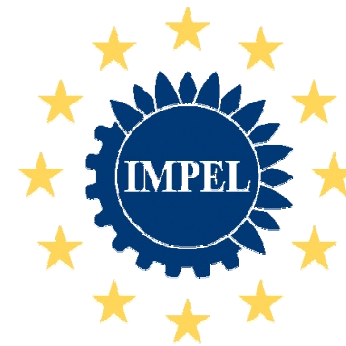


# The role of IMPEL in Europe: overcoming the challenges in implementing EU environmental law

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European Union Network for  
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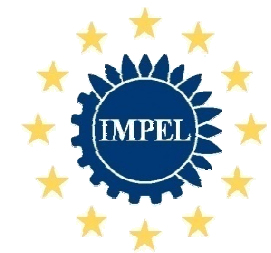
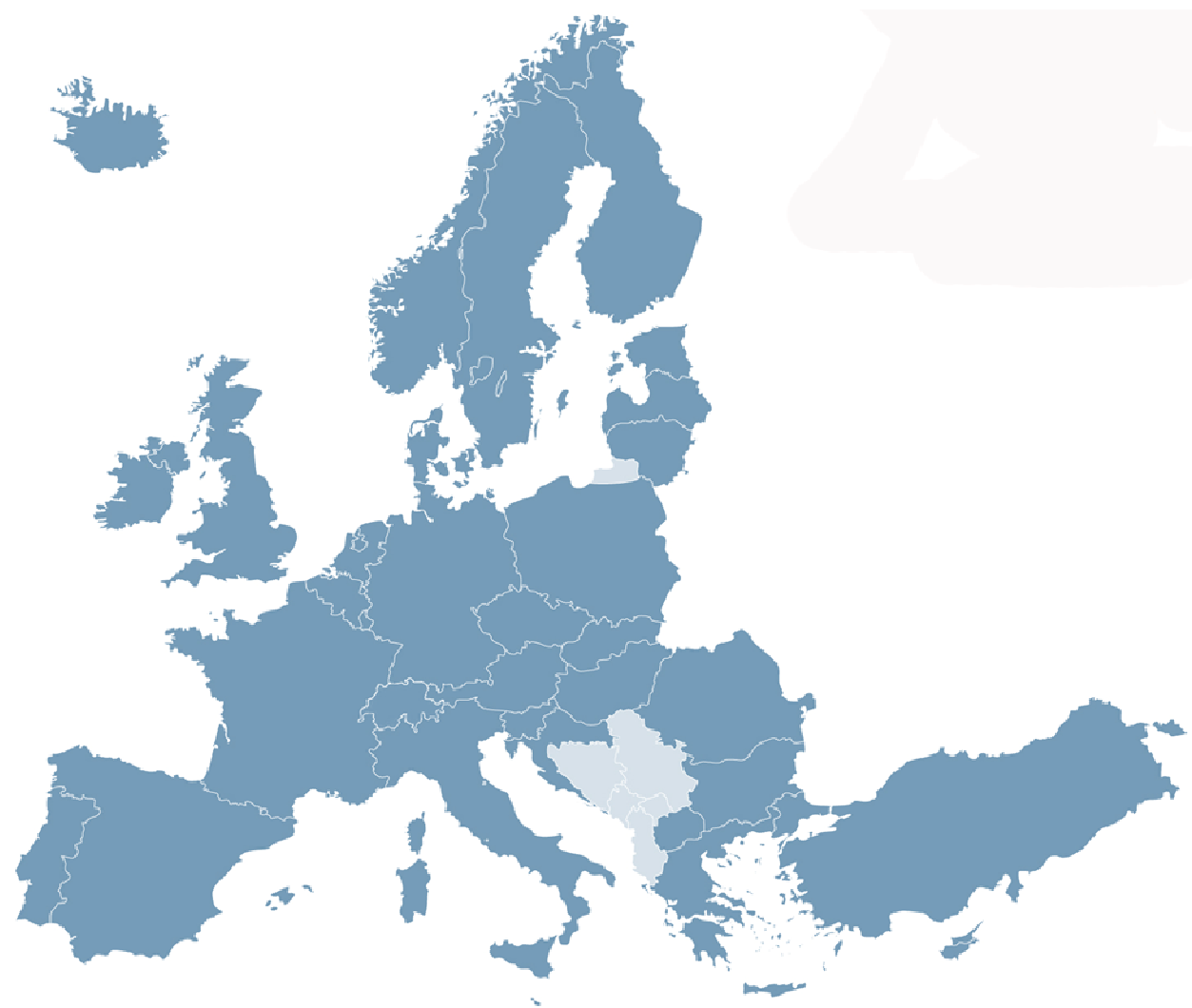
# Outline

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- The IMPEL Network
- Implementation gaps and challenges
- How IMPEL is working to overcome these challenges



# **IMPEL: an international non-profit association of 50 environmental authorities in 35 countries**

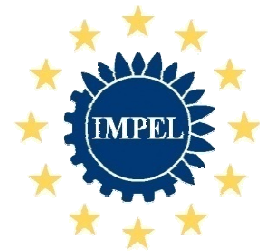


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# Mission

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*“To contribute to protecting the environment by promoting the effective implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law”*



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# IMPEL: a network of practitioners



