Industry and Air Expert Team

Subproject	Description	Subproject Lead	Main Deliverable(s)
2025-27(I) Supporting IED Implementation			
NEW **1. 2025-27(I) I&A IED WG1** New Energy Sources in Steel Production (2025-2027)	This working group comprises two closely connected sub working groups with specific tasks: 1. Identifying best practices for licensing the steel industry during the transition to new energy sources in steel production, as well as in effective and efficient inspection and enforcement. 2. Establishing a routine joint inspection workgroup for the steel production industry to identify good practices for conducting effective and efficient routine planned joint inspections regarding new energy sources in the steel production industry. The primary goal of the project is to improve the Doing-The-Right-Thing (DTRT) cycle in regulation procedures for the steel production industry by exchanging good practices in several key areas: a) procedures for preparing and executing effective routine or non-routine inspections, b) implementing best available techniques (BAT) through licensing, c) reporting and data collection for follow-up, monitoring, and risk assessment, d) enforcement actions in case of non-compliances. Additionally, efforts are aimed at leveling the playing field by addressing interpretation differences in legislation between member states. This includes reducing the BAT implementation gap through capacity building in inspectorates via international learning and participating in regular expert team meetings. Three joint inspections are planned, with webinars organized before and after each inspection to present gathered good practices. All IMPEL IED members will be invited, and interested colleagues can join. Joint inspection team members will vary depending on the specific activities to be inspected. Workshops will also be held to focus on inspection items, discuss results, and share knowledge related to challenges encountered during the transition. The final conference will concentrate on results, discussions, further work, and preparation of the final project report.	Roy Olij (NL) Roy.Olij@odnzkg.nl Paula Vehmaanperä (FI) paula.vehmaanpera@ely-keskus.fi	○ Joint inspection reports (after each inspection) ○ Webinar report / presentations (after each webinar) ○ Final Report covering (end of project term): - Technical advice for problems related to the BAT implementation and good practice examples. - Examples for BAT implementation by IMPEL members. - Recognize a lack or a gap in EU regulations. - Good practices report on lessons learned during joint inspections.
2. 2025-27(I) I&A IED WG2 Intensive Rearing of Poultry and Pigs (IRPP) (2025-2027) *Related with the W&L project "2025-27(VI) WG7 Landspreading and Treatment of Sludge".*	The project is organized into five WPs with the overarching goal of enhancing environmental sustainability and regulatory effectiveness within the agricultural sector across the EU. Each WP focuses on specific aspects related to environmental impact assessment, regulatory compliance, and the implementation of best practices. Collectively, the project aims to: **WP1 - Ammonia and Odour Assessment**: Improve understanding and mitigation of ammonia and odour emissions from intensive farming practices. Agriculture contributes to ammonia emissions up to 90% in some countries. Intensive pig and poultry farms pose significant risks due to ammonia and odour emissions, necessitating thorough assessment during permit issuance and compliance checks, for which EU regulators rely on domestic emission factors. The project aims include to reassess existing Emission Factors (EFs) used by EU countries to enable better accounting for the potential impact of mitigation methods e.g., the relationship between dry matter in poultry litter and ammonia and odour emissions. **WP2 - Manure and Slurry Treatments**: Explore innovative farm-scale techniques for treating organic manure and slurry to reduce nutrient losses and water pollution, aiming to gain deeper insights into the adoption of these sustainable techniques across Europe. **WP3 - Follow-up Habitat Directive**: Provide practical guidance and tools for implementing and enforcing regulations outlined in the Habitat Directive, particularly concerning nitrogen-related management challenges in protected nature sites. The project builds upon project's efforts during 2022-24 to inventory the status of eutrophication and nitrogen management in EU. Insights from the Netherlands and other regions, will be used. **WP4 - IPPC Intensive Farms Operation Rules**: Streamline regulatory processes (permits, inspections, and enforcement) for intensive IPPC farming operations, fostering a more standardized approach across the EU. This involves elaborating	Paul Verreijt (NL) p.verreijt@omwb.nl	○ WP1: Summary Report on Ammonia and Odour Assessment (incl. NECD), Housing and Mitigation Techniques, Case Studies, Future Considerations, Modelling approaches ○ WP2: Summary Report on Manure and Slurry Treatments: Examples, Applicability to Pig and Poultry Farms, Emerging Techniques, and Regulatory Approaches ○ WP3: Summary Report on Follow-up Habitat Directive: Best Practices on Supervision of Companies, Nitrogen Calculation Tools, Policy Documents, Case Law, Practical Examples ○ WP4: Summary Report on IPPC Intensive Farms Operation Rules: Compilation

	Operation Rules, utilizing existing best administrative techniques and secondary legislation. The ultimate objective is to support the EU Commission in formulating a decision to establish a common regulatory framework for IPPC farms throughout the EU, anticipated between 2024 and 2026. **WP5 - Anaerobic Digestion and Biogas Plants Regulation**: Investigate the potential of renewable gases, such as biogas and biomethane, for decarbonization efforts in the agricultural sector while addressing associated environmental risks, and developing mitigation strategies. Acknowledging the rising interest in biomethane (targeted to reach consumption levels of up to 35 billion cubic meters per year by 2030, REPowerEU Plan) as a promising solution for mitigating air emissions and improving slurry management in livestock farms, the project aims to improve legislation implementation and conduct comparative analyses of environmental regulations, challenges, and solutions across EU countries. By addressing these key areas, the project aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices, improve environmental protection measures, and facilitate compliance with EU regulations, ultimately contributing to a more environmentally responsible and resilient agricultural sector in Europe. The project will utilize regular online meetings among project-team members and participants, alongside annual face-to-face meetings, joint inspections, and site visits.		of Best Admin. Techniques for Monitoring & Controlling Environmental Performance ○ WP5: Summary Report on Anaerobic Digestion / Biogas Plants Regulation- Odours, water quality, GHG emissions: Comparison of Regulations along the EU, Environmental Procedures, Social Risks, Solutions
NEW **3. 2025-27(I) I&A IED WG3** Hydrogen production, storage and transportation (2025-2027)	This project aims to enhance regulatory practices and safety measures throughout the hydrogen lifecycle, encompassing production, transportation, and storage. It will develop regulatory guidance based on lessons learnt and best practices observed across Europe to mitigate risks associated with hydrogen production and utilization. This includes conducting technology overviews of hydrogen production methods, identifying environmental risks, examining existing best practices; exploring suitable licensing approaches and regulatory considerations, such as Seveso for storage, and applicable BATc. The guidance document produced will be tested in practice and used as capacity building materials under KIP. By improving regulation and inspection knowledge and skills, it seeks to establish minimum requirements for safe hydrogen production and contribute to a level playing field within IMPEL member countries. As hydrogen's role in decarbonization grows, its risks and regulatory standards must be better understood. The exclusion of certain hydrogen production plants from regulation under the updated IED highlights the need for enhanced safety measures and regulatory oversight, especially with the increasing use of hydrogen in diverse sectors like agriculture and municipalities**.** Project activities will include questionnaires, project meetings, workshops, a site visit at a production facility, webinars, and training sessions, and participation in relevant conferences like the IMPEL LLFA conference in France (incidents with hydrogen/ammonia).	Yvette Bijkerk (NL) Yvette.bijkerk@dcmr.nl Oliver Wolf (DE) oliver.wolf@lkbh.de	○ Technical advice to colleagues for problems related to the regulation of hydrogen production ○ Examples of regulation from IMPEL members ○ Recognize a lack or a gap in EU regulations. ○ Good practices report on the lessons learned during the joint inspections ○ Report on new installation
4. 2025-27(I) I&A IED WG4 Joint inspections and assessment of enforcement actions in IED installations (2025-2027)	The primary focus of this multi-annual working group on prevention and intervention is conducting joint inspections in IED installations, as part of the IMPEL IED Implementation project initiated in 2015. By 2023, nineteen inspections across eleven countries have been conducted, enhancing inspection procedures, BAT implementation, and enforcement actions, while also providing feedback for developing new BAT reference documents (BREFs). The main goal is to connect sector-specific inspectors and improve the Doing-The-Right-Thing (DTRT) cycle in regulation procedures for various IED sectors, by exchanging experience and best practices on inspection procedures, best available techniques (BAT), reporting, and enforcement actions in case of non-compliances. Efforts are made to level the playing field by addressing interpretation differences in legislation within IMPEL member countries, improving inspection knowledge and skills through capacity building in inspectorates via international learning, and reducing the BAT implementation gap. Between 2025 and 2027, twelve joint inspections are planned, accompanied by revisions to the inspection manual and refinement of best practices. Following each inspection, a webinar will convene to disseminate findings pertaining to a specific sector or BAT reference document (BREF) among IMPEL IED members and interested colleagues. Inspection teams typically consist of small groups of 2-3 inspectors for real inspections but may involve larger teams for company visits or combined working group meetings.	Marinus Jordaan (NL) marinus.jordaan@impel.eu	○ A good practices report on the lessons learned during the joint inspections ○ An updated manual which compiles good practices and procedures on how to perform an effective and efficient non-routine inspection

