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SPIDER WEB

Strategic Project to Increase the Detection and Disruption
of Environmental Crime in the Western Balkans



European Union Network for the
Implementation and Enforcement
of Environmental Law

PURPOSE

This document aims to provide you with key information about SPIDER WEB, a project being undertaken by IMPEL, the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law. The information represents a brief overview of what SPIDER WEB entails. For more detailed information, please contact a member of the SPIDER WEB project team (details below).

WHO IS INVOLVED?

SPIDER WEB is jointly financed by the European Union and the Federal Republic of Germany on the basis of a grant agreement with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GmbH) within the IPA/2017 Countering Serious Crime in the Western Balkans Project. SPIDER WEB will be co-ordinated and implemented by IMPEL. A dedicated project management team has been appointed.

WHAT IS THE SPIDER WEB OBJECTIVE?

Fighting serious and organised environmental crime, and offences regulated under EU and international legislation and agreements, is a key focus of SPIDER WEB – with a special focus on Waste and Wildlife crime.

The general objective of the project is to increase the awareness and the skillset of all actors in the environmental law enforcement chain, to understand the causes and successfully disrupt and prosecute illegal behaviour, and limit the negative impact on human health and environment of this behaviour.

The geographical scope of SPIDER WEB will initially focus on 6 target countries:

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Kosovo*
- Montenegro
- Serbia

WHEN WILL SPIDER WEB RUN?

The project runs to end December 2019.

WHY IS SPIDER WEB BEING RUN?

Environmental crime is a serious national and international problem. The impacts of waste and nature crime has significant impacts on human health, eco systems, the environment and the economy. Despite this, the punishments still do not reflect the seriousness of the offences.

Environmental crime is growing in scale and frequency and the profits being made by groups including Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) is large. The lack of deterrent with insufficient punishments for offenders and the potential for large profit makes this an attractive crime. It therefore requires a prioritised focus to help identify and disrupt.

The compliance chain including permittees, inspectors, police, prosecutors and judiciary are only as strong as the weakest link. The weakest links therefore must be identified and eliminated.

The EU accession process provides an excellent opportunity to connect the target countries to EU networks, to work collaboratively to target and disrupt environmental crime and to raise the profile of this crime in the target countries.

The successful completion of SPIDER WEB will lead to increased awareness raising, targeted capacity building and collaborative working within

the compliance chain to identify and disrupt environmental crime in the Balkans.

HOW WILL THE PROJECT RUN?

The project will be run on a day to day basis by the IMPEL project team with management oversight from the IMPEL Board.

1. The project team will firstly conduct a situation analysis, followed by a training needs assessment in the target countries.

This will be achieved by conducting a baseline survey to include a policy/legal assessment, environmental crime awareness assessment and assessment of environmental crime data and historic and live cases.

The training needs will be determined through focussed interaction and questionnaires with key actors in the environmental law enforcement chain including police and judiciary.

2. Secondly, once the causes of environmental crime and the training gaps in the compliance

chain have been identified, the project team will develop and deliver national training. The training will be delivered to the different members of the compliance chain including police, prosecutors, judges, customs and inspectors (the target group). A training manual will be produced for further usage and dissemination.

3. The results and recommendations will be presented during a joint closing conference, after which a final report will close the project. All materials will continue to be shared with stakeholders via the IMPEL website.

A consultation group will be established and its role will be to provide advice and guidance to SPIDER WEB to ensure the achievement of its key objectives.

The consultation group will include key organisations and stakeholders, who have an active and professional knowledge and/or awareness of environmental crime and its impacts.



PLANNING

2019

Phase 1

Baseline Study

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Training Needs Assessment

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Phase 2

Training Curricula

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Training

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Training Manual

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Phase 3

Conference

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Final Report

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Sharing of Tools

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

