



European Union Network for the Implementation
and Enforcement of Environmental Law

IMPEL Soil Conference (ISC) 2015

Final Report

January 2016

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i. Introduction to IMPEL

The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) is an international non-profit association of the environmental authorities of the EU Member States, acceding and candidate countries of the European Union and EEA countries. The association is registered in Belgium and its legal seat is in Brussels, Belgium.

IMPEL was set up in 1992 as an informal Network of European regulators and authorities concerned with the implementation and enforcement of environmental law. The Network's objective is to create the necessary impetus in the European Community to make progress on ensuring a more effective application of environmental legislation. The core of the IMPEL activities concerns awareness raising, capacity building and exchange of information and experiences on implementation, enforcement and international enforcement collaboration as well as promoting and supporting the practicability and enforceability of European environmental legislation.

During the previous years, IMPEL has developed into a considerable, widely known organization, being mentioned in a number of EU legislative and policy documents, e.g. the 7th Environment Action Program and the Recommendation on Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections.

The expertise and experience of the participants within IMPEL make the network uniquely qualified to work on both technical and regulatory aspects of EU environmental legislation.

Information on the IMPEL Network is also available through its website at:

www.impel.eu.

ii. General Information

Title report: IMPEL Soil Conference (ISC) 2015	Number report: 2015/10
Project manager: Giuseppe Sgorbati (Italy)	Report adopted at: Written procedure spring 2016
Authors: Lorenzo Bonardi (ARPA Lombardia, Italy), Giuseppe Sgorbati (ARPA Lombardia, Italy)	Number of pages: Report: 7 Annexes: 17
Project team Giuseppe Sgorbati (Italy), Mark Aitken (UK), Paolo Giandon (Italy), Daniel Gruza (Czech Republic), Michele Munafò (Italy) Other participants from ARPA Lombardia (Italy), in support to the project manager: Lorenzo Bonardi, Max Mauri; Camilla Acquistapace (regarding the organization of the Conference), Alessandra Negriolli, Debora Di Matteo, Alessandro Inverso, Antonella Masala (regarding the communicative aspects)	
Executive summary: The conference has been successfully organized and has met the objective of sharing experiences, regulatory approach, problems and solutions in order to cope with the numerous challenges in this field and to support the implementation of good practices about soil protection among practitioners at EU level. There was also a focus on the role and activities of Environmental Authorities and Regulators, in particular with reference to IMPEL Members, on the protection of Soil and its Functions.	
Disclaimer: This report is the result of a project within the IMPEL-Network. The content does not necessarily represent the view of the national administrations.	

1 Summary

The project has been needed because there was a strong general demand for sharing experiences, regulatory approach, problems and solutions in order to cope with the numerous challenges in this field and to support the implementation of good practices about soil protection among practitioners at EU level and to focus on the role and activities of Environmental Authorities and Regulators, in particular with reference to IMPEL Members, on the protection of Soil and its Functions.

2 Aim and scope

- Strengthening of IMPEL identity in Water and Soil area, with a special focus on Agriculture
- Development of relationships with other Authorities acting in water and soils and related areas
- Growing of interest inside and outside IMPEL on water and soil issues
- Contribution in general raising of interest on soil issues
- Increase of number of organization participating in IMPEL

3 Activities

During the 2015 these activities were held for the project:

- Definition of the project team
- First project team meeting in Milan: March, 18th and 19th
- Production of a first draft of the Conference program
- Liaising with EU Authorities involved in 2015 FAO International Year of Soil and EXPO 2015 organization, and with other Authorities working on connected events
- Call for papers
- Second project team meeting in Rome: June 10th and 11th
- Final program
- Organization of the Conference
- IMPEL Soil Conference in Milan: October 7th and 8th
- BtB Water & Land ET meeting in Milan: October 9th
- Meeting on the project results with the EU Commission: Bruxelles December 4th

4 First project team meeting

The first project team meeting was held in Milan on March, 18th and 19th; it was attended by 8 participants (Giuseppe Sgorbati, Lorenzo Bonardi, Max Mauri, Paolo Giandon; Jean Paul Janssens; Michele Munafo; Aitken Mark; Daniel Gruza).

5 Second project team meeting

The second project team meeting was held in Rome on June 10th and 11th; it was attended by 6 participants (Giuseppe Sgorbati, Lorenzo Bonardi, Paolo Giandon; Jean Paul Janssens; Michele Munafo; Aitken Mark).

6 Conference

The workshop was attended by 45 participants from 15 countries and with the attendance of the FAO and the European Commission; the program is in attach. The Conference documentation can be downloaded from ARPA Lombardia's website (<http://ita.arpalombardia.it/ita/impel-ISC2015.asp>). During the conference participants completed a questionnaire about their own engagement on conference topics and interests.