	Team composition will vary based on the specific activities being inspected. The working group leader remains constant, overseeing knowledge transfer and updating the inspection manual.		
5. 2025-27(I) I&A IED WG5 IED & Circular economy: preparing to the revised IED (IED&CE) (2025-2027) *Joint with 2025-27(III) Waste Management & Circular Economy.*	The project aims to leverage the IED, Best Available Techniques (BAT), and Eco-Innovations to advance circular economy practices in industrial installations, guiding operators toward greater circularity and sustainable growth in key sectors while considering the overall life-cycle environmental performance of the supply chain. The revision of the IED is geared towards steering a significant agro-industrial transformation towards zero pollution, aligning with the objectives of the European Green Deal (EGD). Specifically, it will facilitate the transition to safer and less toxic chemicals, bolster resource efficiency (energy, water, waste prevention), and promote circularity, all while fostering decarbonization through synergies and investments in pollution prevention and emission reduction techniques. Transformation plans integrated into Environmental Management Systems (EMS) by 2030 will chart the course for installations to contribute to a sustainable, circular, and climate-neutral economy by 2050. This endeavor will influence permit issuance, driving innovation and resource efficiency. The project's focus is to identify instruments within the revised IED that foster a circular economy in Europe, sharing best implementation practices, propose a transformation plan, developing monitoring protocols for frontrunner permits, and drafting a report on how to implement the EMS, as well as applying the circular index (2024 project's guidance for specific IED categories) aiming to integrate circular economy principles into the IED framework, and thus, facilitating Europe's transition towards a more sustainable, circular, and climate-neutral industrial sector.	Romano Ruggeri (IT) rruggeri@impel.eu Paul Stevens (UK) paul.stevens@environment-agency.gov.uk	○ Report with practical application of the IED&CE Guidance & circular index ○ Report of the answers to the survey on the revised IED Directive priorities in terms of circularity ○ Proposal for a transformation plan ○ Content of a frontrunners permit proposal ○ Report on how implement the EMS ○ Final Report of the new IED potential on circularity
6. 2025-27(I) I&A IED WG6 Waste Incineration BAT Conclusions (2025-2027) *Joint with 2025-27(III) Waste Management & Circular Economy.*	The project aims to address challenges related to implementing BATc on waste incineration, compare IED permit requirements, and explore the potential of Waste-to-Energy (WtE) processes to European climate mitigation, circularity, and sustainability. WtE processes play a crucial role in the transition to a circular economy, yet the implementation of BATc on waste incineration, due by 2023, presents regulatory challenges. The project builds on previous efforts focused on gathering information on BATc implementation and developing practical tools such as inspection checklists and self-monitoring plans. It seeks to provide practical guidance for regulators, permit writers, and inspectors through workshops, joint inspections, and site visits, documenting insights and lessons learned in subsequent reports. Additionally, it aims to optimize WtE processes by learning from best practices in material and energy recovery, contributing to circular economy goals. Aligned with climate mitigation objectives, carbon capture opportunities within the WtE sector will be explored and detailed in a dedicated report. Comparative analysis of BATc implementation across Member States' IED permits for waste incinerators, alongside examination of emission monitoring approaches, will inform a comprehensive report on BATc implementation and emission monitoring. Joint inspections, supported by practical inspection checklists, will facilitate knowledge exchange and enhance regulatory oversight in the waste management sector.	Romano Ruggeri (IT) rruggeri@impel.eu Fabio Colonna (IT) F.COLONNA@arpalombardia.it	○ Report of the Workshop on WI BATc implementation ○ Joint inspections/site visits: lessons learnt ○ Report on carbon capture cases ○ Report on critical BATc implementation (comparison among different MS IED permits of waste incinerators) and emission monitoring approaches ○ Report of examples of material & energy recovery
7. 2025-27(I) I&A IED WG7 Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Derogations from BAT (2025-2027)	The overarching goal of this project is to enhance compliance with the IED across member states and minimise industrial emissions by addressing key challenges related to Best Available Techniques (BAT) Conclusions (BATc) and Derogations from BAT and providing guidance and recommendations to regulators on implementing the revised IED requirements. The project is structured into four Work Packages (WP): **WP1 - Setting of ELVs based on BAT conclusion ranges**: This package aims to recommend best practices for establishing Emission Limit Values (ELVs) within BAT Associated Emission Level (AEL) ranges in light of the proposed revisions to IED 2. Building on prior work completed by WG5 Various aspects of BAT conclusion (2018-2024), the project addresses disparities in past ELV setting methods among member states. Its goal is to ensure that ELVs are optimized to minimize emissions, thereby contributing to the achievement of environmental standards and goals such as those outlined in the NECD.	Paul Wright (UK) paul.wright@environment-agency.gov.uk Anna Laiho (FI) anna.laiho@avi.fi	○ WP1: Report / factsheet setting out approaches to setting ELVs within BAT AEL ranges and suggesting best practice. ○ WP2: Report / factsheet setting out approaches to the determination of applications for derogations from BAT conclusions.

	WP2 - Assessing applications for Derogations from BAT conclusions: the objective of this package is to streamline the assessment process for applications seeking derogations from BAT conclusions. Operators may request derogations if compliance is disproportionately costly compared to environmental benefits. Requests must align with one of three criteria: Technical, Geographical, or Environmental and include a cost-benefit analysis. However, there's notable variation in evaluation methods. This package aims to identify existing best practices and tools for assessing derogation applications, ensuring regulators adopt a consistent and rigorous evaluation process (determine information requirements for applications, criteria applicability, cost-benefit analysis, and consideration of other factors such as environmental impact). **WP3 - Implementing BAT AEPLs**: This package building on prior work focuses on recommending best practice for implementing BAT Associated Emission Performance Levels (AEPLs) in permits, potentially mandated by the proposed IED revisions, including if appropriate how to determine applications for derogations from BAT AEPLs. **WP4 - Consideration of use of Mass Emission Limits:** This package will examine existing practices, evaluate the pros and cons, and provide recommendations on when it may be beneficial to include Mass Emission Limits in permits alongside concentration based ELVs. While BAT conclusions typically set Associated Emission Levels (AELs) based on concentration, Mass Emission Limits may be beneficial in specific scenarios (e.g. if a plant operator removes a production bottleneck, mass emissions may increase beyond the control of concentration-based ELVs). Project activities include regular online meetings among project-team members and participants, alongside annual face-to-face meetings, joint inspections, and site visits.		○ WP3: Report / factsheet setting out approaches to implementing AEPLs in permits and suggesting best practice. ○ WP4: Report setting out case studies of how and when Mass Emission Limit values are currently used and suggesting possible best practice.
8. 2025-27(I) I&A IED WG8 Mining Industry and Historical Wastes (2025-2027) *WP2 builds upon the W&L project Management of mining waste (2022)* *Related with Water & Land ET.*	The project aims to explore the regulatory aspects of extractive mining, including the updated IED, extractive waste management plans, and the Critical Raw Materials Action (CRMA). Its primary objective is to develop support packages and common guidelines for regulatory good practice of extractive industries for competent authorities and for better management of historical extractive waste, focusing on recovery strategies. These activities will be conducted through two main work packages, with the aim of providing valuable support to IMPEL members and beyond. **WP1 - Extraction technologies and Best Practices**: Under this package, the project aims to develop background material on regulatory good practice of extractive industries for competent authorities. This will include lessons learnt and guidelines on key issues or environmental risks, suitable approaches for pollution control and include suggestions for what focus on during inspections and BAU regulation. Additionally, a submission note summarizing IMPEL's findings and suggesting areas for BAT development will be prepared for the European Commission's Sevilla process. **WP2 - Historical wastes and Regulatory aspects**: Under this package, the project aims to access how Member states are implementing the recent "Raw Material Act of March 2023", comparing their approaches to evaluate potential critical raw materials in historical extractive waste. The goal is to identify common guidelines for better evaluation and develop optimal strategies for recovery. While the Mining Waste Directive (MWD) (2006/21/EC) aims at the proper management of mining waste and suggests the Management Plan (art. 5) as a monitoring tool, it primarily applies to active industries, providing little guidance on managing historical ones. In its initial phase (2020), the project assessed Member States' approaches to historical extractive waste, revealing challenges due to the lack of clear guidelines. In the second phase (2022), efforts deepened, including a valuable training session at the Finnish Geological Survey (GTK). During its third phase (2025-27), the project aims to address both the MWD and the recent Regulatory Act and seeks to draft guidelines on the recovery of raw materials from historical waste (based on the case studies documented by the project partners and on EU good practices).	WP1 Paula Vehmaanperä (FI) paula.vehmaanpera@ely-keskus.fi WP2 Monica Serra (IT) Monica.SERRA@isprambiente.it	○ WP1: Background material on regulatory good practice of extractive industries for competent authorities ○ WP1: Note for submission into the EC summarizing IMPEL's findings and highlighting areas for BAT development-Sevilla process ○ WP2: A report with an in-depth analysis containing: - new definition of extractive waste to be reconsidered as new storage of raw materials (or secondary storage) based on the EU Law on Raw Materials, the EoW and circular economy - suggestions for any authorization process to follow that allows its exploitation/ recovery ○ WP2: Create a community to continue dialogue and strengthen knowledge on recovering essential raw materials from extractive waste

9. 2025-27(I) I&A IED WG10 16th & 17th Lessons Learnt from Industrial Accidents (LLFA) Seminar (2025 & 2027)	In 2025 and 2027, France will host two 2-day seminars continuing the tradition of biennial LLFA seminars held in France since 1999. These seminars aim to promote the development of good practices regarding industrial accidents by facilitating the exchange of experience and methods of working among European Inspection bodies. During these meetings, inspectors will present selected accidents, providing technical descriptions and the results of analysis (including measures taken, organizational failures, and failed systems or materials). They will also share lessons learned from the accidents and their own experiences during or following such incidents. The seminars are expected to draw 300 participants (in 2023: 310 participants representing 29 countries / 66 non-French inspectors), with a focus on achieving a broad representation of Member States. The Seveso-III Directive (Directive 2012/18/EU) serves as a framework for managing risks associated with major industrial accidents involving dangerous chemicals, emphasizing accident prevention and mitigation. Central to this effort is continuous improvement, which necessitates thorough analysis of accidents and the sharing of lessons learned and corrective measures. These seminars aim to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and promote information exchange among European Inspection bodies.	Cedric Bourilelt (FR) Jerome Bai (FR) jerome.bai@developpement-durable.gouv.fr	○ Two 2-day seminars to be held in 2025 & 2027 ○ Brochures containing detailed 2-page analysis for each accident presented during the seminar, available in French and in English. The brochures are also made available on the BARPI website for a wide communication. ○ Final reports

