMPEL welcomed two new countries to the network in 2023, the Environmental Inspectorate of Ukraine and the Environment Agency of Montenegro. One new member authority also joined IMPEL in 2023, the Commissariat for Waste of Italy. This took IMPEL to 59 member authorities from 38 countries.

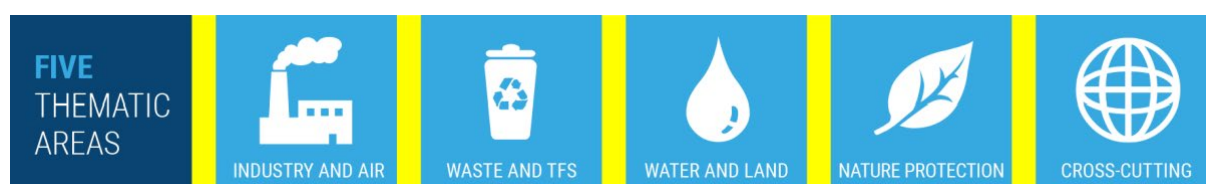
The overarching objective of the IMPEL association is to create the necessary impetus in the European Union and beyond, to make progress on ensuring a more effective application and implementation of environmental legislation. IMPEL promotes the exchange of information, experience and best practice as well as the development of environmental regulation strategies and tools, with special emphasis on the EU environmental acquis.

The IMPEL network is supported by several key groups:

1. The General Assembly decides on the strategic direction and work priorities for IMPEL's programme. The General Assembly is IMPEL's highest decision-making forum and is made up of representatives of all IMPEL member countries
2. The Board, drafting the main strategic lines and for managing IMPEL's resources to reflect the priorities set out;
3. The Programme Steering Committee, for bringing together and proposing an integrated annual work programme that reflects these priorities;
4. The Audit and Evaluation Committee, for ensuring new project and action proposals have IMPEL core aims at their heart;
5. The Recruitment Committee, in supporting more active membership.
6. The Expert Teams, for developing and proposing projects in line with our strategic priorities.
7. The Secretariat which carries out operational activities for the network.

IMPEL projects tackle different aspects of implementation and enforcement of environmental regulation in Europe, using the expertise and experience of environmental authorities' experts as uniquely qualified to ask the right questions and find practical answers to current implementation challenges.

IMPEL carries out its activities within the framework of a [Multi Annual Strategic Programme](#) (MASP). The MASP's purpose is to give strategic direction and to set priorities for IMPEL's work during 5-year periods, reflecting the needs of IMPEL's member organisations and key implementation challenges. It helps to guide decisions on how IMPEL's resources will be invested in specific projects and activities. It is shaped by European Union's (EU) "Green Deal" with an ambitious "zero pollution" aim and the Climate and Biodiversity emergencies.



The bedrock of IMPEL activities are the projects. Projects are managed by the Expert Teams and the activities relate to the monitoring and control of industrial emissions, cross cutting issues, nature protection, water and land protection, waste and trans-frontier shipments of waste (TFS). The Work Programme (WP) of 2022-2024 consisted of 8 umbrella projects on these themes. Part of the project funding was intended for support of the organisation of IMPEL projects (e.g. technical facilitation, consultants and catering) and part for travel and accommodation of the project participants (usually experts from IMPEL's members).

IMPEL's activities shall be organised in a way that ensures professional and efficient financial administration, enables well-founded, transparent cost-benefit evaluation and reduces negative impacts on climate emissions. For this, the necessary professional knowledge will be provided by the Secretariat and from members of the network and if necessary, as a last resort, through external support/contracting. Reformed internal procedures will ensure the necessary monitoring of IMPEL activities.

As our work programme covers 2022-2024 and this annual report covers only 2023, some of the activities may not have been fully completed or will still be ongoing at the time of writing.

