



IMPEL Review Initiative (IRI)



The IMPEL Review Initiative (IRI) scheme is a voluntary, peer review scheme developed by the IMPEL Network to look at the processes and procedures of environmental authorities in IMPEL member countries and identify areas of good practice and opportunities for further development.

Background

Based on the IMPEL methodology for inspection planning: Doing the Right Things, the IRI is an informal review and not an audit process. It is intended to enable the host environmental authority and the Review Team to explore how the authority carries out its tasks. It identifies areas of **good practice** for dissemination together with **opportunities to develop** existing practice within the authority and authorities in other IMPEL member countries. The Review Team consists of approximately 8 persons and is a broad cross section of the IMPEL network covering permitting, inspection, enforcement, policy and legal expertise.

The IRI provides advice for the purpose of benchmarking [vis a vis other inspectorates] and continuous improvement of an organisation. It also encourages capacity building in environmental authorities in IMPEL member countries, the exchange of experience and collaboration between authorities on common issues and problems.

Content in Brief

The following is a sample of issues that the review team examine as part of an IRI:

- Permitting activities – Find out the process for issuing, reviewing and revoking permits, sanctions, involvement of the public, charges for permits;

Target Group

- Inspection & enforcement authorities
- Permitting Authorities
- Managers
- Inspectors
- Ministries

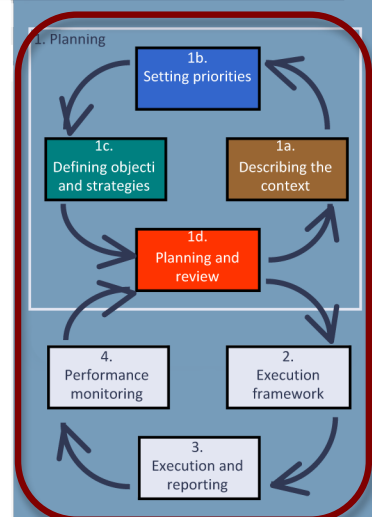
EU Legislation

- RMCEI
- *All environmental Acquis*

Publication date

n/a

Inspection Cycle





European Union Network for
the Implementation and Enforcement
of Environmental Law

- Criteria and procedures for planning of inspections;
- Execution framework – Find out what provisions, instructions, equipment are in place to enable inspectors and other staff to carry out inspection activities;
- Execution and reporting – Find out how routine and non-routine inspection activities are carried out and reported upon;
- Performance and monitoring - Find out how the environmental authority assesses its performance.

Key Points

The main output of an IRI is a list of **good practice** (areas where the review team think the host organisation is doing well) and **opportunities for development** (areas where the review team feel the host could and should consider making improvements). The following are some examples:

In Portugal, the Inspectorate which underwent an IRI in 2009, have since gone onto implement several findings such as the development of multi annual objectives and annual targets in their annual activity plans. They have also introduced new intervention strategies such as engaging with industrial associations and management boards to reach target groups whose compliance they want to improve.

In Slovenia, the 2010 IRI report recommended that the Inspectorate publish their annual inspection plans on their website and that inspectors receive a consolidated list of regulations in order to boost their detailed knowledge of all legislation. These have both now been implemented.

In Italy (Lombardy), the 2012 review recommended expanding their already impressive Continuous Environmental Monitoring System (CEMS) to other installations and introducing a code of ethics for inspectors. By the end of 2013, CEMS will cover all large installations and in June 2013 a new regulation was passed relating to ethics.

In Iceland, the 2012 review highlighted the use of its website as a particularly good example of communicating with business and the public. It includes for example, live monitoring data, information about regulated sites such as copies of permits and inspection reports, legislation and publication of formal warnings issued by inspectors to installations on their website.

In Croatia, the 2011 review highlighted their data management system as a sophisticated tool for planning and reporting inspection activities.

Links

Key words