



Water and Land Expert Team and water environment protection challenges

*Giuseppe Sgorbati
Expert Team Leader*



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Outline

- Who we are and what we do
- Developments and challenges
- Better implementation for the future: IMPEL's role and future strategy: the Strategic Work Programme 2016-2020 - highlights on water and land issues



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IMPEL: main aims, until now...

As Network of Regulators in Industry field, main areas of activity were (and still are) Permitting, Inspections, Promotion in:

- IPPC, IED
- Seveso industries
- Wastes

In synthesis:

Control of «point sources» of pollution or risk

Emphasis on the «compliance chain»

Outcome: good approach to tackle infringements, but something was lacking



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IMPEL: main aims, until now...

To tackle at best industry issues, many studies and actions were carried out.

Main results:

- Doing the Right Things Projects: the regulatory cycle identification
- Advice to the EU Commission for Recommendation on Minimum Criteria on Environmental Inspections
- Prioritizing Tool for IED Inspections

Looking at industries as a whole to be sure to hit priorities



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IMPEL: How we work

In general our Members develop Projects aimed at:

- Exchange of experience, sharing of good practices, carrying out common actions, also at international / transboundary level
- Surveys on «what's going on» about topics of interest.
- Capacity building
- Formulation of Guidelines, setup of Tools, finding commons pathways
- Informing Policy, Networking

Each project team is composed by 6 – 15 members

Project normally last one year

A Non Written Value: a network of colleagues to rely on also for day by day problems or initiatives, through rapid informal contacts.



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IMPEL: what we did until 2014 in Water and Land area

- **Linking the WFD and IPPC/IED Directives** - development of checklists for water protection (study, tool), I, II, III
- **Achieving better compliance in the agricultural sector:** facilitating partnership between envi & agri inspectorates (study, field visits, guidelines)
- **Sharing good practice in tackling diffuse pollution and nitrate loss from farms and farmsteads** (study, field visits, guidelines), I, II
- **Improving permitting and inspection of IPPC/ IED pig farming installations** by developing practical guidance (study, guidelines)
- **DECO Project – decontamination and monitoring procedures** of groundwater and soils in polluted ex-industrial sites (survey, best practices)



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IMPEL 2015 Water and Land Expert team projects

- **WODA:** Over-abstraction and illegal abstraction: Detection and Assessment using 'Earth Observation' (EO) methods
- **RC2:** Risk analysis tool and Prioritisation of Environmental Inspections (focus on Agri) (in cooperation with X-cutting ET)
- **DP2:** Best-practice guidance for addressing diffuse source pollution from agriculture
- **ISC:** IMPEL Soil Conference (IYS framework)
- **IED BL:** implementation of the IED Baseline Report
- **SWETE:** Safeguarding Water Environment Throughout Europe



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IMPEL 2016 Water and Land Expert team projects

- **WODA2**: Over-abstraction and illegal abstraction: Detection and Assessment using 'Earth Observation' (EO) methods
- **DP3**: Best-practice guidance for addressing diffuse source pollution from agriculture
- **IED BL**: implementation of the IED Baseline Report
- **SWETE**: Safeguarding Water Environment Throughout Europe + IMPEL Water Conference
- **ReduPiWa**: implementation of the Directive on Sustainable Use of Pesticides



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IMPEL: not only guidelines and reports

A strategical outlook to be more effective

Implementation challenge study (2015)

<http://www.impel.eu/impel-study-confirms-that-significant-challenges-remain-in-implementing-environmental-law/>