### III. Key figures

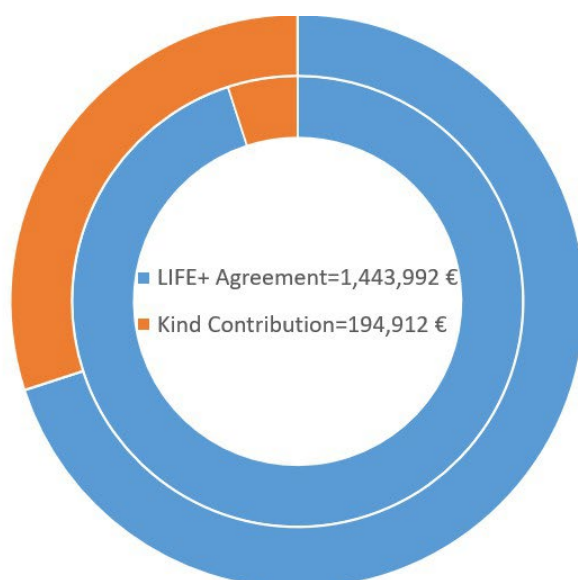
#### Funding in 2023

IMPEL is funded through a combination of grant funding from the European Commission and membership fees and contributions. This covers funding for operational activities (the running of the network, secretariat, IT systems etc) and also for actions (the projects). A framework partnership agreement was signed between IMPEL and the European Commission, covering 2022-2027 and technical reports are provided on these operations and actions

The total budget in 2023:

Specific Operating Grant - 451.869 € of which 70 % was provided in funding from the LIFE+ agreement, 30 % by IMPEL by in-kind contribution (members time) and membership fees.

Specific Action Grant – 1.187.035 € of which 95 % is provided in funding from the LIFE+ agreement ([https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en)) and 5 % by IMPEL, split by in-kind contribution and through membership fees.



SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL GRANT	1,143,992 €
SPECIFIC ACTION GRANT	451,869 €
TOTAL	1,638,904 €



### **Project activities in 2023**

71 Events in 2023 in person and online

1561 Bookings on our travel booking system

1250 users of our internal communication platform

82.54%flights vs 17.46%trains\*

Total CO2 emissions in 2023 520.42 tonnes

*\*Note – these figures come from bookings made on our travel booking platform. Some travel may be booked outside this system so the actual figures may vary.*

### **Personnel**

One Chair, one Vice Chair Projects and One Vice Chair Administration and Finance make up the Board (all volunteers).

10 Expert Team and Deputy Expert Team leaders also participate in the Programme Steering Committee and may also join the Board along with a representative from the member country holding the EU presidency. (All volunteers)

All projects have at least one Project Manager from an IMPEL member authority.

Seven part time service providers make up the Secretariat supporting networking activities.

## IV. Main activities in 2023

### A. Network Activities

#### General Assemblies

The General Assembly (GA) is the supreme body and the highest authority of the Association. It is constituted by the National Coordinators of all IMPEL Members, who exercise the members right to vote.

#### *Madrid November 2023 (Virtual)*

On 29-30 November, the IMPEL General Assembly (GA) elected a new Chair and two new Vice Chairs for a two year period, starting in 2024.

The GA elected Marco Falconi from Italy as the new Chair of the Network. Florije Kqiku from Kosovo was elected as Vice Chair Administration and Finance and Rob Kramers was elected as Vice Chair for projects. Marco said: *“I am very honoured to be elected IMPEL Chair. Our objective is to expand upon the achievements of recent years and confront novel challenges, fostering the sharing of experiences among all practitioners within IMPEL, and cooperating with the EC and our partner networks (ENPE, EUFJE, ENVICRIMENET). I am confident that our network will excel in promoting environmental compliance in Europe in the upcoming years.”*

The GA took place online and also approved changes in Expert Team (ET) leadership:

- ET Industry and Air – New Deputy Team leader - Paula Vehmaanperä from Finland
- ET Nature – Renewal of ET leader, Alfred Dreijer and Deputy, Cristian Trupina
- ET Waste and TFS – New Expert Team Leader for 2024-25: Bojan Počkar, New Deputy for 2024: Helge Ziolkowski and New Deputy for 2025: Huib Van Westen

IMPEL would like to thank the former Chair Ana Garcia and Vice Chairs Jean-Luc Perrin and Bojan Počkar for their hard work and dedication over the last two years and also thank the other nominated volunteers for coming forward.