Waste and TFS Expert Team

Subproject	Short Description	Subproject Lead	Main Deliverable(s)
2025-27 (II) Operational and Strategic Work of the IMPEL ET Waste and TFS			
1. 2025-27(II) W&TFS WG1 Waste & TFS National Contact Points (NCP) meeting (2025-2027)	The NCP meeting has been an IMPEL event since 2007, aiming to enhance collaboration and alignment in enforcing the Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) (EC) No 1013/2006, among IMPEL countries. Previous and ongoing IMPEL-TFS projects highlight the necessity for competent authorities to collaborate closely to address the enforcement deficit of EU waste shipment regulations. The NCP meeting seeks to promote the consistent application of WSR provisions through frequent engagement between IMPEL NCP enforcers, providing a networking platform to exchange information, working methods, case studies, experiences, and best practices. Additionally, it offers updates on new developments, complementing the practical enforcement efforts of the IMPEL SWEAP project. Greater involvement of NCPs and their expertise is vital for new project proposals within IMPEL activities. Furthermore, the evolving waste shipment landscape, influenced by stricter policies and controls in destination countries outside Europe, underscores the importance of exchanging information and experiences to inform European-wide inspections and enforcement activities. Two (2) NCP Meetings per year (one back to back with the annual conference) are foreseen, with one nominated Waste & TFS National Contact Point (NCP) per IMPEL country participating. The programme may cover various topics, including experiences with enforcing the Waste Shipment Regulation 1013/2006, repatriations between member states or third countries, insights into the waste shipment industry, exports of waste outside the EU (related to the Basel Convention, (EC) No 1418/2007), discussions on new project proposals to inform the IMPEL-TFS and waste expert team, enforcement case studies, and potentially a field trip.	Martin Zemek (CZ) martin.zemek@cizp.cz Hannele Nikander (FI) hannele.nikander@syke.fi	○ 2 NCP meetings per year ○ 2 NCP Meetings/year (one back to back with annual conference) ○ NCP Meeting Reports
2. 2025-27(II) W&TFS WG2 Waste &TFS Annual Conference (2025-2027)	Since 2006, the Waste & TFS conference has been an annual event aimed at enhancing collaboration and alignment in enforcing European waste legislation, particularly the Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) (EC) No 1013/2006 and Directive (EU) 2008/98 on Waste (as amended). It seeks to promote the consistent application of these provisions through frequent engagement between European enforcement authorities (inspectors, customs, police, prosecutors, judges) and partner organizations like the European Commission, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, EnviCrimeNet, ENPE, EUFJE, and OLAF. The conference provides a networking platform for enforcers to exchange information, working methods, case studies, experiences, and best practices, while also providing updates on new developments. Structured as a two-half day event, the second day is open to industry participants to ensure their involvement in this collaborative effort.	Bojan Pockar (SI) bojan.pockar@gov.si Helge Ziolkowski (SE) helge.ziolkowski@impel.eu Allison Townley (UK) allison.townley@impel.eu	○ two-half day annual conference ○ Conference Report
3. 2025-27(II) W&TFS WG3 Waste & TFS Network Collaboration (2025-2027)	The Waste & TFS Network Collaboration initiative aims to suport the Expert Team and its projects by fostering strategic and efficient collaboration with transboundary movement networks outside Europe, particularly in regions like Africa and Asia where environmental damage from illicit traffic, such as e-waste and plastic dumping, is prevalent. Collaboration with networks like ENFORCE helps address disparities between European waste regulations and the Basel Convention, improving notification procedures and enhancing waste repatriations and prosecutions. Additionally, collaboration with the Basel Convention Secretariat, Regional Centres, and the European Commission is crucial for effective cooperation. IMPEL also seeks partnerships with sister networks such as the port environmental network of Africa and the Asian Network for prevention of illegal transboundary movement of hazardous wastes to align enforcement efforts, share knowledge, and assist in repatriating illegal shipments. Exchange programs involving IMPEL Waste & TFS experts with a link to the network or IMPEL project managers and representatives of with sister networks and participation in key events, like the annual conference of the Asian Network for the prevention of illegal transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, engagement	Bojan Pockar (SI) bojan.pockar@gov.si Helge Ziolkowski (SE) helge.ziolkowski@impel.eu Allison Townley (UK) allison.townley@impel.eu	○ Conference reports, presentations, participant lists and contact persons ○ Insight in applicable legislation in countries of destination and licenced facilities in countries of destination ○ A better knowledge of each other's possibilities and limitations in enforcement and prosecution of waste crime

	with the Port Environmental Network in Africa and the Cooling Coalition will align enforcement efforts, share knowledge, and assist in repatriating illegal shipments, advancing IMPEL's objectives. Throughout the year, the Expert Team will maintain contacts, cultivate new relationships, and support IMPEL members by providing useful contacts and information gathered. Participants will share knowledge and advance IMPEL's goals in the events outside Europe.		○ Assistance of IMPEL members in general or on a case by case-based situation
2025-27(III) Waste Management & Circular Economy (WMCE)			
4. 2025-27(III) W&TFS WG1 Knowledge Exchange Programme Waste Management and Circular Economy (KEP WMCE) (2025-2027) *Continuation of the subgroup WG6 Training activities on waste (2022-2024)*	The project aims to address waste management and circular economy implementation challenges identified by the IMPEL "Implementation Challenges Report" by facilitating knowledge exchange among member organizations. It seeks practical solutions while ensuring alignment with key EU environmental policies like the Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) and the Waste Framework Directive (WFD). To achieve this, the KEP WMCE will annually establish six (3 in 2025) small teams comprising members from different organizations. These teams will conduct study tours to designated member organizations to gain firsthand insights into addressing implementation challenges, focusing on waste recycling installations and incineration plants with an emphasis on specific waste streams. The project also encourages collaboration with other initiatives under the WMCE umbrella. Practical joint inspections, utilizing inspection tools, may be conducted during these visits, with inspectors assigned specific tasks. The project will culminate in a webinar where the findings of the study tours, including challenges, best practices, and implementation strategies, will be compiled and shared among IMPEL member organizations. Additionally, an annual evaluation will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the Knowledge Exchange Programme and make necessary adjustments for future iterations, ensuring continuous improvement and alignment with organizational and EU objectives.	Gabriëlle Kuhn (NL) gabrielle.kuhn@rws.nl Romano Ruggeri (IT) rruggeri@impel.eu	○ An Implementation Challenge report on Waste Management and Circular Economy ○ A Knowledge Exchange Programme ○ Report with the findings of the Study tours ○ Evaluation report
NEW **5. 2025-27(III) W&TFS WG2** The use of Artificial Intelligence in waste management and compliance monitoring (AIWAM) (2025-2027)	The aim of this project is to explore the potential applications and risks of utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI) in waste management. AI offers opportunities for efficiency improvement by optimizing waste management processes, resource conservation through better waste stream management, cost reduction via streamlined operations, environmental protection by promoting recycling and reducing waste generation, innovation and technological advancement, and supporting sustainability goals. The project will gather case studies and projects of AI use in waste management to assess their suitability and effectiveness, identify inefficiencies and limitations in traditional waste management practices, and examine how AI can address these challenges, e.g. to enhance waste reduction, recycling rates, and operational efficiencies (AI-enabled waste management solutions). Additionally, the project will investigate regulatory approaches to AI technologies in waste management across different countries/regions, define practical challenges such as legislative gaps, discuss environmental, social, and economic benefits of AI-driven waste management solutions, and examine the potential misuse of AI by waste criminals. A workshop will be organized to disseminate findings.	TBD	○ Report on possible uses and risks of AI use in waste management ○ Report of surveys launched ○ Report of the workshop
NEW **6. 2025-27(III) W&TFS WG3** Plastic End of Waste: creating a level playing field and TFS implications (PEoW) (2025-2027)	The aim of the project is to address the existing disparities in end-of-waste (EoW) criteria for plastic waste across the EU Member States. With the absence of common EoW criteria at the EU level and varying national criteria, there is a lack of uniformity in permitting processes for plastic recycling, leading to legal uncertainties for operators and facilitating illicit waste flows. The project seeks to create a level playing field by developing EU-wide EoW criteria for plastic waste streams, building upon the scoping exercise conducted by the Commission in 2021. By harmonizing EoW criteria and ensuring compliance with environmental and technical standards, the project aims to enhance regulatory clarity and reduce illicit plastic waste shipments, thereby contributing to a more sustainable waste management ecosystem within the EU. Additionally, the project will explore the implications of these developments on Transfrontier Shipment (TFS) regulations, fostering collaboration between waste shipment and REACH inspectors to effectively address illegal waste fluxes.	Romano Ruggeri (IT) rruggeri@impel.eu	○ Guidance for permit writers and inspectors to evaluate plastic EoW applications and lead inspections at the different steps of the recycling cycle ○ Report on EoW plastic criteria in Member states ○ Report of critical points raised by MS in the

	Activities include mapping national plastic EoW criteria, gathering information on WFD criteria, analyzing existing plastic recycling technologies, addressing critical points raised by Member States, mapping plastic waste fluxes in/out of the EU, and developing guidance and inspection checklists for permit writers and inspectors. Study visits at plastic recycling installations will also be conducted to further inform project outcomes.		implementation of EoW criteria set by EU COM ○ Report on Joint inspections: main issues in TFS and REACH inspections. Practical cases ○ Report on study tour: overview of technologies
NEW **7. 2025-27(III) W&TFS WG4** Textiles & Strategic End of Waste Fluxes (2025-2027)	The project will be structured into two distinct phases, each with its own focus (Textile EoW, other strategic EoW) aimed at harmonizing standards and practices across Member States, thereby fostering a level playing field in WMCE efforts. **Textile EoW (2025-2026)**: This package addresses the urgent need for enhanced EU and Member State action to tackle textiles waste and improve circularity in the sector, aligning with the Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) and the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles ('Textiles Strategy'). With the upcoming separate collection obligation for textiles in the revised Waste Framework Directive, effective management is paramount. Currently, a significant portion of post-consumer textiles waste ends up in mixed household waste, leading to environmental and social impacts, including illegal dumping in third countries. The project aims to assist IMPEL members in assessing textiles waste status and develop comprehensive guidance for reviewing loads waste status. Additionally, it will provide materials (guidance documents, presentations, leaflets etc) for distribution across the charitable sector and other sources of second use and waste textiles, advising of the relevant criteria that must be met to demonstrate that the items are not waste. Activities include organizing webinars to discuss textile waste issues and share findings, collaborating with ENFORCE, UNITAR, and UNODC on textile projects, and mapping textile waste prevention and recycling approaches, infrastructure, and technologies across the EU, including separate collection systems and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanisms. Joint inspections between WFD and TFS inspectors will also be conducted. **Other EoW strategic fluxes (2026-2027):** This package focuses on specific and emerging waste streams (e.g. batteries, C&D, solar panels or others to be identified with a survey) other than plastic and textiles. The aim is to gather the EoW criteria set in the different MS as well as identifying the used technologies in order to create a level playing field across MS. The project addresses varying approaches to EoW criteria, which can lead to market distortions and legal uncertainties, particularly in single-case decision-making, posing challenges for recyclers, users of secondary raw materials, and waste shipments. In response, the project aims to create a harmonized approach across Member States, building upon the Commission's commitment to develop EU-wide criteria identified through a scoping exercise in 2021. Activities involve mapping national EoW criteria and existing waste recycling technologies, gathering information on specific WFD criteria, analyzing critical points, promoting joint inspections with TFS and REACH inspectors, and conducting study visits at recycling installations.	Hannah Wooldridge (UK) hanna.wooldridge@environment-agency.gov.uk Romano Ruggeri (IT) rruggeri@impel.eu	<u>Textile EoW</u> ○ Guidance on how each country assesses EoW for textiles and requirements and standards that must be met. ○ Report on textile waste prevention, preparing for re-use and recycling approaches in MS. ○ Report of critical points raised by MS in the implementation of new WFD requirements ○ Report on Joint inspections: main issues in TFS. Practical cases ○ Report on main destination of textile waste out of EU ○ A package of guidance presentation materials including presentation, leaflets etc to send out <u>Other EoW strategic fluxes</u> ○ Report on EoW criteria in Member states for a specific waste stream ○ Report of critical points of a specific recycling sector ○ Report on Joint inspections: main issues in TFS and REACH inspections. Practical cases ○ Report on study tour: overview of technologies

