



# National Peer Review Initiative (NPRI) Project

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Cross-Cutting Tools & Approaches Expert Team IMPEL Open Day - 05 February 2025



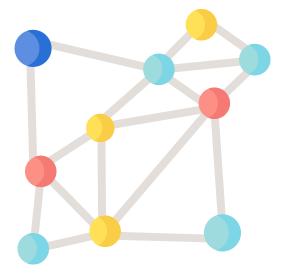






The purpose of the NPRI project is to promote cooperation and coordination within organizations and between different organizations operating in the Environmental Compliance Assurance supply chain within the countries belonging to the IMPEL Network.

The decision to propose a national model for development and coordination derives from the fact that, often, one of the major problems of implementation of the European environmental acquis in organizations and at national level derives from the absence of adequate forms of coordination and cooperation, without which even the best technical indications give partial results.



"What citizens expect is the functioning of an entire organization and the whole system of environmental protection, not of a single office or a single authority"

(NPRI Seminar, December 2024, Athens (GR)

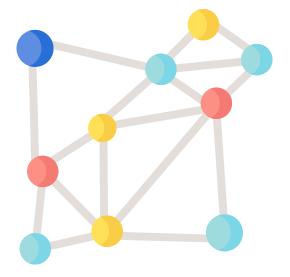






The method used to promote these forms of coordination and cooperation is that of peer review, in which the stakeholders involved in the management of a problem confront each other in the search for common solutions in which each one is recognized in its role, potentials and issues, in view of the realistically optimal functioning of the entire group of subjects involved

The project stems from the experiences developed in the Netherlands and Italy, which aimed to transpose the positive experience of IMPEL IRI on a national scale



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Many experiences has been carried out in NPRI Project since 2022, and many Countries are looking at NPRI as instrument to face important Coordination and Cooperation issues, in many different fields. Some examples of many:







#### NATIONAL PEER REVIEW IN ROMANIA

on border controls at border crossing points related to the shipment of wastes and of good at risk to be smuggled wastes - 2022 - ongoing









ROMANIAN CUSTOMS







CONSUMER PROTECTION



#### Other countries the project and with ongoing experiences

























#### NATIONAL PEER REVIEW IN PORTUGAL

On the implementation of Natura 2000 sites surveillance and homogeization at national level – 2023 - ongoing













#### NATIONAL PEER REVIEW IN SLOVAKIA

On the organization of a new Departement of Innovative Tecnologies 2023 - ongoing











Albania \*\*\*\*

# IMPEL NPRI Project Team Support

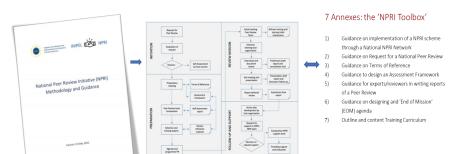


NPRI Tailor made clear written and accessible documents with full detailed explaination of the procedural activities and examples

**Direct NPRI Project team support** in national activities: suggestions, support, drafting of specific documents, follow-up in each phase

Practical experience witnessing, attending ongoing works in other involved Countries, seminars: people in a community of practices

#### Methodology



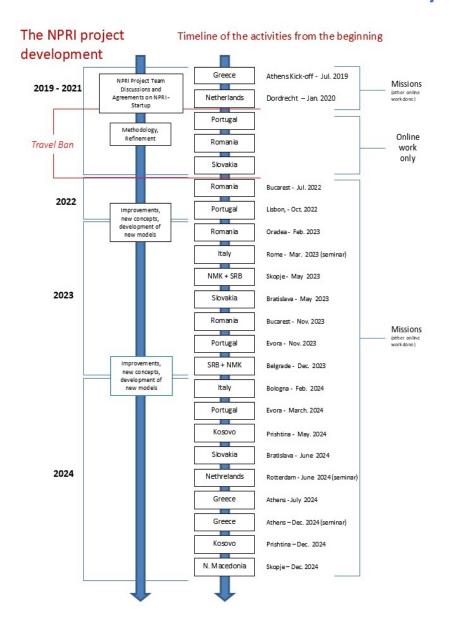


# NPRI 2022 – 2024 activity statistics









Number of operational country visits	15
	13
carried out	2
Number of seminars	3
Total number of events	18
Number of countries visited	8
Number of attendances at events	393
(country visits + seminars)	
Number of participants (people	233
who attended at least one event)	
Average number of event	1,7
participations per project	
participant	
Number of countries of origin of	14
event participants	
Number of organisations involved	49
Typology of organizations that took	1. Inspectors
part in the work	2. Environmental police
i e	3. Judges
	4. Prosecutors
	5. Ministries of the Environment
	6. Local governments
	7. Environmental and nature
	conservation agencies
	8. Customs
	<ol> <li>Customs</li> <li>Consumer Protection Association</li> </ol>
	<ol> <li>Customs</li> <li>Consumer Protection Association</li> <li>Organisations for cooperation</li> </ol>
	<ol> <li>Customs</li> <li>Consumer Protection Association</li> </ol>

