

Compliance Assurance including Environmental Crime Directive Implementation

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SCOPE:

Compliance Assurance: broad definition: ‘all appropriate mechanisms to ensure compliance’ (COM(2018)10), EU Environmental Compliance and Governance Forum)

Three broad classes of intervention with broad interpretation:

1. Compliance Promotion

All actions to increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of legal obligations among the target group concerned, thus bringing about a lasting change in behaviour, in order to achieve voluntary and correct compliance with the regulations. – 4 categories: information and training, technical assistance, transparent communication and compliance incentives

2. Compliance Monitoring and inspections

All actions to identify and characterize conduct, to detect non-compliance... – inspections, checks, selfmonitoring systems, online measuring systems, citizen surveys...

3. Follow-up and Enforcement

All actions to stop, deter, sanction, restore... – using administrative, criminal and civil law...



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COOPERATIVE APPROACH:

- As the project's scope is **Compliance Assurance** in its **broad definition**: 'all appropriate mechanisms to ensure compliance' this project is executed in **cooperation between the 4 European Environmental Compliance Assurance Networks**:
 1. IMPEL: <https://impel.eu/>
 2. EnviCrimeNet: <https://www.envicrimenet.eu/>
 3. ENPE: <https://www.environmentalprosecutors.eu/>
 4. EUFJE: <https://www.eufje.org/>



- A cooperation with the project '**4 Networks Conference**' as the Conference will be about the implementation of this Directive

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FRAMEWORK:

General Principles:

- Polluter pays principle
- Precautionary and prevention principles
- Combatting pollution/misuse of natural resources at its source
- Problem “areas” and feedback loop in the compliance chain to address them
- IT/Data Intelligence led action
- Stop illicit activities early
- Level playing field for economic activities
- Resource efficient protection
- Supporting innovation

Coherent/coordinated approach:

- Collaboration across the compliance chain, with institutions (including Academia) and citizens
- Multi and interdisciplinary (air, water, waste, land, nature/administrative, finance, ...)
- Levels (civil/criminal; strategic/tactical/operational; international/national)
- Capacity building and specialization

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AIM - TASK:

1) A proactive approach by IMPEL regarding compliance assurance topics

- coordinate the inventory of innovative ideas, instruments and new developments on cross-cutting tools and approaches of compliance assurance and good practices / tools / instruments, exchanging information amongst its members and throughout the network
- contribute to innovation in compliance assurance instruments or initiatives.
- support the understanding of challenges concerning compliance assurance of its Members and how to address and implement them, within IMPEL, and when necessary with the European Compliance Assurance networks and European Commission
- support the further rollout of the action plan (or actualised or new plans) of the EU Commission on compliance assurance in a coordinated way together with its members and also coordinated with the Commission and the other European networks

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AIM - TASK:

2) Developments regarding the reviewed Environmental Crime Directive

- support its members in the process of the practical implementation of the ECD, giving special focus to cooperation between administrative and criminal authorities, and national strategies.
- share knowledge and experience, also about concrete cases, and develop guidance on specific topics regarding ECD implementation.
- exchange with the EU Commission about implementation challenges (f.i. via the Compliance Forum sub-group).
- coordinate with the other compliance assurance networks about implementation issues.

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FOCUS 2025:

As the Environmental Crime Directive should be implemented by 20 May 2026 the main focus of 2025 is on **AIM – TASK 2**

As a first step: a questionnaire has been developed in cooperation between the 4 Networks:

[QUESTIONNAIRE ON PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME DIRECTIVE](#)

In order to

=> **share good practices/tools/instruments**

=> **know where support from the 4 Networks can be more helpful**

This questionnaire is **open to all member organisations of the 4 Networks.**

This questionnaire is open since November 2024 and stays open until end of June 2025

CALL: WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS – offering answers in your field of competence only is sufficient

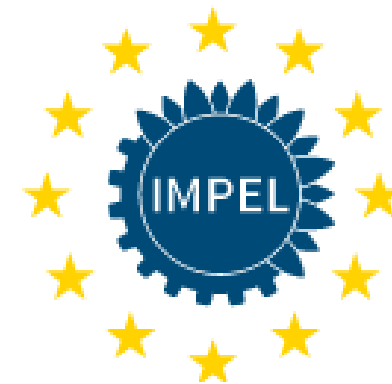
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PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS:

- **Meetings planned:**
 - 2025: 1 physical meeting (Belgium) (+ regularly online meetings + discussion groups)
 - 2026: 1 physical meeting (Belgium) (+ regularly online meetings + discussion groups)
 - 2027: 1 physical meeting (Portugal) (+ regularly online meetings)
- **Estimated time resources for participation in the project:**
 - Minimum of 10 days per year
- **First tasks for participants in the project in 2025:**
 - Promote the questionnaire in your organisation
 - Assist your organisation to answer the questionnaire
 - Help in the project with analysing the results of all questionnaires that are received from organisations

CALL: WE WOULD STILL WELCOME ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROJECT



Contact information:

- ✓ **For joining this project:** If you work for an IMPEL member organisation and would like to join the project or receive further information, **please contact the National Coordinator of your country and the Project Manager at martine.Blondeel@vlaanderen.be & agarcia@igamaot.gov.pt & Kristina.Rabe@bmuv.bund.de & Nicholas.Bond@CorkCoCo.ie**
- ✓ **For becoming a member of IMPEL:** If you are from an Environmental Authority or association of authorities that is based in a member state of the EU, a candidate country or another country applying Community law and would be interested in becoming a member of IMPEL, **please contact IMPEL Secretariat at info@impel.eu** for more information.
- ✓ **For all other interested parties:** please check out our new website for further information! **www.impel.eu**



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