



European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law



# Water and Land Open Day

## Project 6 – Tackling illegal groundwater drilling and abstractions (TIGDA)





IMPEL

December 10<sup>th</sup> 2020

Water and Land Open Day

Multi year  
project



## TACKLING ILLEGAL GROUNDWATER DRILLING AND ABSTRACTIONS (TIGDA)

### Why is it needed:

Recent **prolonged drought periods** have repeatedly made clear that groundwater supplies have to be carefully managed (abstraction as well as recharge) in all member states.

As the different aquifers and aquitards in the member states are drilled (through) for these purposes it is useful for member states to **share knowledge and lessons learned** on:

1. Legislation and requirements for groundwater protection at groundwater drilling and abstraction sites (drilling, instalment and exploitation,...).
2. Methods for enforcement of this legislation & thus tackling illegal groundwater drilling and abstractions (site visits, checklists, use of experts, best practices, ...).

**Illegal drilling & abstractions are black boxes** in further groundwater modelling & governance.



### Project Leaders:

Mihaela Monica Crisan, National Environmental Guard (RO)

Jeroen November, Department of Environment and Spatial Development (BE)



IMPEL

December 10<sup>th</sup> 2020

## Water and Land Open Day



# TACKLING ILLEGAL GROUNDWATER DRILLING AND ABSTRACTIONS (TIGDA)

## Project outcomes:

Based on initial data gathering & analysis via questionnaire the outcome could be twofold:

- **Guidance documents on specific enforceable requirements** which can be included in regional legislation to improve protection at groundwater drilling and abstraction sites (e.g. technical requirements, information - or best practices documents). These could be tailored to different kinds of installations (e.g. dewatering sites, drinking water abstractions, geothermal sites, irrigation and agricultural use) as a tool to induce **compliance promotion through raising groundwater awareness**.
- **Guidance documents on enforcement methods** which can be used at groundwater drilling and abstraction sites. These could include risk based targeting methods, checklists on specific items to focus on during inspections as well as methods to check compliance (e.g. inspection of flow meters, analysis of groundwater level and quality data, drilling methods).



IMPEL

December 10<sup>th</sup> 2020

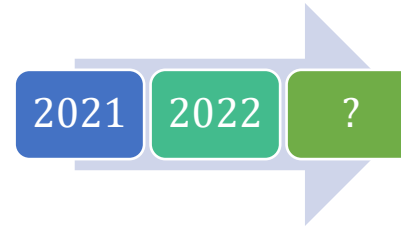
Water and Land Open Day

Multi year  
project



## TACKLING ILLEGAL GROUNDWATER DRILLING AND ABSTRACTIONS (TIGDA)

### Project timeline:



#### • 2021 (virtual meetings)

- Assembly of the project group
- Drafting and distribution of a comprehensive **questionnaire** on how groundwater legislation and enforcement is implemented. Focus on groundwater drilling & abstractions, possible loopholes in existing legislation or lack of enforceability and technical knowledge
- Attendance at the 48<sup>th</sup> international congress of the IAH in Brussels <https://iah2021belgium.org/>
- Processing of the returned questionnaires and **decision on a way forward**
- Interim report

#### • 2022 (face-to-face meetings)

- Drafting of (preliminary) **guidance documents** and **inspection instruments**
- Site **visits** at relevant installations
- Final report





IMPEL

December 10<sup>th</sup> 2020

Water and Land Open Day

Multi year  
project



## TACKLING ILLEGAL GROUNDWATER DRILLING AND ABSTRACTIONS (TIGDA)

### Required expertise in the project:

The success of the project highly depends on the active participation of the project group & respondents. We would like to hear from you if you have expertise or know someone who does in your network on:

- Partners/contacts who would be interested in joining the project group
  - (e.g. water agencies, EPA's, field specialists, geological surveys,...)
- Partners/contacts where the questionnaire should be addressed to
- Groundwater drilling and abstraction
- Groundwater enforcement methods
- Useful inspection instruments (including remote sensing techniques)