8. 2025-27(III) W&TFS WG5 Waste recycling Risk Based Inspection Plan Phase II (2025-2026)	The project, a follow up to the 2024 initiative, focuses on enhancing environmental inspection activities at waste recycling installations. It aims to improve the products and provide training on developing risk-based inspection plans and enhancing inspection efficiency. Building upon IMPEL's "Guidance for regulators on enabling innovations for the circular economy (prevention and recycling of waste)" the project will adapt the IRAM tool for risk assessment in inspection planning and will develop a standardized set of risk criteria. Additionally, it will create a minimum content Inspection Plan for waste recycling installations based on the "Step by step guidance book for planning of environmental inspection" from the "Doing The Right Things" project. Through integrating inspection activities with planning and prevention efforts, the project aims to achieve effective and efficient inspection systems, ensuring transparency for the public and operators in a sector prone to corruption. The project will involve conducting peer-to-peer training sessions on setting up risk-based waste inspection plans, harmonizing risk assessment criteria across Member States, and fostering collaboration with other inspection authorities.	TBD	○ Set of criteria to be used in the risk assessment (2025) ○ Peer to peer Report - Training activities Peer to peer: Practical construction of a waste inspection Plan (2026)
9. 2025-27(III) W&TFS WG6 Applying EU waste legislation to circular business models (WL&CBM) (2025-2027) *Continuation of the Subgroup WG1 Value-Retention circular processes (2022-2024)*	The aim of the project is to support environmental authorities in regulating circular business models. It seeks to identify good practices and develop practical tools that can assist authorities in applying the relevant provisions of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) to circular business models, ultimately with the aim of achieving the goals of the WFD: safeguarding an environmental sound waste management as well as achieving a robust circular economy. Phase 1 (2025) involves gathering information and exchanging views through a workshop based on responses to a 2019 questionnaire circulated among IMPEL members. Phase 2 (2026) focuses on drafting a guidance document outlining key issues and practices identified in Phase 1, with a draft to be discussed in a workshop. Phase 3 (2027) entails promoting the guidance through workshops, conferences, and practical trainings. The deliverable will be a practical guidance document covering topics such as defining discard in new circular economy models, distinguishing between reuse and preparation for reuse, assessing materials for discard, and addressing practical issues like temporal storage and certification for repair businesses. The project team will conduct their work through online meetings and three face-to-face meetings annually, with workshops held concurrently.	TBD	○ A final report that brings together all the outputs of the project, including the practical guidance document on new circular economy models
NEW **10. 2025-27(III) W&TFS WG7** Organic waste treatment-management and possibilities (OWT) (2025-2027)	The project aims to advance organic waste management in the EU within the framework of the circular economy. It will focus on current and emerging technologies in bio-waste management, highlighting main opportunities and challenges (Recovery of phosphorus, biomethane production, Pyrolysis etc). By recognizing the importance of avoiding organic waste landfilling and prioritizing sustainable practices, including valorizing organic waste into fertilizers and bio-based products, the EU aims to decrease waste generation and enhance recycling efforts, highlighting both risks and opportunities in organic waste management The project will investigate legislation and initiatives, identify different approaches in Member States, explore new business models and value streams, investigate new resource streams, and develop recommendations for sustainable practices. Activities to achieve these outcomes involve mapping best practices in organic waste management, gathering information on end-of-waste criteria for compost and digestate, mapping technologies used for organic treatment, analyzing critical points of the system, conducting site visits at organic recycling installations, and developing inspection checklists for different recycling facilities.	Miroslava Verasto (HR) miroslava.verasto@dirh.hr	○ Report of organic waste management technologies ○ Practical tools for permit writers and inspectors ○ Site visits reports

2025-27 (IV) Transfrontier Shipment of Wastes			
11. 2025-27(IV) W&TFS WG1 Plastic Waste Project (2025-2027) *Continuation of the Plastic Waste Shipments project (2022-2024)*	The project aims to address persistent challenges faced by competent authorities in tracking plastic waste to its final destination, despite existing regulations like the Basel COP 14 Decision and EU Correspondents' Guidelines No 12 (CG12) on the classification of plastic waste. Amendments to Regulation 1418/2007 have listed non-OECD destination countries for plastic waste while monitoring emerging destinations. Market changes and upcoming regulations like the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) require ongoing monitoring and collaboration among Member States. Additionally, with changes to the Waste Framework Directive and upcoming stricter rules, harmonizing approaches among Member States in assessing end-of-waste or by-product status for internationally shipped plastics is crucial. The primary goal is to develop comprehensive guidance and strategies to promote plastic waste recovery within the EU while discouraging illegal exports. Already, the project in the previous cycle has produced "A Guide for Inspectors: Enforcing national legislation on plastic waste shipments", complementing CG12. Activities planned for 2025-2027, organized in 3 packages: exports, EoW, and packaging, include mapping illegal plastic waste shipments, understanding destination countries' capacity and environmental sound management (ESM), inventorying existing end-of-waste (EoW) and by-products decisions, and developing guidance manuals for packaging regulations. Through webinars, workshops, and exchange programs, the project aims to empower regulators with tools for effective enforcement and sustainable waste management, advancing circular economy objectives.	Huib van Westen (NL) Huib.van.westen@ilent.nl	○ Guidance in promoting recovery in the EU and discouraging illegal recovery of plastic waste outside the EU ○ Guidance in enforcement of criminal behaviour ○ Report on facts and figures of plastic waste shipments exports ○ Report detailing all of the project outputs ○ Report on the existing and new requests for EoW and By products, including effects through stricter export rules. ○ Guidance and leaflets on packaging ○ Final report based on the three sub reports
12. 2025-27(IV) W&TFS WG2 WEEE Article 17 Free-riders project (EWEN) (2025-2027)	The WEEE Article 17 Free-riders building upon the results from the project's previous phases (2019-2024) aims to strengthen enforcement measures, particularly cross-border, to enhance compliance among producers selling Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) with their Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR), thereby increasing the incentive for registration and adherence to EPR regulations. Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) directive 2012/19/EU article 18 emphasizes the importance of member states cooperating and exchanging information to ensure compliance with its provisions. However, there is currently no common European register or webpage for producers to access information about extended producer responsibilities (EPR) across member states. To address this gap, it is proposed to create an information package detailing each member state's EPR requirements, registers, and contacts, facilitating compliance for distance sellers and assisting national authorities in advising them. Additionally, when a producer sells products in a member state where they are not established, they must appoint an authorized representative in that country to fulfil their obligations. To tackle cross-border free-riders (producers without registration), cooperation between national regulatory authorities is crucial, enabling them to prosecute offenders in their home country. Furthermore, Article 18 underscores the need for cooperation to include sharing inspection results, highlighting the importance of effective cooperation mechanisms and Union-wide approaches. The project aims to maintain and develop these mechanisms, facilitating multilateral cooperation, exchanging relevant information, and coordinating joint inspections and other forms of mutual assistance. By focusing on problematic EEE-streams and leveraging joint efforts, member states can enhance their effectiveness in combating free-riders. Project activities are divided into four WPss: **WP1** (2025): Conduct a survey to gather information from each country for a distance seller information package, aiding compliance and cross-border cooperation. It will include legislation, producer definitions, register details, authorized representative information, EPR authority contacts, PRO details, and other relevant information.	Piret Otsason (EE) piret.otsason@kliimaministerium.ee Jef De Langhe (BE) jef.de.langhe@ovam.be	○ WP1 (2025): Survey to gather information from each country for a distance seller information package, aiding compliance and cross-border cooperation ○ WP2 (2025): Recommendations for a common EU approach that could be adopted to ensure relevant free-rider producers meet their WEEE obligations ○ WP3 (2026): Report on best practices on specific types of EEE streams (e-cigarettes) to facilitate cross-border cooperation and efficient inspections. ○ WP4 (2027): Report on best practices on another type of EEE stream (e.g. PV panels or e-mobility) to facilitate

	WP2 (Side project 2025): Establish custom authority practices for EEE importation at points of entry, with the aim of developing recommendations for a common EU approach that could be adopted to ensure free-rider producers meet their WEEE obligations. The results could serve as input to the EC to improve the WEEE directive/regulation. **WP3** (2026): Produce a report on best practices for specific types of EEE streams (e.g., e-cigarettes) to facilitate cross-border cooperation and efficient inspections. **WP4** (2027): Produce a report on best practices on another type of EEE stream (e.g., PV panels or e-mobility) to facilitate cross-border cooperation and efficient inspections. The final report will summarize project results, best practices for enforcing free-riders, types of cross-border cooperation member states are willing to undertake, and suggestions for enhancing cross-border enforcement. Regulatory authorities will use IMPEL's "Basecamp 3" platform to exchange information and identify responsible counterparts in other member states for transmission of reports necessary for enforcement and prosecution.		cross-border cooperation and efficient inspections ○ Final report (2027): Overview of project results, best practices for enforcing free-riders, and types of cross-border cooperation member states are willing to carry out, along with suggestions for improving cross-border enforcement
13. 2025-27(IV) W&TFS WG3 Enforcement Actions on waste shipments (follow-up SWEAP) (2025-2027) *Continuation of the LIFE project "Shipment of Waste Enforcement Actions Project (SWEAP)"*	The project aims to enhance the enforcement capabilities of inspectors and law enforcement agencies in waste shipment regulations by providing essential training tools, intensifying collaboration both nationally and internationally to prevent illegal waste movements, and developing innovative tools for recording inspections and sharing data. Additionally, the project aims to create a European-wide inspection dataset and provide intelligence products where possible. IMPEL's obligations under the Life SWEAP further underscore the need to maintain certain tools and platforms, such as the SWEAP app (https://www.sweap.eu/resources/tools/), Prevent portal, and web presence, to ensure ongoing compliance with grant agreements. By facilitating officer exchanges, hosting necessary infrastructure, and developing agreements and frameworks for data protection and service provision, the project aims to strengthen enforcement efforts and support IMPEL members in meeting Waste Shipment Inspection Plan requirements. This includes providing guidance on emerging waste streams and updating training materials in accordance with revised regulations. Through these measures, the project seeks to enhance coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness in waste shipment enforcement across IMPEL member organizations	Katie Olley (UK) katie.olley@sepa.org.uk	○ Report on officer exchanges and best practice exchanged for dissemination with other participants ○ Regional inspections and participating in international enforcement campaigns with outcome reports as appropriate ○ Updated visualisation tool for officers to use to plan their inspections ○ Hosting and provision of reporting and guidance app alongside Data Protection Agreements and a Service Level Agreement ○ Inspection results report each quarter with intelligence disseminated to Europol as requested ○ Updated "Guide to Repatriating Waste" ○ Updating training material (via Prevent) ○ Guidance on the shipment of end-of-life vehicles (including trucks) and spare parts ○ Guidance on the shipment of batteries and solar panels for reuse ○ Annual best practice meetings, with additional exchange of best practice as required via webinar ○ Verification spreadsheet of sites outside Europe and migrate this to IMPEL Sharepoint ○ Annual reports & Final report

