

4 NETWORKS DAY

Online conference

21 May 2021



EU FORUM OF JUDGES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
UE FORUM DES JUGES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

EU GREEN WEEK 2021 PARTNER EVENT

IMPEL's Activity Overview

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ZERO #EUGreenWeek
POLLUTION

for healthier people and planet

Hosted by :  Life+
SATEC



4 NETWORKS DAY



EU FORUM OF JUDGES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
UE FORUM DES JUGES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Together in the fight against environmental crime

Date: 21 May 2021

Time: 09:00 - 12:30 | 13:30 - 16:15 CET

Location: online, hosted by LIFE+ SATEC



The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)

- International non-profit organisation of **environmental authorities**
- Founded in **1992**. Legal seat in Brussels; website: <https://www.impel.eu>
- **55 members authorities** from **36 European countries** including all EU MS
- **>850 involved experts**
- Carries out **projects & other networking activities for practitioners in environmental authorities** (in 2021: 30 projects – [Brief of MPEL 2021 Work Programme](#))
- **5 Expert Teams** - develop projects based on member needs that address key implementation gaps, into the 5 thematic areas
- **Board + General Assembly** → **network management**
- Supported by a **Secretariat** team
- Financed by membership fees & LIFE+ grants from EU Commission



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Environmental Crime – Enforcement Chain – Networking

- Dec 2016: The EU Council invited MS & networks to strengthen their **fight against Environmental Crime (EC)**. The 8th round of mutual evaluations to the practical implementation & operation of EU policies is tackling **Environmental Waste Crime**
- May 2017: **fighting EC is included as a priority in the EU Policy Cycle 2018-21** with a focus on disrupting Organized Criminal Groups involved in wildlife & illicit waste trafficking.
- Jan 2018: the EU-Commission launches the **Environmental Compliance Action Plan** and declares combatting EC 4th field of activity. An Expert Group works out recommendations and guidance.
- The **review of the Environmental Crime Directive** finds that the Directive has at best a modest effect in the fight against environmental crime.
- Several **international initiatives** at different levels and in different bodies (e.g. UN, OECD, G7, FATF, Council of Europe) have addressed or are addressing the harm and risks of environmental crime in the last years.

Up to now, overall practical effects seem difficult to identify & different approaches, lacking coordination and oversight may limit the usefulness of these initiatives.



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Internal projects

- Industry and Air

Assessment Tool for risk-based inspection planning ...

- Waste and TFS

End of Life Ships – Free Riders on Electric and Electronic Waste – Plastic Waste Shipments ...

- Water and Land

Tackling illegal Ground Water drilling and extraction ...

- Nature Protection

Tackling illegal hunting tourism – information exchange on illegal catching and killing of birds – BIOVAL Ecosystem Recovery Calculation ...

- Cross-Cutting Tools

Criteria for the assessment of environmental damage – Verification of self-monitoring data – IRIs(IMPEL Peer Reviews) ...



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External Projects

- [The SPIDER WEB project \(2018-2019, completed\)](#)
- [The WasteForce project \(2019-2021, under completion\)](#)
 - [The LIFE SWEAP project \(2018-2023\)](#)
 - [The LIFE PROWhIBIT project \(2019-2024\)](#)
- **SRSS – Cyprus (2020-2021):** IMPEL experts involved in EC's mission - of the Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS) - to support Cyprus in environmental issues and circular economy; the project expects to result in **a revised Municipal Waste Management Policy and the National Waste Prevention Programme for Cyprus.**
- **SRSS – Malta (2020-2021): Reform and Capacity Building in Permissions and Compliance at ERA** (Environment and Recourses Authority) Malta - three key components – (a) assessment (current situation and future plans); (b) capacity building and (c) information management.