At the GA, six completed projects were approved and the final reports have been uploaded on the IMPEL website. The reports are:

- [Final report - Integrated Risk Assessment Method II \(IRAM II\)](#)
- Final Report - Non Routine Inspections
- [Final report - Lessons Learnt from Industrial Accidents](#)
- [The final report, guideline and mini conference report for Trend Reversal in Groundwater Pollution](#)
- [Final Report - Management of Mining Waste](#)
- [Final Report - IMPEL Mini Conference on Compliance Assurance 2022](#)

The Environment Agency of Montenegro was welcomed as a new member of the network. There was also a useful session on external engagement, with updates on policy developments from the European Commission as well as updates from our partner networks, EUFJE, ENPE, EnviCrimeNet and the EPA Network.

#### *Stockholm June 2023 (Physical)*

The 25th IMPEL General Assembly (GA) took place in Stockholm on 8-9 June. The Network welcomed 10 new National Coordinators who are the focal points for the Network in each country as well as two members of the secretariat, for whom this was their first GA.

Paul Speight from DG Environment gave an overview of the key policy developments at the European level and the GA was updated on the activities of the Board, which included recent incentivising visits to Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia.

The Network was very pleased to approve a new member of IMPEL, from the Italian Commission for illegal landfills. They are the second new member this year after the State Environmental Inspectorate from Ukraine was agreed earlier this year in a written procedure.

- The GA was updated on the activities of the five Expert Teams and 10 completed projects were approved and project reports are available on the website with the below links. [IMPEL Waste and TFS Conference Malta 2022](#)
- [TIGDA Survey Report](#)
- [Europe MTT - Monitoring large marine vertebrates along fixed transects from ferries and cargo vessels: data validation, format and storage & database interoperability](#)
- [Water and Land Conference Final Report](#)
- [IRI Iceland Final Report](#)
- [NPRI Project Report](#)
- [CAED Practical Guide](#)
- [Reach Regulation and Circular Economy](#)
- [End of life ships – Guidance for relevant stakeholders on the EU's Ship Recycling Regulation and Waste Shipment Regulation](#)
- [Water and Land Remediation Soil Washing Report](#)

6 new projects were also approved, that should be completed in the 2023-24 work programme. Further information on these projects will continue to be published on the website.

- Waste recycling Risk Based Inspection Plan
- [Where have the wolves gone?](#)
- [Joint of Networks for Wild Fungi \(JoNeF\)](#)
- [Geospatial Intelligence for Environmental Damage Assessment \(GIEDA\) – TBC](#)
- [Knowledge and Information Programme](#)
- Enforcement Actions

There was also a discussion on the activities of the Knowledge and Information Programme (KIP) and how this will support project teams in development of their outputs and deliverables, work on dedicated project pages on the website and help developing training programmes.

Updates were given on the three external projects that IMPEL is currently involved in, [SWEAP](#), SRSS Malta and PROWhiBIT.

## The fight against environmental crime

### *Four Networks Conference – Rome, September 2023*

The Four Networks, **IMPEL** - European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law, **EUFJE** - The European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment, **ENPE** - European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment, and **EnviCrimeNet**, joined together to organise a conference on 26-28 September 2023. Over 400 participants from over 45 countries were brought together in person and online for this event.

In this conference the networks aimed to improve their collaboration and the alignment of their enforcement activities. Addressing the main drivers behind the rise of environmental crime – high profit, low detection rates and low risk of punishment. To be more successful there needs to be a greater focus on prevention rather than reaction, and legislation, regulation and resources must promote, ensure and support the actions to increase probability of detecting and successfully prosecuting illicit actions.

The final statement from the conference focusses on 5 key topics that the networks consider critical in tackling environmental crimes, namely:

- new techniques to prevent and detect environmental offences
- the need for administrative and criminal law enforcement to complement each other.
- making environmental crime unprofitable.
- assessing, remediating and compensating for the damage incurred.
- measuring enforcement results.

<https://www.impel.eu/en/projects/4-networks-conference>

### *Position paper and follow up*

At the end of 2022 the 4 networks released a position paper to highlight joint efforts to fight environmental crime, congratulate and welcome European Union authorities and institutions for all the work that led to the proposal for a new Environmental Crime Directive (ECD).

In this [position paper](#) the networks outline important improvements in the new proposal and some areas for improvement.