Main Outcomes



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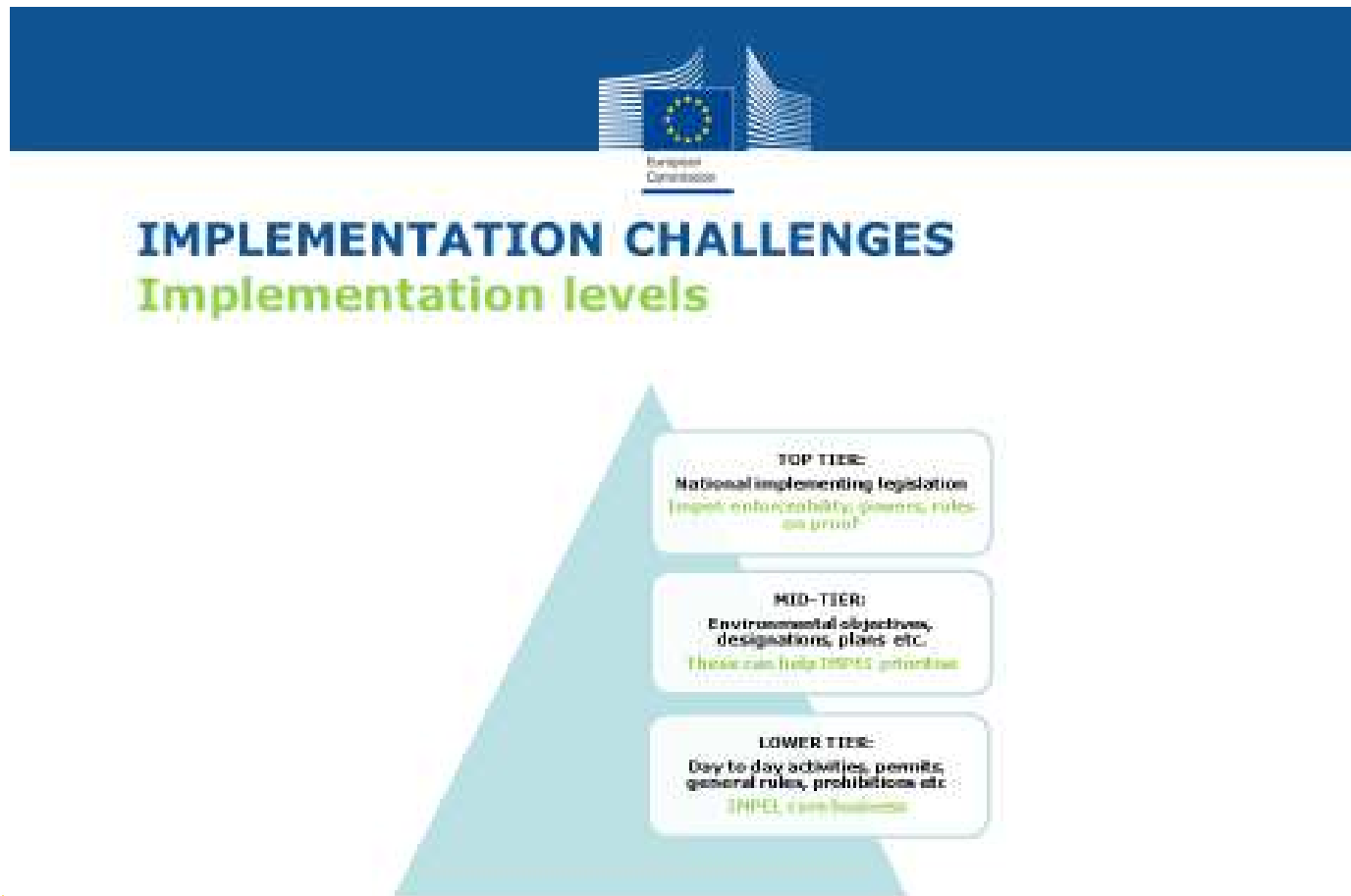


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IMPEL Implementation Challenge Study (2015): the point of view of the EU Commission (1)



IMPEL Implementation Challenge Study (2015): the point of view of the EU Commission (2)

The tiers of implementation of EU environmental laws are, in synthesis, three:

1.transposition through National laws of EU legislation,

2.setting of environmental objectives, designations or plans, prioritization of actions as consequences of EU legislation, with particular reference to Framework Directives

3.enforcement of duties set by national transposition of EU laws; permitting and inspection activities

The gap of implementation of EU laws is a result of weakness of one or more of these tiers. IMPEL members may help in closing implementation gap, but the role they can play in each one of these three tiers vary across tiers and, by consequence, the role of Expert Team in helping in closing implementation gap faces different challenges.