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Collaboration within the Compliance chain

- **IMPEL works together with EnviCrimeNet, ENPE, and EUFJE to promote trust and understanding amongst all actors of the compliance chain as a prerequisite for successful collaboration at the level of practitioners,**
- **Internal and external capacity building and training on fighting environmental crime – preferably across the compliance chain – enhances mutual understanding and builds networks: national, regional and across borders**
- **practicable criteria to quickly establish the damage caused and exemplary information on potential costs for rehabilitation can contribute to a better understanding of the severity of Environmental Crime which is neither “victimless” nor of minor significance**
- **IMPEL carries out regular surveys to collect the views of practitioners on trends and most critical activities in this field**



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IMPEL's Virtual Stand at EU GREEN WEEK (1-4 June 2021)

- Information about IMPEL and project's products:
 - Integrated Water Management
 - IMPEL Review Initiative
 - Joint Inspections
 - NIRAM
 - WasteForce
 - Handout-LIFE SWEAP
 - Step-by-step-guidance-for-IED-Inspections
 - Guidance-Making-the-Circular-Economy-Work
 - Guidance-for-Producers-on-Article-17-of-the-WEEE-Directive
 - Results of the 4 Networks Day 2021
- **Marco's Falconi (Water & Land Expert Team Leader) presentation at the virtual conference on 2nd of June, 14:15 CET; Session 4.3 (Counting down to a cleaner future: monitoring the risks of hazardous chemicals).**
- **Please visit the link for more information about the virtual conference & registration:**
<https://www.eugreenweek.eu/virtual-conference>



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The SPIDER WEB project

The project was aiming at increasing the awareness on the importance of tackling environmental crimes (ECs) and the skillset of all actors in the compliance/enforcement chain in 6 Western Balkan economies (*Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia*), to successfully disrupt & prosecute ECs.

- Jointly financed by the EU and the Federal Republic of Germany, GIZ
- Co-ordinated and implemented by IMPEL
- 2018-2019, [Closing conference in Croatia - November 2019](#)



The collected knowledge can be shared and applied throughout the enforcement chain in EU and even beyond (<https://www.impel.eu/projects/spiderweb/>):

- **Baseline Survey Report**
- **Training Needs Assessment (TNA) Report**
- **Final Report (also available in native languages)**
- **Dissemination of tools, training manual information, best practices**



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The WasteForce project

The project aims to tackle waste crime by boosting the capacities of environmental enforcement authorities in their efforts to disrupt the illegal waste trade.

- Funded by the EU's Internal Security Fund — Police (ISFP/2017/AG/ENV/821345), IMPEL leads the consortium.
- Ran for 2,5 years - [Final conference \(online\) on May 7, 2021](#) – EU GREEN WEEK Partner Event

Tools & resources, as well as training events have been specifically designed to make it easier for policy-makers, regulators, inspectors, investigators and prosecutors to counter waste crime (<https://www.wasteforceproject.eu/resources/publications/>):

- **Waste Crime Alerts**
- **Methodology to calculate the economic damage of waste trafficking**
- **Waste crime prosecution guidance**
- **Forensics data analysis for waste crime**
- **Best practices of repatriation of illegal waste shipments from Asia to Europe**

	<p>The WasteForce Project on Vimeo</p>
	<p>The WasteForce project aims to boost the operational activities and capacities of authorities involved in the fight against illegal trade and management of waste....</p>