	311303 33111113	*
Number presences	305	
in country visits		
(hosts + guests)		
Total hosts in	192	
country visits		
Total guests in	132	
country visits		
Average number of	0,6	
guests per host		
Number of seminar	88	
participations		
Number of people	62	
who attended at		
least one seminar		
Number of	3 out of 3	
Communications of		
European		
Commission in		
Seminars		

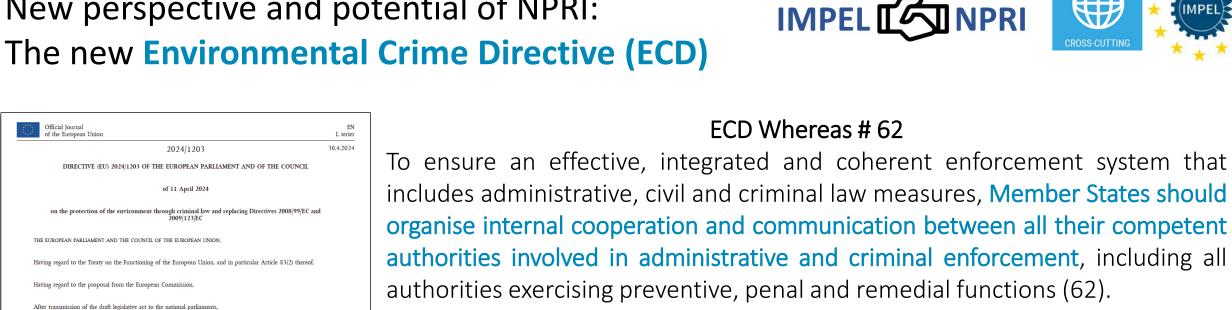
### Main added value of the project:

Connection and dialogue between national stakeholders never happened in the past, thanks to the recognition of the usefulness of the initiative for the solution of practical problems of common interest

# New perspective and potential of NPRI:







## Coordination and cooperation between competent authorities within a Member State

FCD Whereas # 62

Member States shall take the necessary measures to establish appropriate mechanisms for coordination and cooperation at strategic and operational levels among all their competent authorities involved in the prevention of and the fight against environmental criminal offences.

Et Cetera..... (art. 21 and so on....)

ECD Article 19 (I)

Pursuant to Article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TEU), the Union is committed to ensuring a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment. The environment, in a wide sense, should be protected, as follows from Article 3(3) TEU and Article 191 TFEU, covering all natural resources, including air, water, soil, ecosystems, including ecosystem services and functions, and wild fauna and flora, including habitats, as well as services provided by natural resources.

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (1),

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure (2),

Pursuant to Article 191(2) TFEU, Union policy on the environment is to aim at a high level of protection taking into account the diversity of situations in the various regions of the Union. That policy is to be based on the precautionary principle and on the principles that preventive action is to be taken, that environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source and that the polluter should pay. Considering that environmental crime also affects fundamental rights, the fight against environmental crime at Union level is crucial to ensuring that those

The rise in environmental criminal offences and their effects, which undermine the effectiveness of Union environmental law, is a matter of continuing concern in the Union. Such offences increasingly extend beyond the borders of the Member States in which they are committed. Such offences pose a threat to the environment and therefore necessitate an appropriate and effective response, which often requires effective cross-border cooperation.

The existing rules on penalties under Directive 2008/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) and under Union environmental sectoral law have not been sufficient to achieve compliance with Union law concerning protection of the environment. Such compliance should be strengthened by the availability of effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal penalties that correspond to the gravity of the offences and can convey more social disapproval than the use of administrative penalties. Complementarity of criminal and administrative law is crucial to prevent and deter unlawful conduct that damages the environment.

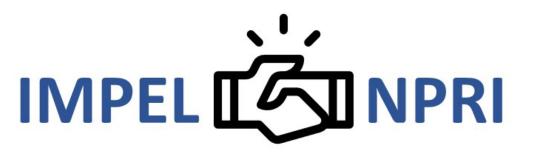
Position of the European Parliament of 27 February 2024 (not yet published in the Official Journal) and decision of the Council of

Directive 2008/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on the protection of the environment through criminal law (O] L 328, 6.12.2008, p. 28).

ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1203/oj

IMPEL Open Day 2025 – Cross-Cutting Tools & Approaches **Expert Team** 







## **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 Managers at g.sgorbati@arpalombardia.it, f.carella@arpalombardia.it, marc.du.maine@rws.nl
- ✓ 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! <a href="https://www.impel.eu">www.impel.eu</a>