7 Last meeting

Meeting on the project results with the EU Commission on 4th of December with Giuseppe Sgorbati and Fabio Carella.

8 Follow up

Some of the topics of the Conference have been included in 2016 IMPEL projects (i.e. "Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) Baseline", "Good Practice for Tackling Nitrate Pollution from Farms & Farmsteads", "Reducing Pesticides in Water", "Water Over-Abstraction and Illegal Abstraction Detection and Assessment"). Questionnaire results were very useful to better understand W&L group main interests.

9 Conclusions

- The conference contributed to a further deepening of the awareness and understanding of the importance of soil protection
- Further deepening of the understanding of relevant EU legislation, working methods of the involved organizations and authorities and the exchange of good practices
- There is no complete insight in the soil quality at EU level

- A legal basis for data collection on soil quality and data sharing is lacking. Consequence: no monitoring of the soil quality at EU level, no coordination on data collection and data analysis
- The need for a legal framework for soil monitoring and data analysis should be discussed and considered (what is a EU soil strategy without data?)
- The conference gave fundamental ideas for topics to work on in future projects
- To promote compliance, awareness at the target group is a condition. It should be considered to make an inventory in the theme of 'water and land' where awareness raising is of importance. (Example the use of pesticides by farmers)
- Within the EU several evidence led and risk based approaches do exist. An inventory has been made by IMPEL. Building on that a harmonized approach will be developed that can assist countries in their actions to be taken
- A broad variety of good practices has been shared. Based on priorities to draft 'good practices documents' (rationale of the topic, approaches, consistency, actions ...). Example: nitrate pollution
- Several soil monitoring and management approaches have been shared. An inventory of used methods and techniques will be made in close cooperation with the Joint Research Centre and shared with the IMPEL members
- Mapping key organizations and encourage them to join the developing water/land community within IMPEL. (Creating a network of people working with 'water and land issues' as inspectors or policy makers)
- Maintain and further developing close links with the Water Framework Directive Common Implementation Strategy framework (European Commission)

10 Annexes

10.1 Conference program

10.2 Conference conclusions



2015 IMPEL Soil Conference

“Many Soil Functions, many reasons to protect it”

in the framework of UN International Year For Soils and of Milano Expo2015

Milano, Italy - 7th and 8th October, 2015

VENUE:

Sala Pirelli, Consiglio Regionale della Lombardia – Via Fabio Filzi 22 – 20124 Milano

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 7th October

Morning - Opening Session – h. 10:00

Institutional Welcome	Environment Ministry Of The Lombardy Region
Welcome address	Alessandro Peru, Impel National Coordinator - Italian Ministry of Environment
Why the Conference: IMPEL and Soil <i>co-chairing of opening session:</i> CHRIS DIJKENS , Vice Chair of IMPEL Board– Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Milieu (NL) GIUSEPPE SGORBATI , IMPEL Water and Land Expert Team Leader – ARPA Lombardia (IT)	
Global Awareness for Soil Global Protection: the International Year of Soil	ROLAND VARGAS , FAO, Land and Water Division
Soil Protection: the position of the European Commission	JOSIANE MASSON , EU Commission, Directorate-General for Environment Agriculture, Forest and Soils
Policy relevant soil data and information in support of EU Policies	LUCA MONTANARELLA , Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, Land Resources Management



2015
International
Year of Soils



2015 IMPEL Soil Conference

“Many Soil Functions, many reasons to protect it”

Milano (IT) 7th, 8th October 2015

Wednesday, 7th October

Afternoon - First Session: Agriculture – h. 14:15

<i>co-chairing:</i> ANETTE DODENSIG PEDERSEN PAOLO GIANDON Introduction to the Session	
Presentation of IMPEL’s Water and Land Expert Team activities about agriculture: Tackling diffuse pollution from agriculture	ANETTE DODENSIG PEDERSEN, IMPEL Water and Land Expert Team Deputy Leader – Environmental Protection Agency – Danish Ministry of Environment and Food
Agriculture and Environment: Experiences from an Italian Environmental Agency	STEFANO TIBALDI, AssoArpa FRANCO ZINONI, ARPA Emilia Romagna (IT)
Optimizing Pesticide Monitoring	ANN-KARIN THORÉN, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
Risk based approach to targeting farm inspections	JAMES DAVIES, Environment Agency (UK)
Moving horizons: a help from the sky to the earth. Results and future on damage detection in agriculture.	FABRIZIO STELLA, AVEPA - Agenzia Veneta per i Pagamenti in Agricoltura (IT)



2015
International
Year of Soils



2015 IMPEL Soil Conference

“Many Soil Functions, many reasons to protect it”