Water and Land Expert Team

Subproject	Description	Subproject Lead	Main Deliverable(s)
2025-27(V) Water and Land			
NEW **1. 2025-27(V) W&L WG1** Water Risk Assessment Project (WRAP) (2025-2027) *WP1 is continuation of the project "Wastewater in Natural Environment project (WiNE) (2022-2024)"*	The project aims to booster water legislation enforcement, advance sustainable water management, and support the transition to a circular economy by offering risk assessment methodologies across legal frameworks. Key EU water protection directives (WFD, UWWTD, IED, and DWD) prioritize risk assessment to safeguard water quality and availability, particularly against micropollutants like pharmaceuticals and pesticides. Member States are tasked with conducting risk assessments and management plans to ensure safe drinking water. Previous IMPEL Initiatives like the Integrated Water Approach and WiNE projects provide tools and insights to support them. Developing common metrics for water damage assessment and distinguish between administrative and criminal offenses strengthens enforcement. Project outcomes also involve sharing best practices for integrated water use and using the Water Circularity Index to improve water use efficiency, as well deepening knowledge on pollution assessment at catchment levels. These tools will aid in implementing new legislation (UWWTD recast, IED recast, water reuse regulation, DWD) and enforcing laws under ECD and ELD, while also providing vital information on freshwater risks to agricultural irrigation, ensuring food safety. The project is organized into 3 Work Packages. **WP1 – Wastewater in Natural Environment (WiNE) – Phase 4:** under this package, the project following previous phases of WiNE project will explore the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2020/741 for water reuse and identify best practices for risk assessment. Two site visits will be conducted, and a guidance document will be drafted on implementing the regulation and industrial reuse opportunities. **WP2 – Catchment Areas and Risk Assessment (CARA):** this package focuses on promoting understanding of pollution assessment at the catchment level. Two site visits and potential workshops will facilitate knowledge exchange and tool development for water resource risk assessment at Catchment Areas, covering: a) areas prone to micropollutant accumulation (such as wastewater discharges), b) catchment areas supplying water for human consumption or irrigation purposes. **WP3 – Water Damage Key Assessment (WDKA)**: this package aims is to define, from a technical-scientific standpoint, the threshold for intolerable water damage and provide guidance to enforcement bodies. The concept of "substantial" damage presents a significant challenge in applying the Environmental Crime Directive (ECD). The sanctioning system will be provided with a benchmark to distinguish administrative infringements from criminal offenses and in the latter case, identify factors that, if present, indicate substantial water damage. Additionally, project outcomes will provide guidance to supervisory, inspection, and investigation bodies in effectively detecting water pollution traces and collecting evidence. The goal is to share the innovative methodology and the tool to measure water damage developed by the "National IMPEL Network" in Portugal, enhancing/improving it for broader application. Two site visits will test methodologies in real water pollution incidents, such as wastewater discharges from IED installations. A guidance document and tools for measuring "substantial damage" to water and identifying potential scope under the ECD and ELD will be developed. Finally, three technical workshops are planned to discuss results and refine reports and tools with the core teams of each WP. Guidance documents/tools produced will be used as training/capacity building materials under KIP.	Geneve Farabegoli (IT) geneve.farabegoli@isprambiente.it Anabela Rebelo (PT) anabela.rebelo@apambiente.pt	○ WP1: Guidance Document on Implementing Water Reuse Regulation: Lessons Learned and Industrial Reuse Opportunities ○ WP2: Guidance Document and (excel) Tools for Water Resource Risk Assessment at Catchment Areas ○ WP3: Guidance Document and (excel) Tools for Assessing "Substantial Damage" to Water & Identifying Potential Scope under ECD and ELD ○ Final Conference Report – SWOT Analysis

NEW **2. 2025-27(V) W&L WG2** Self-Monitoring in Water Permits (SMWP) (2025-2027)	The project aims to develop a guidance document on self-monitoring in water permits, aligning with the ECA 9-Action Plan to support Member States in ensuring data quality and reliability for efficient environmental compliance and to achieve Good Water Status. Despite overall declines in pollutant emissions to Europe's water bodies, data gaps hinder assessing industrial contributions to water pollution. Moreover, the implementation of the WFD has shown limited improvements in water status, emphasizing the need to address pressures like wastewater discharges and freshwater abstraction. Although self-monitoring procedures for water are present in wastewater discharge permits (under WFD, IED, or UWTD) and freshwater abstraction (under WFD and WD), challenges include data/time lag, inadequate formats, lack of specialized personnel, and quality control issues, as well as transparency vs. data protection concerns. The project seeks to provide an overview of improved permitting by assessing self-monitoring and reporting practices for water emissions, reuse, and abstraction across EU. Activities include conducting a survey on self-monitoring practices (2025), organizing two workshops on self-monitoring for wastewater discharge/water reuse permitting processes (2025) and freshwater abstraction for various uses (2026), drafting a guidance document on self-monitoring mechanisms, procedures, and tools (2027), that will serve as training/capacity-building materials under KIP, and hosting a final conference to present project outcomes and lessons learned aimed at enhance compliance assurance.	Anabela Rebelo (PT) anabela.rebelo@apambiente.pt Geneve Farabegoli (IT) geneve.farabegoli@isprambiente.it	○ Report on the results of the survey on self-monitoring practices ○ Guidance document with mechanisms, procedures, practices and tools for the production, verification and use of self-monitoring data, compiled on a report with questions/best practice exchange, focused on the reliability of self-monitoring and its reporting
3. 2025-27(V) W&L WG3 Tackling Illegal Groundwater Drilling and Abstractions (TIGDA) - phase 3 (2025-2027)	The project aims to equip member states with tools, skills, and knowledge to detect illegal groundwater activities as part of their compliance and enforcement efforts. Groundwater is vital but often overlooked, threatened by climate change (drought, flooding), (over)abstraction and pollution (point source and diffuse). Despite the benefits of strategies like water reuse, drilling remains necessary. Additionally, groundwater scarcity is not limited to arid regions, as recent prolonged droughts underscore the importance of managing extraction and recharge carefully across all Member States. In its initial phase, the project gathered data from Member States through questionnaires and online meetings to understand their experiences with illegal groundwater activities. Subsequently, technical site visits were conducted to investigate various illegal activities and share best practices. In the previous phase, the project developed a guidance document on detection and compliance methods for groundwater drilling and abstraction sites, including targeting methods, checklists, and compliance verification techniques. In this phase, the project will prioritize implementing and adapting the acquired knowledge, leveraging new technologies such as drones and geospatial intelligence, in alignment with the GIEDA IMPEL X-cutting project. Planned activities include a joint TIGDA/GIEDA site visit and a 2025 site visit to address the complexities of detection to compliance surveillance, a 4 Networks conference session on illegal groundwater activities, and three-week training sessions in 2026 and 2027 for three Member States to support the implementation of detection and compliance protocol & methodology. A report summarizing Phase 3 insights and knowledge acquired is expected in 2027.	Monica Crisan (RO) monica.crisan@impel.eu Marieke Caussyn (BE) marieke.caussyn@vlaanderen.be David Seccombe (UK) david.seccombe@environment-agency.gov.uk	○ Site report from a joint TIGDA/GIEDA site visit. ○ Site report from a 2025 site visit outlining the complexities of detection to compliance surveillance ○ Report from a 4 Networks conference session on illegal groundwater activities ○ Three-week training sessions in 2026 and 2027 for three Member States[1] to support the implementation of detection and compliance protocol & methodology ○ Final report in 2027
4. 2025-27(V) W&L WG4 Nitrate and Groundwater – best practices to limit pollution (2025-2027) *Continuation of the project: "Trend reversal in groundwater pollution project (2022-2023)"*	This project aims to tackle the implementation deficit in EU groundwater protection outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Despite the directive's mandate, 25% of EU groundwater bodies were chemically in poor condition in 2015, mainly due to nitrate pollution from agriculture. To mitigate this deficit, the project focuses on examining potential administrative-level instruments and best practices, building on the work laid by the previous IMPEL "Trend reversal" project (2020-23), which produced a guideline with 16 conclusions and recommendations. In the current cycle (2025-27), the project aims to foster intensified exchanges among environmental and agricultural authorities of Member States, along with relevant stakeholders such as water suppliers, farmers, and consultants. Through these collaborative efforts, the project seeks to develop a guidance paper with practical measures for sustainable reduction of	Annabill Rasp (DE) anna-sybill.rasp@rpda.hessen.de Thomas Ormond (DE) – Retired colleague t.ormond@posteo.de	○ Guidance paper on measures to reduce nitrate pollution in groundwater ○ Final project report ○ Possibly additional conference report and summary of survey results