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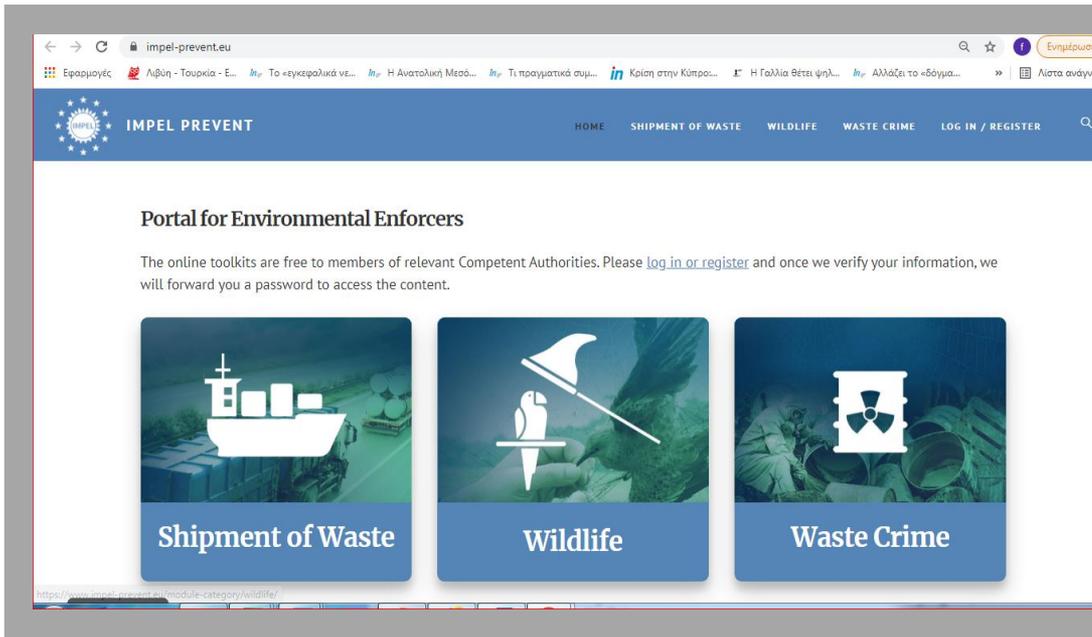
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The LIFE SWEAP project

The project's overall purpose is to support the circular economy by disrupting the illegal waste trade at the EU.

- Co-funded by the LIFE Programme of the EU (LIFE17 GIE/BE/000480), IMPEL leads the consortium
- September 2018 - June 2023

Resources: Reports, Tools, Guidance (<https://www.sweap.eu/resources/>).



The screenshot shows the IMPEL PREVENT website. The header includes the IMPEL logo and navigation links: HOME, SHIPMENT OF WASTE, WILDLIFE, WASTE CRIME, and LOG IN / REGISTER. The main content area is titled "Portal for Environmental Enforcers" and contains the text: "The online toolkits are free to members of relevant Competent Authorities. Please [log in](#) or [register](#) and once we verify your information, we will forward you a password to access the content." Below this text are three large blue buttons with white icons and text: "Shipment of Waste" (with a ship icon), "Wildlife" (with a bird icon), and "Waste Crime" (with a radiation symbol icon). The URL in the browser address bar is <https://www.impel-prevent.eu/module-category/wildlife/>.

PREVENT Portal for Environmental Enforcers

The portal provides an online depository of training & capacity building materials. It is a collaborative work by projects coordinated by IMPEL and executed with various consortium partners (WasteForce, LIFE SWEAP, SPIDERWEB).

The online toolkits are free to members of relevant Competent Authorities.



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The LIFE PROWhIBIT project

The project has an overarching goal to contribute to the waste management & circular economy, as well as prevent, detect & disrupt Environmental Waste Crime (EWC).

- Co-funded by the LIFE Programme of the EU (LIFE 18 GIE/GR/000899,
- Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (Coordinator), Green Fund, IMPEL
- October 2019 – January 2024

Main expected outcomes (<https://stopwastecrime.gr/>):

- **National Strategy (GR) for tackling EWC**
- **Trained & collaborative network of judicial, enforcement & inspecting officers**
- **Integrated Digital Platform for EWC cases handling / IT-enabled and Intelligence-led EWC joint-inspections & law enforcement**
- **Guidelines & recommendations for policy makers for preventing and combating EWC at EU level**



[Stop Waste Crime - LIFE PROWhIBIT \(English Subtitles\) on YouTube](#)

**PREVENTION –
DETECTION –
DISRUPTION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE
CRIME**



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