IMPEL participates in the European Commission's Environmental Compliance and Governance forum. The Forum is composed of representatives of Member States and representatives of European networks of compliance assurance practitioners and authorities.

The Chair of IMPEL, Ms Ana Garcia participated in a workshop in Plitvice National Park, Croatia in November 2023 with a focus on strengthening the fight against crimes that affect the environment in Southeast Europe. The event was organized by the French Embassy in Croatia & Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia. She took part in a panel of international organizations and networks to discuss joint activities to fight environmental crime.

### External engagement

The IMPEL Board carries out a number of external engagement activities to help improve coordination and cooperation on key environmental challenges in Europe. Meetings were held with management and experts from IMPEL authorities in Kosovo, North Macedonia, Albania, Sweden, Ukraine and Montenegro. IMPEL was represented and presented at international events, including at the European Commission and the European Parliament.

IMPEL held an open day online in 2023 with a public presentation of ongoing work, the work carried out by the five Expert Teams and the IMPEL 2022-2024 Work Programme. This event was incredibly well supported with close to 500 registrations.

## B. Project Activities

IMPEL organizes its work into five thematic areas:

1. Industry and air
2. Waste and TFS
3. Water and land
4. Nature protection
5. Cross-cutting tools and approaches

The Expert Teams are responsible for developing activities that address key implementation gaps and overseeing the delivery of those activities and the quality of their outputs.

### 1. Industry and Air

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#### *Objectives*

Expert Team 'Industry and Air' mainly focuses on the practical implementation and enforcement of Industry related pieces of legislation. In this area the key Directive is the Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU (IED). Beside that the Air Quality Directive is of special interest for the Expert Team because of its close connection to the air emissions. Another piece of legislation concerns the Seveso Directive on the control of major industrial accidents. The fundamental direction of the Expert Team activities is to improve compliance with the IED across Europe and to reduce harmful emissions of pollutants to air, land and water, improve efficiency in the use of resources and reduce amounts of waste.

#### *Results*

**I&A-1) Supporting IED Implementation Project:** The fundamental goal of the project is to improve compliance with the IED across Europe and to reduce harmful emissions of pollutants to air, land and water, improve efficiency in the use of resources and reduce amounts of waste. The project has 10 working groups:

#### **WG1 Risk assessment and Planning IRAM II**

IRAM II tool has been developed in this project as a follow up of IRAM I (Integrated Risk Assessment Method), IRAM I is focused on the frequency of the site visits for environmental

inspections. The IRAM II tool checks on how much time will be needed for a site visit and on which environmental aspect. In order to make the best use of personnel, it is important to know not only how often a certain installation needs to be visited and how much time is needed for this site visit, but also which environmental aspects need to be inspected in more detail and which need to be inspected in less detail. This can be achieved by combining IRAM I and IRAM II.

[The project report](#) is available on IMPEL website.

## **WG2 Prevention and inspection**

Joint Inspection team (Pulp and Paper, in Sweden) shared their findings with interested experts by organising a webinar.

It was very interesting to discuss differences and similarities in national approaches for inspection and supervision. Some of the major findings were:

- Self-monitoring in SE and FI (supervision authority do not conduct measurements) vs own measurements when necessary to control in NL
- Company blindness – good to rotate
- Scope of inspection – differences e.g. NL: safety issues connected to chemicals included, SE and FI only env issues
- Reporting to supervisory authority: annual environmental reports + emissions to air and water on monthly basis in SE and FI, NL only E-PRTR report
- Notifications to supervisory authority – NL: operator reports much sooner than in SE and FI (same law = as soon as possible, different practice)
- OTNOC – FI and NL: can be regulated in permit, difficult assessments, differences in when OTNOC reports (e.g. regulation in permit)
- Good IT systems for supervision is an important tool

The working group revised the Joint Inspection Guideline after the joint inspection in Sweden. *A copy of the Pulp and Paper Joint Inspection (Sweden) presentation, Irish Data Collection System presentation and Joint Inspection Guideline can be obtained by contacting the [IMPEL Secretariat](#).*

## **WG3 IED and the circular economy**

The project team is developing Guidance for permit writer and inspectors on how to make IED permits more 'circular'. The guidance aims at helping regulators at adjust IED permits to Green Deal.