Milano (IT) 7th, 8th October 2015

Thursday, 8th October

Morning - Second Session: Soil, Industry and Wastes – h. 9:15

<i>co-chairing:</i> JEAN-PIERRE JANSSEN FABIO CARELLA Introduction to the Session	
IMPEL Deco Project: an overview on tackling soil pollution	FABIO CARELLA, ARPA Lombardia (IT)
2010/75 IED: the Baseline Report	JEAN-PIERRE JANSSENS, Bruxelles Environnement – IBGE (BE)
The soil component in prioritizing 2010/75 IED Inspections	MAURO VALENTINI, ARPA Lombardia (IT)
Monitoring of contaminants of interest for inhalation exposure within contaminated sites	MARCO FALCONI and ANTONELLA VECCHIO, ISPRA (IT)
Soil Protection Implementation from the point of view of professionals supporting Enterprises	VINCENZO GIOVINE and GIOVANNI PORTO, Lombardy Geologist Association (IT)
Content of heavy metals in dumps of Eastern Herzegovina	VESNA TUNGUZ, University of East Sarajevo (BIH)
Landfills and soil contamination	SAID EL FADILI, Bruxelles Environnement – IBGE (BE)



2015
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2015 IMPEL Soil Conference

“Many Soil Functions, many reasons to protect it”

Milano (IT) 7th, 8th October 2015

Thursday, 8th October

Afternoon Third Session: Soil Monitoring, Land management – 14:15

<i>co-chairing:</i> SIMON BINGHAM MICHELE MUNAFÒ Introduction to the Session	
Soil as non-renewable resource: soil consumption and its monitoring	MICHELE MUNAFÒ ISPRA (IT)
Common Forum's perspective on future needs for a more integrative approach on soil and land management	DOMINIQUE DARMENDRAIL, Common Forum
Metals and metalloids in soils: a monitoring experience	PAOLO GIANDON, ARPA Veneto (IT)
The sustainable development approach of project “SUOLI”: mitigating soil consumption in Lombardy while fostering new industrial installations	ENRICO ZINI, ARPA Lombardia (IT)
Soil Inventory in the Brussels Region	AURÉLIE DULIÈRE, Bruxelles Environnement – IBGE (BE)
Soil monitoring system in the Slovak Republic as a basic tool for determination of soil degradation processes and soil protection	JOZEF KOBZA - National Centre for Agriculture and Food Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute (Slovak Republic)
Diffuse pollution and soils	SIMON BINGHAM and MARK AITKEN, SEPA (UK)



2015
International
Year of Soils



2015 IMPEL Soil Conference

'Many Soil Functions, many reasons to protect it'

(Milano, 7 – 8 October 2015)

Conclusions and way forward

Conclusions and way forward (1)



- A successful 2015 IMPEL Soil Conference ‘Many Soil Functions, many reasons to protect it’
- 45 participants from 15 countries
- The agreed objective has been met:
 - sharing experiences, regulatory approach, problems and solutions in order to cope with the numerous challenges in this field and to support the implementation of good practices about soil protection among practitioners at EU level
 - focus on the role and activities of Environmental Authorities and Regulators, in particular with reference to IMPEL Members, on the protection of Soil and its Functions.
- First joint event related to the theme “Water and Land’ as one of the five IMPEL area’s of work
- Inspired by the attendance of the FAO and the European Commission



Conclusions and way forward (2)

- The conference contributed to a further deepening of the awareness and understanding of the importance of soil protection
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- A legal basis for data collection on soil quality and data sharing is lacking. Consequence: no monitoring of the soil quality at EU level, no coordination on data collection and data analysis
- The need for a legal framework for soil monitoring and data analysis should be discussed and considered (what is a EU soil strategy without data?)

Conclusions and way forward (3)



- The conference gave fundamental ideas for topics to work on in future projects
- To promote compliance, awareness at the target group is a condition. It should be considered to make an inventory in the theme of 'water and land' where awareness raising is of importance. (Example the use of pesticides by farmers)
- Within the EU several evidence led and risk based approaches do exist. An inventory has been made by IMPEL. Building on that a harmonized approach will be developed that can assist countries in their actions to be taken
- A broad variety of good practices has been shared. Based on priorities to draft 'good practices documents' (rationale of the topic, approaches, consistency, actions ...). Example: nitrate pollution



Conclusions and way forward (4)

2015
International
Year of Soils



- Several soil monitoring and management approaches have been shared. An inventory of used methods and techniques will be made in close cooperation with the Joint Research Centre and shared with the IMPEL members
- Mapping key organisations and encourage them to join the developing water/land community within IMPEL. (Creating a network of people working with ‘water and land issues’ as inspectors or policy makers)
- Maintain and further developing close links with the Water Framework Directive Common Implementation Strategy framework (European Commission)

