

Name of Project: Trend reversal in groundwater pollution (final phase 2022)	
ToR Reference No.: 2022-VI/03	
Version: <input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input type="checkbox"/> Final <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted	Date: 01-Oct-21 / 08-Mar-22
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WORK UNDER THE AUSPICES OF IMPEL	

1. Work type and title

1.1 Identify which Expert Team this needs to go to for initial consideration	
Industry and air	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste and TFS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water and land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nature protection	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross-cutting tools and approaches	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 Type of work you need funding for	
Exchange visits	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peer reviews (e.g. IRI)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conference	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Development of tools/guidance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comparison studies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assessing legislation (checklist)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, (please describe):	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3 Full name of work	
<i>Trend reversal in groundwater pollution (final phase 2022)</i>	
1.4 Abbreviated name of work or project	
TRGWP 2022	

2. Outline business case (why this piece of work?)

2.1 Name the legislative driver(s) where they exist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dir. 2000/60/EC = Water Framework Directive (Art. 4.1.b.iii) • Dir. 91/676/EEC = Nitrates Directive • Dir. 2006/118/EC = Groundwater Directive



2.2 Link to IMPEL MASP priority work areas

1. Assist members to implement new legislation.
2. Build capacity in member organisations through the IMPEL Review Initiatives.
3. Work on 'problem areas' of implementation identified by IMPEL and the European Commission.
4. Other, (please specify):

2.3 Why is this work needed?

Art. 4 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) obliges Member States, among other things, to protect, enhance and restore all bodies of groundwater with the aim of achieving good groundwater status by December 2015, and to implement the measures necessary to reverse any significant and sustained upward trend in the concentration of pollutants. In actual fact, however, 25 % of ground water bodies in the EU (and e.g. 36 % in Germany) were chemically in a poor status in 2015, mostly due to pollution with nitrates and pesticides from agriculture. Moreover, according to an EEA report of 2018, the total groundwater body area with an identified upward trend of pollution is still nearly double the area with a trend reversal (9.9 % against 5.9 % of area).

There is thus a serious implementation deficit in the EU regarding groundwater protection, and only a few Member States can show some success with achieving a trend reversal. Some MS over the last years, most recently Germany in June 2018, were held by the ECJ to be in breach of their obligations under the Nitrates Directive by not taking the necessary additional measures or reinforced actions for reducing water pollution when it became apparent that the National Action Programme was not sufficient.

The project aims to reduce this implementation deficit by looking at possible instruments and best practices at administrative level, especially of regional and local water authorities.

2.4 Desired outcome of the work

- Exchange of experience, scientific knowledge and best practices for reversing the trend of groundwater pollution in the Member States.
- On this basis, develop a guidance paper with best practice examples and recommendations on how to achieve this trend reversal in practice.

2.5 Does this project link to any previous or current IMPEL projects?

- First phases of the TRGWP project (2020-2021).
- Good Practice for Tackling Nitrate Pollution from Farms and Farmsteads (2014-2016).
- Reducing Pesticides in Water (2016).
- Achieving better compliance in the agricultural sector through networking and partnership working of environmental and agricultural inspectorates (2013).



3. Structure of the proposed activity

3.1 Describe the activities of the proposal

These ToR cover the third and final phase of the project which started – delayed by Covid-19 – in Sept. 2020.

Proposed schedule:

- Feb. 2022 Online project team meeting.
- Feb.-Oct. 2022 Drafting of “Trend reversal” guideline.
- April 2022 Online project team meeting.
- June 2022 Online project team meeting.
- Sept./Oct. 2022 Final project meeting, possibly in Frankfurt a.M.
- Oct. 2022 Finalization of “Trend reversal” guideline
- Nov. 2022 Final project report.
- Nov./Dec. 2022 Adoption of final report and guidance document by IMPEL General Assembly.

3.2 Describe the products of the proposal

1. Meeting report on expert workshop.
2. Guideline on “Trend reversal in groundwater pollution”, possibly with translations.
3. Final project report.
4. Project presentations which possibly could take place at the IMPEL Water & Land Conference, the EU CIS Working Group Groundwater meeting and other expert meetings.
5. Possibly a free webinar to communicate the key findings of the project.
6. Possibly press statements etc.

