

Name of Project: Land Spreading of Wastes / Sustainable Landspreading	
ToR Reference No.: 2022-VI/05	
Version: <input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input type="checkbox"/> Final <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted	Date: 10-Mar-22
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WORK UNDER THE AUSPICES OF IMPEL</b>	

## 1. Work type and title

<b>1.1 Identify which Expert Team this needs to go to for initial consideration</b>	
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"/>
<b>1.2 Type of work you need funding for</b>	
Exchange visits	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peer reviews (e.g. IRI)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of tools/guidance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comparison studies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assessing legislation (checklist)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other, (please describe):	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>1.3 Full name of work</b>	
Landspreading of Wastes (previously known as Safeguarding the Water Environment Throughout Europe (SWETE), Phase 6.)	
<b>1.4 Abbreviated name of work or project</b>	
SWETE, Phase 6.	

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

<b>2.1 Name the legislative driver(s) where they exist</b>	
<input type="radio"/>	Water Framework Directive
<input type="radio"/>	Nitrates Directive



- Industrial Emissions Directive
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
- Habitats and Birds Directives

## 2.2 Link to IMPEL MASP priority work areas

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Assist members to implement new legislation.   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 2. Build capacity in member organisations through the IMPEL Review Initiatives.               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 3. Work on 'problem areas' of implementation identified by IMPEL and the European Commission. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Other, (please specify):<br>Promulgation of best practise to IMPEL countries               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

## 2.3 Why is this work needed?

IMPEL was asked by the European Commission to expand and apply its regulatory capability into the water environment arena (and specifically on the implementation of the WFD) having previously focused on industrial emissions and associated processes under IPPC and IED Directives.

Good management of the water environment requires member states to be aware of emerging issues, be prepared to meet the challenges that they present, and improve current practices where needed. These objectives are facilitated by IMPEL members working in collaboration. SWETE seeks to build a common understanding of our regulatory approaches, build networks of experts and develop shared resources to enhance technical resilience.

This Landspreading of Wastes work (now in phase III) is a continuation of previous work on landspreading of wastes under SWETE. Previously at a two-day conference at Cranfield University, it was agreed that a report would be generated (following a survey of IMPEL members) on how waste to land was managed. This report has been produced and conclusions drawn from the data obtained in the survey. The next part of the work (Phase III) will be to drill down on those conclusions that are most common to the greatest number of responders and to look in greater detail at what is happening. There is currently a wide variation into how sludge to land is treated by IMPEL members. This work is required in order to bring a suggested consistency of approach and sharing of best practise to landspreading of waste material especially sludge. Phase III will also seek to implement circular economy principles into the general handling of waste to land materials.

## 2.4 Desired outcome of the work

The proposed elements of SWETE 6 build on the previous phases of SWETE and discussions at the Land and Water Expert Team Meeting in Rome in October 2019, a workshop held at Cranfield University in 2020 and the landspreading questionnaire report of 2021.

The proposal for 2022-23 is to build on the conclusions of the 2022 questionnaire and report

This follow up work (as phase III) is necessary to properly apply circular economy principles to support reuse of materials on land as fertilisers and soil conditioners and to ensure this support for reuse is



undertaken in a manner that does not allow unacceptable and avoidable impacts on soil health and quality.

The overall proposal was for a project to compare and contrast the different approaches to sludge management in different member countries and organisations. This will highlight common problems, solutions and areas of best practice as examples for others to learn from. The project will also take the opportunity to incorporate learning from the COVID-19 pandemic and how this impacted on sludge management across IMPEL members. We have now arrived at phase III which will build on previous work. The output will be a report and workshop to highlight the findings of Phase III for individual regulators to seek to apply within their own countries

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

SWETE phases 1 to 5 (2015 – 2019).

## 3. Structure of the proposed activity

### 3.1 Describe the activities of the proposal

#### 2020-21

The core project team (Barry Sheppard, Mat Davis and Barrie Howe) developed a questionnaire/survey to obtain information from IMPEL members on approaches to sludge regulation and management in their respective countries, the problems they face and solutions they have found, including areas of good practice.

The questionnaire was out in early 2021. The project team provided a report on the number of responses received, a summary of the responses building up a picture of sludge management, issues and problems across IMPEL member countries. Conclusions for further investigation in a more detail were drawn for the next phase of this work

#### 2022-23

The project team (with input from other Expert Team members where possible) will take the conclusions from the survey and report and will drill down on selected conclusions in a more focussed way. This work will provide a narrative on a 'best practise' approach for regulators to use within their own countries in landspreading of wastes. This will assist in consistency of approach for waste to land and will seek to incorporate circular economy principles where possible

The project will be concluded in April 2023 and a report produced for IMPEL. This will lay out conclusions and recommendations for best practise in the landspreading of wastes for IMPEL members to consider.

### 3.2 Describe the products of the proposal

- Best practice and technical resource for this priority technical area.



- Creation of a community of practitioners in these areas.
- Building and further developing the IMPEL water network.
- Learning material for the W+L community.