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IMPEL Implementation Challenge Study (2015): the point of view of the EU Commission (3)

**1.transposition through National laws of EU legislation,
NO IMPEL WORK AREA**

**2.setting of environmental objectives, designations or plans,
prioritization of actions as consequences of EU legislation,
with particular reference to Framework Directives**

IMPEL «STEP IN» WORK AREA

**3.enforcement of duties set by national transposition of EU
laws; permitting and inspection activities**

TYPICAL IMPEL WORK AREA

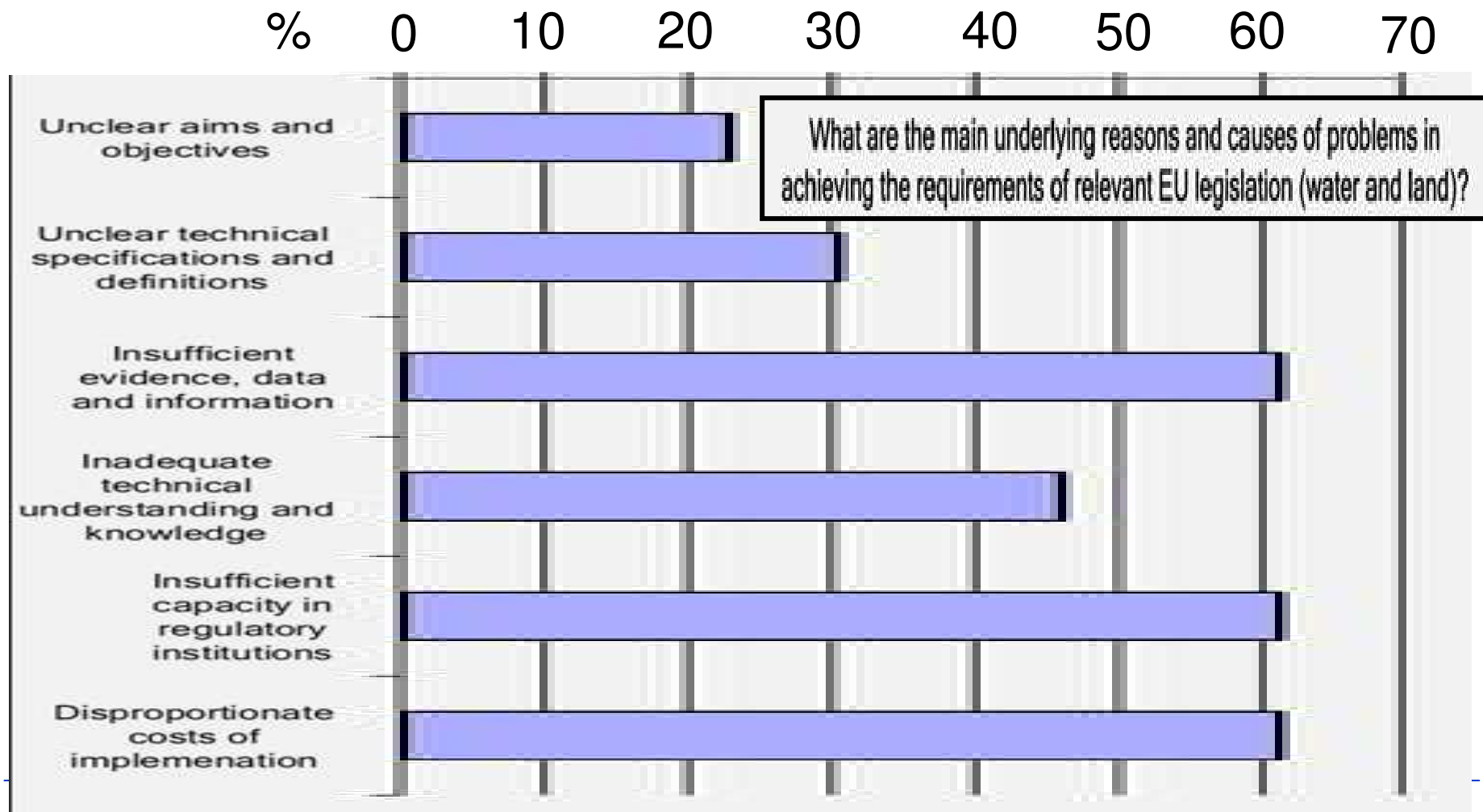


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IMPEL Implementation Challenge Study (2015): a survey among our Associates. Outcomes about Water/ Land Regulation (1)





