



European Union Network for the
Implementation and Enforcement
of Environmental Law

Mapping of the European agencies involved in implementing the environmental acquis



Background

There is a clear picture of who does what at the European policy level. Policy makers, usually in the Ministries, create and/or transpose legislation into law and implementing bodies, sometimes the Ministries themselves but sometimes separate agencies and devolved bodies, implement and enforce that law. What is less clear is who takes that legislation and implements it on the ground.

[Mapping the European agencies](#) that implement the environmental acquis will enable the IMPEL network to gain an overview and better understanding of who does what and possibly identify gaps in its membership, namely:

- To further deepen and strengthen our network with professionals sharing best practice, and
- To help make our network more robust and increase our influence as the leading network of professional environmental practitioners in the EU.

Conclusions

IMPEL's membership stands at 56 member authorities from 36 countries. Each year somewhere between 300 to 500 experts are involved in IMPEL activities. IMPEL is the leading network for practitioners on environmental law in Europe.

TARGET GROUP

- Competent authorities

EU LEGISLATION

- Environmental acquis

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However, there are still gaps in IMPEL's membership. The results of this study highlight evidence that membership from regional or local level authorities implementing and enforcing environmental law is lacking. They have some responsibilities over implementation of the environmental acquis and should form some sort of coalition, group or association and encourage representative and collective involvement in the network.

IMPEL's historical bias towards waste and industry has meant that the network of authorities involved in nature and water activities in IMPEL is not as well developed. Some IMPEL member authorities already have responsibility for thematic subjects such as nature and water but those departments responsible for that work are not yet fully and actively engaged in the network.

Recommendations

1. To carry out a follow up survey:
 - a. On a regular basis.
 - b. Which goes into more depth and perhaps seeks to identify those administrations that have responsibility for individual Directives and Regulations.
 - c. To expand on core thematic areas not covered or only partly covered in this survey such as radioactive substances, noise and marine issues.
 - d. Judicial and prosecutorial themes could be considered in greater depth and would require engagement and contributions from partner networks.
2. Development and implementation of a strategy by IMPEL's General Assembly is needed to attract more member authorities into IMPEL. It is clear from the results that IMPEL's 'Water and Land' and 'Nature Protection' Expert Teams need further development in terms of membership from public authorities from member countries.
3. To actively seek representation from authorities at a municipal and regional level with responsibility for implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law. This may require a specific strategy being developed and implemented, which includes an engagement strategy with the Committee of the Regions at a European level but also with Associations of local government in the member countries.

LINKS

- [IMPEL Membership](#)
- [Report Mapping the European Agencies 2019](#)

KEY WORDS

- IMPEL Membership