## **WG4 Public nuisance issues**

The joint Inspection team (Pulp and Paper, in Finland) shared their findings with interested experts by organising a webinar. During the webinar experts from Finland, Germany and Spain gave presentations and the team shared their finding from the joint inspection.

*A copy of the Pulp and Paper Joint Inspection (Finland) presentation can be obtained by contacting the [IMPEL Secretariat](#).*

#### **WG5 Various aspects of BAT conclusions and permits**

The working group is working on finalizing the reports on best practices on Substantial Changes and the Use of BAT – AEPLs.

#### **WG8 Improving air quality**

The Working Group will produce a survey report on improving air quality and current practices.

#### **WG9 Waste Incineration**

The project Team will draft a report on the survey results.

#### **WG10 Poultry and pigs IRPP BAT**

The project team delivered an action plan for 2023 and will be focusing on analysis and recommendations on article 6(3) Habitat Directive, manure spreading on land, supervision and enforcement of IED farms etc. The action plan is finalized. *A copy of the plan can be obtained by contacting the [IMPEL Secretariat](#).*

**I&A-2) Lessons Learnt from Industrial Accidents project:** The project team collected the abstracts for the seminar and selected the accidents to be presented. The Seminar took place on 23-24/05/2023 in Marseille France.

The aim of the seminar was to continue sharing experience on accidents (explosions, fires, pollution, etc.) concerning both technical aspects and applicable regulations and reinforcing the exchange of experience between Member State inspection bodies, as well as promoting the development of good practices.

During the seminar, inspectors presented selected accidents by giving technical descriptions and the results of the analysis carried out (measures taken, organizational failures, systems or material that failed etc.). They also detailed the lessons learnt from the accidents and their own experience during or following the accident. The Expert Team would like to extend the project to 2024 and organize another seminar in 2024.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Seminar Report can be downloaded here:

<https://www.impel.eu/en/projects/seminar-series-on-lessons-learnt-from-industrial-accidents>



## 2. Waste and Transfrontier Shipments of Waste

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### *Objectives*

The scope of the Waste and TFS Expert Team is on the practical implementation and enforcement of international and European Waste Shipment and Waste Management rules. The aim of the network is to promote compliance with the European Waste Shipment Regulation and Waste Management Directives through enforcement, to carry out joint enforcement projects, to promote exchange of knowledge, best practices and experience with the enforcement of the regulations and directives and to stimulate a uniform enforcement regime. This is done by awareness-raising and capacity-building activities, facilitating inter-agency and cross-border collaboration and operational enforcement activities. Members of the cluster represent environmental authorities, but also customs and police services and other authorities that play a role in the enforcement of the transfrontier shipments and management of waste.

### *Results*

**W&TFS-1) Waste Management and Circular Economy (WMCE) Umbrella Project:** The work of this project was structured into the following subgroups/working groups:

1. Value-retention circular processes
2. REACH & Circular economy
3. IED & Circular economy (Joined with the IED Implementation project)
4. End-of-waste and By-products Database
5. Waste incineration BAT Conclusions (Joined with the IED Implementation project)
6. Training activities
7. Waste-to-energy
8. Plastic legislation
9. Waste Recycling Risk Based Inspection Plan

The final report for WMCE 2021 was submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June 2022.

*A copy of the report can be obtained using this [link](#).*

#### **WG1 Value-Retention circular processes**

Work on Guidance new circular business models and by-products is ongoing.

## **WG2 REACH & Circular economy**

The guidance document for REACH Regulation and Circular Economy was submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June 2023.

*A copy of the report can be obtained using this [link](#).*

## **WG3 IED & Circular Economy (Joined with the IED Implementation project)**

This working group is joined with the Supporting IED Implementation Project. Please see (I) Supporting IED Implementation (WG3) for information.

## **WG4 End-of-waste Database**

Integration of EoW Database to the IMPEL website is ongoing.

## **WG5 Waste incineration BAT Conclusions (Joined with the IED Implementation project)**

This working group is joined with the Supporting IED Implementation Project. Please see (I) Supporting IED Implementation (WG9) for information.

