



## **IMPEL Water and Land Expert Team**

### **Expert Team Meeting**

**Natural History Museum of Crete  
Heraklion – Crete (Gr)**

**Thursday, 25th October 2018  
h. 9:30 – 14:00**

### **Participants**

- Giuseppe Sgorbati, ARPA Lombardia Italy - Expert Team Leader
- Paul Hickey, EPA England United Kingdom- Deputy Expert Team Leader
- Thalia Statha, Ministry of Environment & Energy - Greece
- Marco Falconi, ISPRA Italy
- Darja Stanic-Racman, Ministry of environment and spatial planning - Slovenia
- Slavica Cikotic, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Croatia
- Brigitte Mrvelj Cecatka, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Croatia

### **Meeting Agenda**

1. Recap of pre-expert team meeting held in Zwolle – 28 september 2018
  - a. IMPEL Ambitions, ECA, FPA
  - b. SWETE Development
2. Implementation Challenge study: training needs – evaluation and responses
3. 2019 project
4. Board Elections: Water and Land Candidacies

### **Discussion and actions**

1. **Recap of pre-expert team meeting held in Zwolle – 28 september 2018**
  - a. **IMPEL Ambitions, ECA, FPA - Discussion**

The was aimed at clarifying the connections IMPEL Ambitions and ECA initiative, where actions provided by the ECA give the opportunity to IMPEL to put in practice many of its ambitions, pursuing the concept of Next Generation IMPEL. The view for the future, for IMPEL, is still the work about guidelines, surveys, tools, as it has been till now but, beside this more traditional



activity, IMPEL should develop instruments and activities related to a general grow of the technical knowledge and capacities of practitioners implied in Environmental protection.

To achieve the goals that should be realized through the ECA Action Plan, the EU Commission established workgroups in which IMPEL take part (e.g. Training, Agriculture).

IMPEL took the decision that, in general, the actions regarding ECA initiative should be followed by a steering group, composed by a project manager and a representative for each one of the Expert Teams plus a National Coordinator.

To develop at best IMPEL's and other Network's (namely: ENPE, EUFJE) potential in the ECA perspective, the EU Commission proposed the subscription of a Framework Partnership Agreement as an instruments for a better cooperation and for the definition of a new funding perspective for the three networks. The activities, networks side, should be coordinated by IMPEL and the projects, proposed either the Commission and the Networks, would be separately funded with following a LIFE "non competitive" procedure. Beside the many advantage of this proposal, some criticalities emerge, such as an increased administrative burden and a more stiff working procedure.

Anyway, until different advice, the future project should be developed in the same way until adopted until now.

(see the document attached to the "pre expert team held in Zwolle on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018, and the related minutes.

### **Actions**

Some actions to be done were identified during the discussion:

#### **1) in charge to all the expert team members:**

- a. identify expert in their organization, or in other "sister" organization, to constitute a network to support the work done by Paolo Giandon as IMPEL expert in Action 5 (agriculture) of the ECA plan, and as target of IMPEL products in agriculture and soil protection field of the ECA plan.
- b. find a delegate of Water and Land Expert team in the steering group regarding Action 2 (training)

The results of the above actions should be socialized in the Expert Team through Basecamp.

#### **2) in charge to Giuseppe and Paul**

- a. gather (through basecamp) all the indication and information relevant to this point to elaborate them in a comprehensive form, to followup the above actions.
- b. to propose to the IMPEL Board
  - i. to promote the conclusion of the mapping exercise already begun, considering with the maximum attention to the identification of competent bodies on agriculture, at European level
  - ii. to define the rules regarding the management of the actions of the ECA initiative, or for projects sticky to that logic and needs, with the institution of steering committees, composed as already decided for action 2.

## **2. Recap of pre-expert team meeting held in Zwolle – 28 september 2018**

### **b) SWETE Development**

The SWETE project was born with the aim of the dissemination of experiences and good practices in water field and later evolved as "container" of important projects that need to grow in term of participants, such as Nitrate Pollution, Agriculture, Permitting of Water Discharges. The project produced important outcomes in these areas but now need a re-evaluation under the light of IMPEL's ambitions and ECA Initiative. The project is anyway connected, from this point of view, with the above activities, considering what follows.