[1] *Member states are responsible for purchasing any necessary hardware or software direct as this is not covered by TIGDA project.)*

	nitrate pollution. The goal is to present a catalogue of suitable measures, building on the results of the preceding "Trend reversal" project, but with more concrete details and proposals drawn from practical experience.		
NEW **5. 2025-27(V) W&L WG5** Monitoring Macroplastic in EU Rivers (MoMaRi) (2025-2027) *Building upon the previous Water & Land projects: "Fixed Line Transects-Europe (FLT) project (2020)" & "Europe Marine Transborder Transect (MTT) project (2022-2024)"* *Related with Nature protection ET*	The project aims to tackle plastic pollution in rivers by delivering guidelines for monitoring macroplastic and a booklet on the harm caused by plastic litter to marine umbrella species, focusing on exposure risk. Plastic pollution in rivers poses a significant environmental threat, particularly as rivers transport litter to the sea. Recent efforts under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and ongoing research in academic and scientific institutions have begun monitoring macroplastic (>2.5 cm) in rivers to assess its impact on species protected under EU legislation. There is a strong need to start sharing the appropriate and common monitoring protocol in order to harmonize data collection across IMPEL countries, particularly among environmental authorities responsible for enforcing EU legislation. The project builds upon the previous MTT project (2022-2024) work: a) Report (in progress): Final guidelines for EU countries to assess the state of cetacean and marine turtles using large vessels, cargos, and ferries as platform for systematic surveys. b) Report (2022): "Data validation, format storage, and database interoperability" of records collected from large vessel/ferries. The project is structured into two Work Packages (WPs) to meet the requirements of EU Directives: Marine Strategy, Water, Waste, and Habitats. WP1: Establish a network and enhance capacity building to standardize monitoring of riverine macrolitter; WP2: Investigate the risk of exposure to marine plastic pollution for species protected under the Habitats Directive and Bird Directive, such as Shearwater seabirds, within (or in proximity) and outside Natura 2000 sites.	Roberto Crosti (IT) roberto.crosti@isprambniente.it	○ Online course & training materials ○ Guidelines for monitoring macroplastic in rivers ○ Booklet on plastic litter harm on marine umbrella species: exposure risk
NEW **6. 2025-27(V) W&L WG6** Stop Irregular Landfills (2025-2027) *Related with Waste & TFS ET*	The project aims to address environmental challenges related to illegal landfills, abandoned waste, and contaminated sites in the EU by drawing from successful models, such as the Single Commissioner Structure, to develop replicable strategies. It will disseminate best practices for soil integration, enabling its transformation for new purposes like phytotechnology applications, urban parks, renewable energy systems, and waste management infrastructure. The project comprises three phases: Phase 1 involves assessing the status of illegal landfills, old landfills, critical sites, and abandoned waste across IMPEL countries, providing case studies from countries like Poland, Spain, Greece, and Romania. Phase 2 includes conducting a survey among IMPEL Members and organizing virtual meetings to determine the average time required to address these issues and find viable solutions. Phase 3 explores the feasibility of establishing a Central Structure to coordinate and manage environmental, administrative, and economic challenges associated with these sites under a unified governance approach. The project will culminate in a report on regularization methods for these areas, along with identifying best practices for their proper utilization.	Nino Tarantino (IT) nino.tarantino@carabinieri.it	Report on regularization methods for illegal landfills, old landfills, abandoned waste sites, and critical environmental areas, along with identifying best practices for their proper utilization
7. 2025-27(V) W&L WG7 Landspreading and Treatment of Sludge (LTS) (2025-2027) *Continuation of the "Sustainable Landspreading (2021-24)", building upon the SWETE project (2015-20).* *Related with the I&A project "2025-27(I) WG2 Intensive Rearing of Poultry and Pigs".*	The project builds on previous work and aims to advance the circular economy by considering the new technologies for sludge treatment and land application in agriculture and developing inspection guidelines for sludge treatment verification before its use in agriculture. It seeks to foster discussions and establish a shared knowledge base among stakeholders by addressing variations in sludge management practices across IMPEL countries and sharing technical resources and best practices. The EU's Circular Economy Action Plan underscores the need for collaboration among Member States to enhance water environment management. The circular use of fertilizers is imperative. In 2025, the project team will analyze previous SWETE-Safeguarding the Water Environment Throughout Europe (phases I-V) project documents and conduct a new survey, to inform discussions in working meetings. In 2026, a joint field inspection (sludge production plant (e.g. waste water treatment plant), sludge treatment, sludge storage and final use in the field), involving environmental and agricultural inspectors, will address practical issues in each Member State, contributing to a draft integrated legislative guide. 2027 will focus on developing inspection guidelines for sludge treatment verification before its use in agriculture, culminating in a final conference.	Gabriel Dragoi (RO) gabriel.dragoi@rowater.ro Barry Sheppard (UK) barry.sheppard@environment-agency.gov.uk	○ Integrated legislative guide ○ An inspection guide regarding landspreading and treatment of sludge ○ Joint inspection reports ○ Learning material for the W&L community

8. 2025-27(V) W&L WG8 Water and Land Remediation (WLR) (2025-2027)	The project, initiated in 2020, aims to develop guidance documents for implementing in-situ water and land remediation technologies, alongside establishing long-term monitoring schemes. It seeks to standardize remediation processes across Member States by building upon the 2018 European Commission-JRC initiative with the EEA-EIONET network, which defined 6 site statuses, and focuses on expediting the often-bottlenecked remediation phase by establishing specific monitoring parameters for each technology. These guidance documents, translated into multiple languages, will serve as references for Member States lacking monitoring procedures, potentially reducing reliance on more impactful remediation methods like Dig&Dump and Pump&Treat. Currently, the project has produced or is developing guidance documents for various technologies, including In situ Chemical Oxidation (2021), Soil Vapour Extraction (2021), Multi-Phase Extraction (2022), Soil Washing (2023), Thermal Desorption (soon available in 2024), Phytoremediation (soon available in 2024), Biopile (currently collecting case studies), and In Situ Chemical Reduction (currently collecting case studies). Plans are in place for 6 additional documents in the 2025-2027 cycle.	Marco Falconi (IT) marco.falconi@isprambiente.it	○ Guidance Document for 6 remediation technologies ○ Final project report
NEW **9. 2025-27(V) W&L WG9** Soil helTh And EcosysTem SErvices (STATE) (2025-2027)	The project aligns with the proposed Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience, which seeks to establish a unified soil monitoring framework and advocate for sustainable soil management practices, with the aim to achieve healthy soils by 2050. Soils are crucial for sustaining life on Earth, supporting agriculture, resilience to climate change, and overall well-being. However, around 60 to 70% of EU soils are currently unhealthy due to human activities. Existing EU and national policies have made progress in improving soil health, but significant gaps remain, including fragmented and inconsistent soil monitoring schemes across Member States. In this context, the STATE project aims to provide the EU Member States with the necessary tools for a swift and effective implementation of the proposed Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience. It seeks to achieve this goal by: i) providing guidance on improving harmonization of soil monitoring systems, ii) sharing best practices to improve soil health and maintain soil-related ecosystem services for a sustainable soil management across the EU.	Marco Falconi (IT) marco.falconi@isprambiente.it Iustina Popescu Boaja (RO) iustinapopescu@yahoo.com	○ Report on comparison of the Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience requirements with some of the Member States existing monitoring systems ○ Guide for improving harmonization on soil monitoring ○ Best practices guide for improving soil health and maintaining ecosystem services
10. **2025-27(V) W&L WG10** Water & Land Conference (2025-2027)	The annual Water and Land Conference serves as an essential platform for fostering extensive networking and robust discussions among IMPEL members. It facilitates the exchange of activities, experiences, and best practices in land, soil, and water protection, including vital areas such as floods monitoring and drought mitigation. Collaboration with international organizations enriches the global discussion on the relationship between agriculture and the environment. Moreover, addressing the challenges posed by the EU Green Deal requires thorough investigation and discussion to formulate proposals aligned with IMPEL's ambitious evolution goals.	Monica Crisan (RO) monica.crisan@impel.eu Geneve Farabegoli (IT) geneve.farabegoli@isprambiente.it	○ Annual Conference & Back to back Expert Team meeting ○ Proceedings of the conferences ○ Final report

Nature Protection Expert Team

Subproject	Description	Subproject Lead	Main Deliverable(s)
2025-27(VI) GreenForce			
1. 2025-27(VI) NP WG1 Invasive Alien Species and NIRAM (2025-2027) *Continuation/ Building upon the "Testing and improving the proposed planning tool for inspections of Natura 2000 sites (NIRAM) and Roadmap for a project series on invasive alien species (2022-2024)"*	The project aims to address challenges related to invasive alien species and contribute to the prevention and minimization of their impact on native biodiversity, in line with by the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation (IASR) (No 1143/2014). The project builds upon the IMPEL NIRAM tool for planning/managing inspections at protected sites (with focus on Natura 2000 sites). Previous phases involved validating the NIRAM tool, developing criteria and scoring system through tests in existing sites in some IMPEL member countries, and user feedback collection. In 2023, a roadmap was created for a series of projects on invasive alien species (IAS), focusing on the tasks and responsibilities of nature protection and environmental inspection authorities. Under the EU IASR (No 1143/2014) Member States are required to establish action plans and surveillance systems for early detection and eradication. However, an EC report from 13/10/2021 highlights challenges such as funding shortages and administrative capacity gaps in some Member States, leading to insufficient implementation of the regulation. Additionally, many Member States have yet to implement action plans targeting priority pathways of invasive species spread. There are also needs for improvements in surveillance systems and official control structures. Knowledge gaps persist regarding the costs, benefits, and management methods for invasive species. The project in 2025-2027 will implement the activities in the roadmap. These include conducting workshops and joint inspections to combat and eradicate invasive species (Article 14 Surveillance System, EU IASR 1143/2014), sharing best practices on eradication methods, developing checklists for preparing, planning, executing and assessing eradication activities, exchanging information on early detection notifications and rapid eradication efforts (Articles 16 and 17, EU IASR 1143/2014), and organize awareness-raising workshops ; exploring methods and outcomes such as citizen science, new information techniques, applications (apps), media education, and various event types for different target groups. Collaboration with stakeholders such as nature protection and environmental inspection authorities aims to enhance the implementation of the EU IASR.	Gisela Holzgraefe (DE) Gisela.Holzgraefe@mlur.landsh.de Kate Bayley (UK) kate.bayley@environment-agency.gov.uk	○ Workshop reports on items that can be finalised between project years. ○ Checklist for preparing, planning, carrying out and assessment of results of eradication activities, identification of necessary follow-up measures. ○ Three-minute video explaining the project ○ Final report 2027
2. 2025-27(VI) NP WG2 Evaluation of the application of the EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking (2025-2027) *Continuation of the project "EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking (2022-2024)"*	The project, commenced in 2018, aims to support the implementation of the updated EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking, particularly focusing on non-CITES listed species, and enhance collaboration with stakeholders like ENPE, EUFJE, and EnviCrimeNet. Europe is directly affected by wildlife trafficking, a billion-euro criminal industry led by organized groups, which persists due to low detection risks, insignificant penalties, and profits comparable to arms and human trafficking. Endangered species are sold domestically, and illicit trade routes exploit enforcement disparities among Member States. While the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking represents a significant commitment aligned with international goals, addressing enforcement and enhancing political engagement requires a joint effort among the EU, its Member States, and other stakeholders. The evaluation of joint inspections from 2022 to 2023 identified potential gaps in EU legislation, particularly in the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations. Collaborative efforts during joint inspections (8 scheduled between 2025-27) and annual workshops will lead to the development of good practice examples and improvements to the reference guide developed in October 2021, thereby better equipping enforcement authorities in EU Member States to combat wildlife trafficking.	Nuno Saavedra (PT) nuno.saavedra@icnf.pt Elisabete Santos (PT) elisabete.r.santos@azores.gov.pt	○ Workshop & Joint inspection reports. ○ A final report in the end of the project with the improvements of the reference document guide.
3. 2025-27(VI) NP WG3	The project aims to support the implementation of the Bird and Habitat Directives at European Aerodromes. The non-built-up areas of aerodromes, hosting a wide variety of wildlife across Europe, have the potential to contribute to the	Albert de Hoon (NL) albert.de.hoon@minienw.nl	Report with overviews of:

Implementation of the Bird and Habitat Directives at European Aerodromes (2025-2027)	conservation of threatened plant and non-hazardous animal species within the limits of aircraft-wildlife strike prevention, aligning with EU initiatives to protect birds like the Skylark. To ensure aviation safety, EC Regulation 139/2014 mandates aerodromes to minimize wildlife hazards, though this sometimes conflicts with nature protection directives. Member States oversee derogation permits, allowing strategies like habitat management and wildlife harassment to reduce risks, while also striving to conserve non-hazardous species. The project aims to provide examples of better practices to assist aerodromes in implementing appropriate aircraft-wildlife strike prevention strategies, leading to: i) reduced aircraft – wildlife collision hazard, ii) decrease in the number of individuals affected by derogation permits, ii) increased populations of non-hazardous species. During the initial phase (2023-2024), the project focused on building up good relationships with the aviation sector by conducting several on-site visits to aerodromes to investigate the implementation of the derogation of article 9 of the Birds Directive in the name of aviation Flight Safety. In the second phase (2025-2026) additional on-site visits to aerodromes are planned and organization of workshops is prioritized to facilitate data sharing, identify best practices, understand current strategies, and address knowledge gaps in wildlife hazard management in aerodromes. A workshop targeting raptors is planned for 2024 due to the urgency of the issue, focusing on: i) the grassland management near the runways, ii) catch-and-release techniques, iii) methods to deter raptors from aerodromes.		○ flora and fauna species, as well as habitats present at aerodromes; ○ aircraft – hazardous bird and other animal species; ○ number of individuals removed (either killed or caught and relocated) ○ present aircraft – wildlife strike prevention practices ○ toolkit for more animal friendly methods to prevent aircraft – wildlife collisions ○ potentials for flora and fauna species within the limits of aircraft – wildlife strike prevention
4. 2025-27(VI) NP WG4 Joint of Networks for Wild Fungi (JoNeF) (2025-2027)	The JoNeF project, commenced in July 2023, aims to develop a common European data collection process to support: i) the extension of European environmental legislation to include fungi in habitat and biodiversity monitoring, ii) the integration of fungal species into environmental policies. Recently, there's been growing recognition of the need to include fungi in European environmental laws alongside animals and plants to protect habitats. However, existing legislation overlooks fungi. Despite their crucial role in ecosystems, the lack of a unified European Information System leads to fragmented data collection. Establishing such a system is vital to advance fungi conservation efforts and use them as indicators of habitat quality and climate change. In its initial phase, the project conducted an online survey among IMPEL and non-IMPEL members to gather and analyze data on European macrofungi census, monitoring, and mapping initiatives. During the 2025-2027 cycle, the project will focus on: developing guidelines for a standardized data collection process in Europe (2025), proposing a set of mycoindicators (2026), designing an EU information system and app for fungi data collection and storage of (2026), and developing a prototype informative system and applications, including the JoNeF website (2027). Expertise from mycologists and functional analysts in information system design and data collection platforms will be essential. Across 2025-2027, there will be 12 project meetings, 10 online and 2 in-person with site visits, along with a final workshop in hybrid mode.	Francesca Floccia (IT) francesca.floccia@isprambiente.it	○ Report on the development of a common data collection process in Europe (Guidelines) (2025). ○ Report on the proposal for a set of mycoindicators (2026). ○ Report on the design of an EU information system and related app to collect and store fungi data (2026). ○ Development of a prototype informative system and apps; JoNeF web site (2027).
5. 2025-27(VI) NP WG5 BIOVAL-Eco System Recovery Calculation (2025-2027)	The BIOVAL project is a collaborative effort involving EUFJE (judges), ENPE (prosecutors), and IMPEL, lead by EUFJE, that aims to develop and disseminate a practical online instrument for valuing ecological damages in court, thereby enhancing legal certainty and expediting case resolution. The project started in 2020, initially focusing on wild fauna/vertebrates, BIOVAL expanded its scope through research and collaboration with INBO. In 2023, a draft criteria/methodology was released and applied in a Belgian case involving illegal catching of starlings. A website is currently in development to provide judges and stakeholders with an online tool, methodology explanations, and a case law database. Future plans for 2025-2027 include further refining the online tool/website with a rich case law database, calculation for CITES species, extend the species list of fauna, test a formula for flora, organize training activities, and broader implementation across Member States.	Jan Van den Berghe jan.v.d.berghe@telenet.be Farah Bouquelle farah.bouquelle@eufje.org Ariane Samson-Divisia asamsondivisia@ecomail.fr	Practical online tool with criteria for the valuation of wildlife damage in court proceedings + provision of an online case law database + provision of training.

Cross-cutting Tools and Approaches Expert Team

Subproject	Description	Subproject Lead	Main Deliverable(s)
2025-27(VII) Cross-cutting Tools and Approaches			
1. 2025-27(VII) CC WG1 Knowledge and Information Programme (KIP) (2025-2027)	KIP initiated as a proof-of-concept project in 2022 and is now evolving into a comprehensive program poised to serve as the central knowledge and training hub for all the projects conducted by the Expert Teams. As such, KIP will play a pivotal role in aiding the development of guidance, tools, and training materials, as well as disseminating project reports and results through the IMPEL website. Its primary objective is to provide consistent support to projects, ensuring the creation of high-quality deliverables and training materials/programmes that are not only tailored/fit for practical use but also readily accessible through a dedicated page on the website.	Gabriëlle Kuhn (NL) gabrielle.kuhn@rws.nl Simon Bingham (UK) Simon.Bingham@sepa.org.uk	○ Guidance and tool on project deliverables ○ Training and learning materials on project deliverables ○ Guidance, tools, training and learning pages, ○ Project pages ○ Train the trainer courses
2. 2025-27(VII) CC WG2 IMPEL Review Initiative (IRI) Programme (2025-2027)	The IMPEL Review Initiative is a long running project designed to support host organisations in implementing EU environmental legislation and adopting effective tools and approaches. It is not an audit, but a capacity-building programme where five experts from donor organisations, a team leader and rapporteur review a host organisation. The subject matter of the review is selected by the host organisation and could be policy, permitting or inspection driven depending on the needs of the host. On themes such as industry, waste, nature or water. It can involve single or multiple organizations within the regulatory or compliance chain at different levels (national, regional, local). It can focus on any aspect of the environmental acquis.	Simon Bingham (UK) Simon.Bingham@sepa.org.uk Rob Kramers (NL) rob.kramers@rws.nl Patricia Weenink (NL) PA.Weenink-Driessen@overijssel.nl	○ 12 IRI reports with key findings translated into host language
3. 2025-27(VII) CC WG3 National Peer Review Initiatives (NPRI) (2025-2027)	The NPRI project, launched in 2019, aims to empower countries and networks of Environmental Authorities and Agencies to autonomously conduct peer reviews, enhancing their performance. By providing a precise yet flexible tool, NPRI facilitates the implementation of good practices and homogenization, thus supporting the EU ECA initiative. Phase I focused on developing the framework/methodology for peer review initiatives, while Phase II delved into key topics to improve implementation. During Phase III the project team supported countries in developing or enhancing their peer review schemes. For the 2025-27 cycle the project aims to continue assisting countries in conducting their own NPRI until they have developed sufficient experience and skills, while also enhancing the NPRI manual and protocols.	Giuseppe Sgorbati (IT) G.SGORBATI@arpalombardia.it Marc du Maine (NL) marc.du.maine@rws.nl Fabio Carella (IT) F.CARELLA@arpalombardia.it	○ An updated version of the NPRI Methodology document (guidance) ○ Training materials ○ Reports describing an evaluation of the NPRI implementation in Countries/Networks and choices they made during the process.
NEW **4. 2025-27(VII) CC WG4** Environmental Emergencies project (2025-2027)	The project aims to provide lessons learned, best practices, and recommendations to enhance the procedural, technical, and operational capacities of environmental public institutions involved in inland environmental disasters' prevention, preparedness, response, and restoration activities, conducted by Civil Protection Bodies and local/national Governments. In recent years, the EU has experienced severe environmental challenges due to climate change, such as floods, storms, and forest fires. Collaboration is essential to withstand future disasters and improve preparedness. Member States struggle to cope with simultaneous crises, highlighting the need for technical-scientific support from environmental authorities to Civil Protection Bodies and Governments. The project's survey and report in 2025 will guide the focus areas for improving technical and operational capacities in disaster prevention, response, and reconstruction activities.	Francesco Andreotti (IT) francesco.andreotti@isprambiente.it Elisa Nardi (IT) elisa.nardi@isprambiente.it	○ Report on existing guidelines, agreements, protocols, services, activity reports, best practices, case studies, lessons learned, site visits and other activities (2025) ○ Focus areas for 2025-27 will be decided by the project team, following the 2025 report