## **WG6 Training activities**

This working group will deliver training materials.

## **[W&TFS-2\) Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Umbrella Project](#)**

### **WG1 Ship Recycling**

The final report for 2021 was submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June 2022.

*A copy of the report can be obtained using this [link](#).*

Guidance for relevant stakeholders on the EU's Ship Recycling Regulation and Waste Shipment Regulation was submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June 2023.

*A copy of the report can be obtained using this [link](#).*

### **WG2 Implementation of Article 17 of the WEEE Directive**

Unofficial translation of national WEEE laws into English is made available for members' internal use only.

### **WG3 Plastic Waste Shipments**

Guide for Inspectors: Enforcing national legislation on plastic waste shipments was submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June 2022.

*A copy of the guide can be obtained using this [link](#).*

The report of Plastic Waste Shipment Webinar 1 is available. *A copy of the report can be obtained by contacting the [IMPEL Secretariat](#).*

### **W&TFS-3) Operational and Strategic Work of IMPEL W&TFS ET**

The operational and strategic structure of the Waste and TFS Expert Team is based on 4 pillars: the Steering Group, the National Contact Points (NCPs), the Expert Team Members and Partners such as international Enforcement Authorities (Network Collaboration). Activities for the period of 2021-2024 are coordinated and steered by the Steering Group. The (remote) meetings are mainly organized back to back and a regular exchange of the 4 pillars is foreseen (joint meetings).

#### **NCPs:**

The results of the survey were presented at the NCP meeting in Malta: Some NCPs are already contributing actively to Waste/TFS projects, and few are willing to be a part of the core team of new projects (no leaders of new projects yet). Some topics for projects were collected (needs to be communicated in the next meeting). A project work plan that helps group members needs to be developed but also it must be realistic in its delivery with respect to resources/staff. Most of the NCPs are willing to exchange case studies, best practices (classification, planning TFS inspections etc.) during the next meetings.

Main tasks and objectives were also introduced to the participants:

1. Inform participants on new developments under Impel Waste/TFS
2. Exchange information, working methods, case studies and experiences
3. A more common understanding and involvement in new IMPEL project proposals - Think tank for new project proposals

*A copy of the meeting report can be obtained by contacting the [IMPEL Secretariat](#).*

#### **Expert Team Meeting (annual conference)**

The final report for 2021 W&TFS Conference was submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June 2022.

*A copy of the report can be obtained using this [link](#).*

Final report for 2022 W&TFS Conference was submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June 2023.

*A copy of the report can be obtained using this [link](#).*

*A copy of the presentations can be obtained by contacting the [IMPEL Secretariat](#).*

### 3. Water and land

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#### *Objectives*

Consciousness of the threat represented by quality and quantity degradation of water resources has increased over the years. As well as problems related to poor management of land and soils. The presence of a number of different administrative and enforcement structures operating in a single thematic area, the need to operate in a defined strategical line set up by framework directives and insufficient evidence, data and information, are reported as major causes for the implementation gap. This consequently can endanger the capability of Water Managers to plan adequate interventions.

In order to deal with these challenges, the Water and Land Expert Team is taking into consideration two approaches:

- a traditional one, from IMPEL's point of view to Environmental protection, based on inspection and promotion; and
- a relatively innovative one, which looks at environmental monitoring as an instrument to support strategic planning required by Framework Directives

The topics of the activity, in this view, will be enforceable duties directly or indirectly related to directives such as the Water Framework Directive, Nitrates Directive, and Marine Strategy directives; in the view of the Soil Health Law also, projects related to water and land remediation of contaminated sites, mining areas management and other soil threats will be promoted.

#### *Results*

##### **WG1 Wastewater in Natural Environment**

Report on good practices to promote the transition to the circular economy in urban and industrial water management: A new water circularity index – Addendum had been finalized in the previous phase of the project and adopted by the General Assembly.

*A copy of the report can obtained by using this [link](#).*

The project team will further work on the application of the circularity index and deliver the final report.

## **WG2 Tackling Illegal Groundwater Drilling and Abstractions (TIGDA)**

[TIGDA Survey Report/2023](#) is available on the IMPEL website.