IMPEL Implementation Challenge Study (2015): a survey among our Associates. Outcomes about Water/ Land Regulation (2)

- Diffuse pollution from agriculture
- Over-abstraction of water: over-allocation and illegal activity
- Lack of regulation for soil protection
- Failing sewage works and leakages from old pipelines
- Costs of waste water solutions
- Building permits issued without proper environmental authorisation
- Monitoring of priority chemicals
- Physical modification of water bodies



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Better implementation for the future: how can IMPEL help?

- Helping countries to build capacity
- Helping organisations make more effective use of their resources
- Peer reviews of country practice e.g. IMPEL Review Initiative (IRI)
- Facilitating exchange of knowledge, expertise and information
- Carrying out joint enforcement actions
- Developing innovative approaches, methods, tools, guidance
- Informing policy with practical experience and expertise
- Coordinating action between countries
- Facilitating communication between different actors

**WHAT OF THESE ITEMS MAY FIND WATER
AND LAND EXPERT TEAM AND SWETE
PROJECT HEPFUL?**



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IMPEL's Strategic Work Programme 2016-2020

<http://impel.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/New-Strategic-Direction-for-IMPEL.pdf>

Main outcomes for Water and Land



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IMPEL Strategic Work Programme 2016-2020

Water and Land: drivers

The objectives of several major Directives remain to be fully achieved in many Member States.

including the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), and Directives on Nitrates, Urban Waste Water Treatment, Ground Waters, and Flood Risk Management, as well as key EU Thematic Strategies, including the Marine and Soil Strategies,

only just over half of freshwater bodies across the EU currently achieve the required quality level of good ecological status.

(European Commission's review of progress with River Basin Management Plans - WFD)

Diffuse source pollution from agriculture, over-abstraction of water and physical modification of water bodies are key underlying causes of failure to achieve good status.



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IMPEL Strategic Work Programme 2016-2020

Water and Land

Support IMPEL members in providing relevant know-how, guidance and tools on the implementation of EU Directives and Strategies relating to water and land. Priority needs include improved information gathering through monitoring and reporting, in several key areas:

- **diffuse-source pollution** from agriculture, households, and failing waste water treatment and sewerage systems
- **over-allocation** of water resources and **over-abstraction** of water
- levels of **priority chemicals** in water bodies
- **physical modification of water bodies** (affecting hydro-geomorphology and the achievement of good ecological status);
- **restoration** of water and wetland habitats.
- **risk analysis** for supporting development planning
- **land management support and soil assessments**
- **flood protection issues** and the related possible environmental consequences of measures to tackle flood risks.



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IMPEL Strategic Work Programme 2016-2020

Water and Land

Support IMPEL members in the prevention of pollution at source, tackling infringements and supporting compliance assurance activities relating to:

- contaminated sites
- industrial installations and activities
- urban waste waters
- agriculture and, in particular, the prevention of diffuse source pollution, for example, from nitrates and pesticides
- illegal abstraction of water and over-abstraction of waters
- achievement of required water quality standards for bathing waters and drinking waters
- re-use of treated waste waters
- hydro-morphological pressures from the building of structures, for example, for energy production, flood risk management and other causes of modification of water bodies that affect the achievement of good ecological status.



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Outcomes from recent meeting with the EU Commission (27° of May, 2016): priorities and needs

- ✓ Marine strategy
- ✓ Emerging pollutants in water
- ✓ Prioritizing actions as inspection in critical sectors
- ✓ Need for sharing information, integrating and interrelating database following INSPRE directive (also outcome from Utrecht «**four network conference**»)
- ✓ Need for access «complementary datas» to be used in Earth Observation investigation (e.g.: WODA)
- ✓ Mapping of competent authorities in water area.
- ✓ Mapping competent authorities in Agriculture,



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IMPEL
Conference in
Florence

Regulation and WFD
implementation
- The next steps -



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A lot of work, but we like challenges

So, let us decide together next steps



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