5. 2025-27(VII) CC WG5 Criteria for the Assessment of the Environmental Damage (CAED) (2025)	The project started in 2019 with the aim to provide criteria, methods, procedures, tools, and training for determining environmental damage and imminent threats, with the goal of strengthening preventive or remedial measures. The project has been included in the ELD Multi-Annual Rolling Work Programme (MARWP) 2021-2024 of the EU Commission (as activity 1.3) as one of the activities for capacity building. During the previous phases, it has developed two tools, a Practical Guide with decision-making flowcharts and Practical Tables with indicators—to aid environmental damage assessment, alongside a methodological approach based on the DPSIR model, offering also training on these resources. Ongoing efforts include updating these tools with new checklists and indicators for enhanced user-friendliness. Moving forward, the project develops training materials based on its products (2024), with plans to conduct onsite training sessions on them in collaboration with EU COM (DG ENV.E4) ELD training pilots in 2025.	Francesco Andreotti (IT) francesco.andreotti@isprambiente.it	○ Summary Report on conducted activities on training in the EU COM pilots. ○ *Possibly updated training material (compared to the training material provided in 2024).*
6. 2025-27(VII) CC WG6 Geospatial Intelligence for Environmental Compliance Assurance (GIECA) (2025-2027)	The first phase of GIEDA project aimed at reporting real cases and effective methodological approaches that use geospatial intelligence to detect, characterize, and evaluate environmental damages. In the second phase, GIEDA focuses on enhancing awareness among judges and prosecutors regarding the potential use of geospatial intelligence to gather evidence of environmental violations. This phase also involves analyzing requirements and establishing a baseline of needs to enhance agencies' capabilities. Additionally, the investigation of real environmental crime cases and a review of cases involving environmental damage from the first phase will be extended. The project will organize a dedicated session at 4 Networks Conference on geospatial intelligence topic to bring together EUFJE and ENPE networks. Additionally, a report will be drafted to showcase real cases and outline the technical and juridical requirements for utilizing geospatial intelligence in courts. This report will demonstrate the ability of geospatial intelligence to generate evidence and facilitate the assessment of environmental crimes, aiming to enhance the capacity of agencies and regulators.	Federico Filipponi (IT) federico.filipponi@isprambiente.it Laura Calgani (IT) laura.calcagni@isprambiente.it	○ Dedicated session at 4 Networks Conference on geospatial intelligence topic. ○ Report on demonstration real cases, technical and juridical requirements for the use of geospatial intelligence in courts, available as an e-document.
NEW **7. 2025-27(VII) CC WG7** Network to Reduce Light Pollution (ReLiPo) (2025-2027)	The project aims to address the pressing issue of light pollution within the EU, exacerbated by population growth, urbanization, and lighting costs, particularly in large cities. Despite concerns about the impacts of Artificial-Light-At-Night (ALAN/LAN) on human health, ecosystems, and celestial visibility, there's currently no common legal framework across EU countries. Existing directives (European Ecodesign & Energy Labelling and Repealing) prioritize energy-efficient lighting but overlook light pollution effects. However, there is increasing interest in integrating it into environmental action plans and biodiversity strategies. Implementation of measures varies widely among member states, with some having policies and others relying on non-binding guidelines. A mutual exchange of knowledge and tools within the EU are seen as urgently necessary. In the spirit of "learning from the best", there should be regular exchange between the individual member states in order to move towards a harmonized European approach. The project towards this direction, seeks to facilitate knowledge exchange, awareness, and harmonization, explore mitigation options in industrial areas, and support cities in reducing light pollution by conducting a survey and drafting relative guidelines.	Vladimir Kaiser (SI) vladimir.kaiser@gov.si	○ Survey report ○ Guideline for the reduction of light pollution (including translations) ○ Project & Guideline presentation on expert meetings and conferences ○ Final project report
NEW **8. 2025-27(VII) CC WG8** Compliance Assurance including ECD (2025-2027)	The primary aim of the project is to support IMPEL members on sharing learning and experience in compliance assurance and its implementation, including on Environmental Crime Directive (ECD), as well to support IMPEL participation in the Forum Action Plan. IMPEL collaborates with the EU Commission and its members on compliance assurance, offering support for a range of interventions. Between 2025 and 2027, IMPEL anticipates focusing on three primary areas to further develop compliance assurance efforts: firstly, assisting members in implementing the revised ECD by facilitating knowledge exchange, providing guidance on specific topics regarding ECD implementation, and coordinating with the EC, ENPE, EUFJE and EnviCrimeNet; secondly, supporting the Forum's action plan topics by aiding in plan implementation, sharing best practices and tools, and collaborating with EC and other networks; and thirdly, taking a proactive stance in addressing compliance assurance challenges beyond the Forum's action plan by fostering innovation, facilitating information exchange,	Martine Blondeel (BE) martine.blondeel@lne.vlaanderen.be Ana Garcia (PT) agarcia@igamaot.gov.pt	○ Guidance on specific X-cutting topics for the effective implementation of the ECD ○ Support IMPEL participation in the Forum Action Plan ○ Inventory of innovative ideas, new developments, good practices / tools /

	and supporting the development of new initiatives to tackle challenges effectively. All outcomes will be presented and exchanged through the joint 4 Networks conferences.		instruments for compliance assurance topics ○ All products will be presented and exchanged through the 4N conferences
NEW **9. 2025-27(VII) CC WG9** Zero pollution action plan (ZPAP) - Enforcing Zero Pollution together (2025-2027)	The aim of the project is to foster a transition towards a more cohesive approach to enforcing and implementing Zero Pollution initiatives. Aligned with Flagship 5 of the zero-pollution action plan, which emphasizes collaboration among environmental and other enforcement authorities, the project aims to facilitate the exchange of best practices and encourage the development of cross-sectorial compliance actions. This involves: : i) identifying and sharing best practices to enhance integrated enforcement strategies towards Zero Pollution; ii) delving into specific areas where different sectors intersect and collaborating to define and refine compliance actions that cut across various industries and regulations; iii) facilitating the exchange of successful examples and case studies to inspire and guide enforcement authorities in their efforts to achieve Zero Pollution goals.	Martine Blondeel (BE) martine.blondeel@vlaanderen.be Francesco Andreotti (IT) francesco.andreotti@isprambiente.it Monica Crisan (RO) monica.crisan@impel.eu	○ Feasibility Study & Prioritization Report (provides information on all ideas and selects 3-5 actions) ○ Guidance on the selected 3-5 actions and good practices list.
NEW **10. 2025-27(VII) CC WG10** Artificial Intelligence and Environmental Protection (ARTIC) (2025-2027)	The project aims to support European Environmental Authorities to face the challenge of the use of Artificial Intelligence in the most rational and effective way, by sharing information, interests, and programs for the use of AI-based tools. AI offers valuable tools for risk profiling, environmental planning, and automation, but legal and ethical considerations, including compliance with regulations like the EU's Artificial Intelligence Act, must be addressed. Jurisdictional aspects need to be also addressed, such as the sustainability in court of information and clues, if not evidence, formed through AI, and the use of AI in the prosecution of environmental crimes. A thorough analysis of AI tools is necessary to ensure compliance with new regulations and mitigate potential litigation risks for Environmental Authorities implementing AI tools in compliance assurance activities. Key objectives include surveying AI tools used by environmental authorities, conducting surveys among 4N member organizations to assess their AI tool needs, hosting seminars to disseminate information on AI tool usage, providing training for IMPEL members, sharing AI tools used by 4N members, addressing jurisdictional issues related to AI usage, proposing the development and utilization of common AI tools, and identifying common AI instruments for development with possible external funding from the EC.	Giuseppe Sgorbati (IT) G.SGORBATI@arpalombardia.it Fabio Carella (IT) F.CARELLA@arpalombardia.it	○ Survey Report on AI Tool Usage Among European Environmental Authorities and 4N Members ○ Report on proposals for AI tools development
11. 2025-27(VII) CC WG11 Implementation Challenges (2025)	IMPEL has carried out a few similar surveys in recent years providing useful information. However, the landscape has changed significantly with the declaration of a climate emergency by many countries, increased awareness about plastics and global biodiversity decline. To address these emerging challenges and identify opportunities and solutions, there's a need for comprehensive understanding. The project aims at understanding of the pressing issues so that potential solutions can be found to support the regulatory community. The work will inform the creation of a Multiannual Strategic Plan (MASP) for IMPEL. An online survey, developed with input from all Expert Teams, will gather insights from IMPEL's practitioners. Results will be analysed and compiled into a report to be shared within the IMPEL community.	Rob Kramers (NL) rob.kramers@rws.nl Kari Pirkanniemi (FI) kari.pirkanniemi@avi.fi Elisabete Santos (PT) Elisabete.R.Santos@azores.gov.pt Sverrir Jónsson sverrir.jonsson@umhverfisstofnun.is	○ Implementation Challenges Report and Summary containing analysed results

12. 2025-27(VII) CC WG12 4 Networks Conference (2025 & 2027)	Building upon the previous 4 network conferences, this project aims to organise two upcoming conferences in 2025 and 2027, uniting the IMPEL, ENPE, EUFJE, and EnviCrimeNet networks. These conferences will bring together practitioners (regulators and inspectors, police, prosecutors, and judges), with a variety of roles along the enforcement chain, to convene and exchange expertise and best practices in combatting environmental crime. Attendees will engage in presentations and discussions covering practical cases on a range of relevant environmental topics, such as wildlife crime, waste crime, industrial pollution, water, and soil crimes. Furthermore, the conferences will spotlight the latest technological approaches deployed by different Member States to tackle specific common issues.	Marco Falconi (IT) marco.falconi@impel.eu *Chair + 2 vice chairs + Steering Group*	○ Two 4 Networks Conferences, conference presentations on the websites of the Networks involved, reports on the key points and main findings of the break-out sessions or workshops and summary of the Conference
13. 2025-27(VII) CC WG13 IMPEL Conference (2026)	The project aims to organize the IMPEL Conference in 2026, continuing the tradition of past IMPEL conferences. In addition to the four Network conferences, IMPEL recognizes the importance of holding a dedicated conference on the work, progress, and future direction of its network and expert teams, especially in relation to the Implementation Challenge planned for 2025. Objectives include gathering member feedback on the Implementation Challenge Survey, exchanging information, raising IMPEL's profile, promoting training opportunities, and enhancing international collaboration. Preparations for the conference will begin in 2025.	A prep committee will be formed consisting of representatives of the IMPEL Board, Expert teams and host Country	○ IMPEL Conference ○ Conference presentations and statement ○ Report on the proceedings