## **WG3 Trend Reversal in Groundwater Pollution**

The project team delivered the final report, guideline and mini-conference report for Trend Reversal in Groundwater Pollution which can be obtained from [the project page](#) on the IMPEL website.

## **WG4 Europe Marine Transborder Transect**

Report on Monitoring large marine vertebrates along fixed transects from ferries and cargo vessels: data validation, format and storage & database interoperability has been submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June 2023.

A copy of the report can be obtained using this [link](#).

## **WG5 Sustainable Landspreading**

Final report of the previous phase of the project was submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June 2022.

A copy of the report can be obtained using this [link](#).

## **WG6 Management of mining waste**

Project Team has prepared the Final Report Management of Mining Waste and it is available on the website with this [link](#)

## **WG7 Water and Land Remediation**

Water and Land Remediation Conference:

A copy of the presentations can be obtained by contacting the [IMPEL Secretariat](#).

Reports of remediation technologies:

Reports on In Situ Chemical Oxidation (ISCO), Soil Vapour Extraction (SVE) and Multi-Phase Extraction have been submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June and November 2022.

A copy of the reports can be obtained using this [link](#).

Report on Soil Washing was submitted and approved by the General Assembly by written procedure.

A copy of the reports can be obtained using this [link](#).

Translation of Reports on Soil Vapour Extraction and In-Situ Chemical Oxidation:

*Translated Reports on In Situ Chemical Oxidation (ISCO) and Soil Vapour Extraction (SVE) can be obtained using this [link](#).*

### **WG8 Water and Land Conference**

Water and Land Conference 2022 Final Report was submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June 2023. *A copy of the reports and the presentations can be obtained using this [link](#).*

### **WG9 National Peer Review Initiatives (NPRI)**

Report on National Peer Review Initiative Phase 3 (NPRI 3) was submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June 2022.

*A copy of the reports can be obtained using this [link](#).*

Report on National Peer Review Initiative Phase 4 (NPRI 4) was submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June 2023.

*A copy of the reports can be obtained using this [link](#).*

## **4. Nature protection**

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### *Objectives*

Halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity by 2020 is a priority within the European Union. The implementation of EU Nature legislation (the Birds and Habitat Directives and regulation concerning invasive alien species) is essential to achieve the EU 2020 biodiversity target as included in the [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#) for 2030.

However, implementation and enforcement need to be improved. As relatively high number of complaints and infringement procedures related to these nature Directives reach the EC every year, there is a need to strengthen the inspection and enforcement on this item and to do so it is necessary to join forces with other Nature networks in Europe. According to the IMPEL strategy, main areas of interest for nature protection will be covered by the work of the Green Expert Team. This approach has been envisaged as more efficient to deal with new perspectives in European Nature Legislation Implementation: it will permit a focalized approach to nature conservation issues and steady and structured dialogue among nature experts between authorities, other important networks like network of prosecutors, network of judges, NGO's and scientific institutes. The overall objective of the Green Expert Team is to contribute to strengthening the implementation of EU Nature legislation through raise awareness, extend the network of green experts, exchange best practices, strengthen

collaboration with EU network from prosecutors and network from judges, strengthen collaboration and share knowledge with NGO's, improve co-operation between (enforcement) experts and to organise joint inspections. IMPEL is willing to combine the effort of all the networks, NGO's and use its experience in inspection and enforcement to determine projects and activities that add value in the chain of regulation- permit and inspection-enforcement- prosecution- verdict- evaluation of effectiveness of legislation.

## *Results*

### **WG1 Tackling Illegal Activities Connected to Hunting Tourism**

The project team delivered a final report assessing the possibilities to improve inspections on illegal activities connected to hunting tourism, also including joint inspection reports.

The project results can be followed on [the project page](#)

### **WG2 Testing and improving the proposed planning tool for inspections of Natura 2000 sites (NIRAM) and Roadmap for a project series on invasive alien species (IAS)**

At the end of the questionnaire on invasive alien species (IAS), the project team analyzed the results and delivered a roadmap for a project series on IAS.

*The project results can be followed on [the project page](#)*

### **WG3 IMPEL-ESIX 2022-2024**

Integration of IMPEL-ESIX the IMPEL ESIX will be integrated to IMPEL website project team will start feeding information.