- At present, with IMPEL perspectives to open “special projects” regarding knowledge center, innovation and training in the ECA framework, it would not be efficient to move forward with a water and land specific and standing alone project, whereas a cooperation inside projects that will be designed by IMPEL in these areas would produce much more effective results. For this reason, SWETE will continue to be an “aggregation point” for information, good practices, etcetera, but in the perspective to represent the reference for water and land in future knowledge and dissemination IMPEL’s initiatives.
- In case of interesting projects that do not have “critical mass”, they could be hosted inside SWETE;

**Actions:**

See the following points

### 3. Implementation Challenge study

The important studies about Implementation challenges (IC) (2014 and 2017) had this year a follow up regarding training needs, and the IC Project Manager asked the Expert Team to review and, in case, improve, the outcomes of the survey next made.

**Actions:**

- 1) **Giuseppe** to send again a request to Expert Team members
- 2) **Expert Team Members** to examine the study and send back, though basecamp or email, the comments. Term: Friday, 2<sup>th</sup> November.

Giuseppe will send to the project manager the outcome of the consultation (around following Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November.

### 4. 2019 Projects

Untill new indications about the modification of funding mechanism will be given, the project will follow the usual model. The budget to be taken into consideration for next years project, for the whole expert team

Attach 1 is the worksheet containing proposal examined by the Expert Team, with the indication of the needed budget for already formalized ToR.

- 1) **Swete project** was already treated in poin 2 b) of this paper
- 2) The **Integrated Water Approach and Urban Water Reuse Followup** ToR is ready
- 3) **Water Crimes project** should be continued, hopefully with ENPE participation; to be considered if to include in the project also soil crimes.
- 4) **Mining Waters Pollution Impact** ToR is ready
- 5) **Landspreading** and 6) **Prioritization for Agriculture Inspections** have not yet a complete ToR, but there is high interest in these project, and there is a strong willingness of the proposers, so it is highly probable a rapid presentation of these two ToRs. These project are of strategic importance and case the project will not have enough “critical mass”, they could become part of the SWETE project.
- 7) The **IED Baseline Report III Project**, has been withdrawn and will be reconsidered in the future.
- 8) The Expert Team agreed that a **Blue IRI**, even if it would be proposed and supported by the Expert Team itself, should not be included in the ToR lists, being this topic in charge to the XCutting Expert Team or in future preferably in charge to specific strategic project in the framework of the Action 1 of the ECA initiative. Obviously, the feasibility of such a project depends on: the willingness of an organization to host a IRI and the availability of experts in blue topics to collaborate to carry out of the IRI



- 9) **Water and Land Conference – Expert Team meeting** project is considered an important asset of the Expert Team and there is a general consensus

**Actions:**

- 1) **Giuseppe** to solicitate **Landspreading** and **Agri Inspection prioiritization** projects proposers to complete and share the ToRs
- 2) **Paul** to shape a **SWETE** project on the base of the above considerations, discussing with the proposers of projects above project if including them in SWETE or not.

## 5. Candidacies for board positions.

Giuseppe is no more available to remain as ET Leader, because of his retirement, that will take place in about one year. He thinks that, considering the strong evolutions of IMPEL in next years, it is the moment that somebody else, having a much longer time perspective, takes up the ongoing work, that had to be carried on in next years with enough continuity.

Giuseppe hopes that work already made about IMPEL Ambitions and ECA, that he contributed to develop in its early phases, will be a good basis for the future developments, as well as all the work he did in the ET. He thanks a lot everybody that cooperated in the ET, having clear that most of that people gave for free their time, often as homework, to help colleagues across Europe, with a very ethical behaviour looking at the environment as a common good, without frontiers, never forgetting, as well, the need to assure a level playing field across Europe.

He any case assure the necessary efforts for a smooth transition and do not exclude that, in 2019, he could take part to some of the IMPEL Projects.

Candidacies for the positions of ET Leader and of Deputy are welcome, as soon as possible.

**Actions:**

- 1) **Giuseppe** to promote, via basecamp and Email, the presentation of candidacies for the two positions.
- 2) **Expert Team Members** to present candidacies
- 3) **Giuseppe and Paul** to gather candidacies to be shared and discussed in the ET.