### **WG4 EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking**

The project team has developed a reference guide in the previous phases of the project. The guide has been submitted and approved by the General Assembly in December 2021.

*A copy of the guide can be obtained using this [link](#).*

### **WG5 Implementation of the Bird and Habitat Directives at European Aerodromes**

Project team will deliver a report covering the findings of the aerodrome visits and the questionnaire.

*The project results can be followed on the project page*

### **WG6 Where have the wolves gone**

Project team will deliver a conference report and joint inspection reports.

*The project results can be followed on [the project page](#)*

## **WG7 Joint of Networks for Wild Fungi (JoNeF)**

The project team will deliver a guide for the census and monitoring of macrofungi in European habitats and forests.

*The project results can be followed on [the project page](#)*

## **5. Cross Cutting Tools and Approaches**

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### *Objectives*

The X-cutting Expert Team is set-up to support regulatory practitioners who are responsible for the development of systems, processes, procedures and new ways of working. The team is primarily concerned with x-cutting regulatory systems rather than sector-specific ones. The aims of the team are:

- To make regulators more efficient & effective
- Identify and develop overarching tools to support regulators and the implementation of new regulation
- To contribute to the development of capacity within member organizations and of a level playing field within Europe
- To work on the identification and contribution to the solution of specific problems

### *Results*

#### **WG1 IMPEL Review Initiative (IRI)**

IRI Iceland Final Report was approved by the General Assembly in June 2023.

*A copy of these deliverables can be obtained using this [link](#).*

#### **WG2 Financial Provisions**

Project team are working on developing an online tool.

*The project results can be followed on [the project page](#)*

#### **WG3 Criteria for the Assessment of the Environmental Damage (CAED)**

A training package, webinar and a project report was delivered, submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June 2022.

*A copy of these deliverables can be obtained using this [link](#).*



CAED Practical Guide was delivered, submitted and approved by the General Assembly in June 2023.

*A copy of these deliverables can be obtained using this [link](#)*

#### **WG4 Compliance Assurance Conference**

The 2022 conference report and the 2023 report are available with this [link](#)

#### **WG5 IMPEL Climate Change Emergency Programme**

IMPEL Handbook – Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Inspections and Certification of Environmental Management Systems was approved by the General Assembly in June 2022.

*A copy of the handbook can be obtained using this [link](#).*

#### **WG6 IMPEL for Sustainability**

A consultation survey was carried out on this topic to see if it could be suitable for further exploration within IMPEL. Although there was agreement in the consultation that IMPEL might have a role to play in this area the response rate was low and further activities may be limited.

#### **WG7 Knowledge and Information Programme (KIP)**

Knowledge material and tools for a number of projects will be available under the website of IMPEL in 2023 and 2024. KIP is also working on a guidance on how to develop a guidance or tool, training materials and conducting training

#### **WG8 4 Networks Conference – Rome, September 2023**

The conference statement and information of e-zine page is available on the [IMPEL webpage](#)

#### **WG10 Geospatial Intelligence for Environmental Damage Assessment (GIEDA)**

Report on demonstration real cases, with description of the methodological approaches used to produce evidences and support the assessment of environmental damage, available as an e-document will be delivered. The project results can be followed on [the project page](#)

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#### **Improving Dissemination and Communication**

The project results that are publicly available on the IMPEL website like project reports and guidance are beginning to be translated into 23 languages with DeepL translation. The reports translated with DeepL are published on the IMPEL website-related project page after translation validation. The following reports have been translated into 23 languages and they will be published on IMPEL website after validation.

- TIGDA Survey Report

- Europe MTT - Monitoring large marine vertebrates along fixed transects from ferries and cargo vessels: data validation, format and storage & database interoperability
- Water and Land Conference Final Report
- IRI Iceland Final Report
- NPRI Project Report
- REACH regulation and circular economy
- Trend reversal Guidance/ Good Practice Examples and Recommendations
- Lessons Learnt from Industrial Accidents

Only “*Trend reversal Guidance/ Good Practice Examples and Recommendations*” has been validated for German translation and it is available on project webpage with this [link](#).

Please contact the [IMPEL Secretariat](#) for translated reports.