- ✓ inspectors
- ✓ permit writers
- ✓ policy staff
- ✓ lawyers
- ✓ prosecutors



# Governance and funding

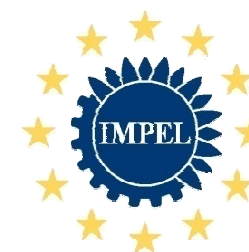
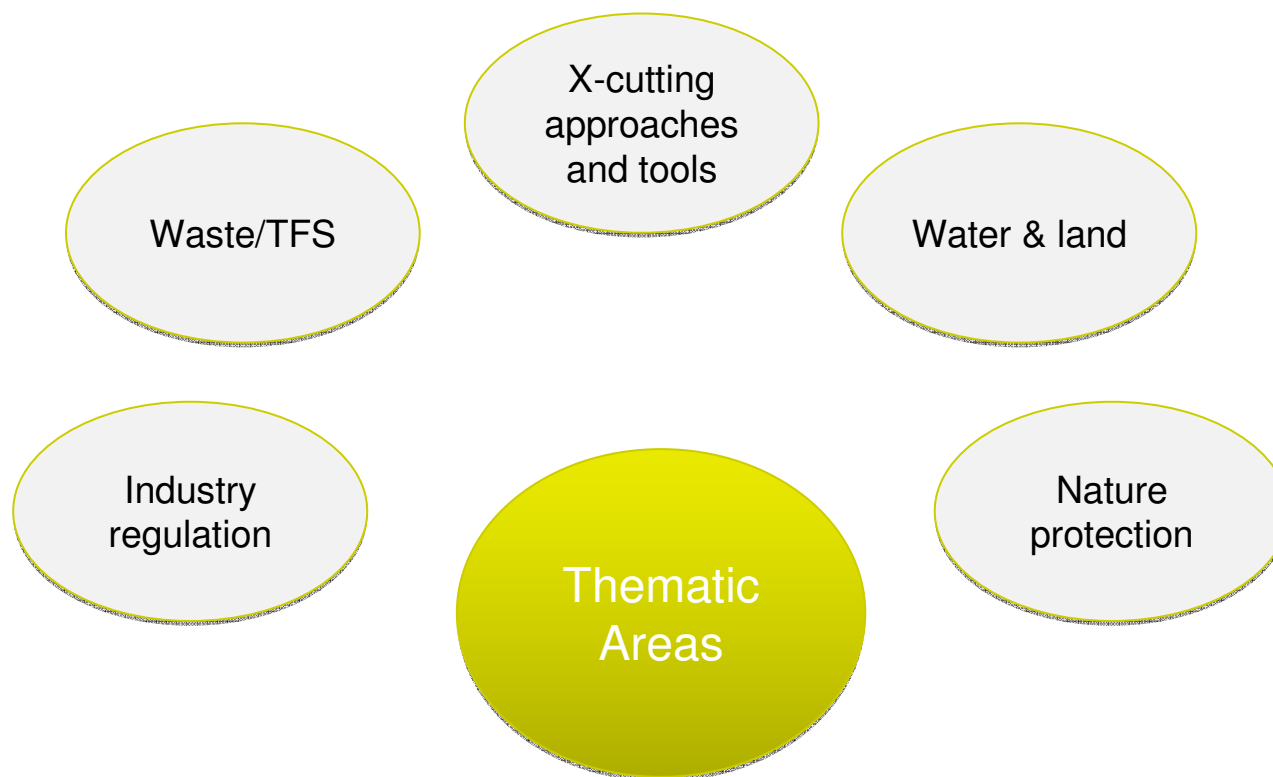
- Decision making via:
  - General Assembly
  - Board
  - Thematic expert groups
  - Secretariat



- Funding from membership fees and European Commission (experts time given for free!)



# 5 thematic areas



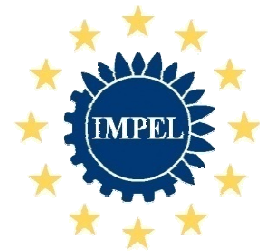
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# IMPEL Project:

## Understanding the nature of implementation challenges

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- *Desk study*
- *Questionnaire survey with implementing organisations*
- *Consultation – European and country institutions*
- *Prioritisation of challenges and problem-solving on solutions*



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# Key implementation challenges

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- Waste
- Water and land
- Nature protection



# Implementation challenges: underlying causes

- Insufficient capacity in regulatory bodies (62%)
- Lack of relevant data, information and evidence (57%)
- Unclear technical specifications in regulations (48%)
- Disproportionate cost of implementing legislation (33%)
- Unclear aims and objectives of legislation (20%)



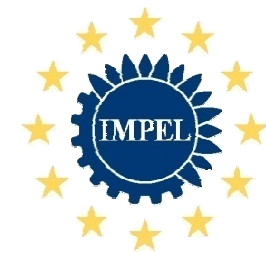
# Implementation Challenges: Water

- Diffuse source pollution from agriculture
- Over-abstraction of water
- Physical modification of water bodies
- Inadequate sewerage and wastewater treatment infrastructure
- Monitoring of priority chemicals
- Soil protection
- Flood risk management and environmental impacts of flood risk measures



# Better implementation for the future: IMPEL's role

- Informing policy with practical experience and expertise
- Helping countries to build capacity and get to compliance more quickly
- Coordinating action across borders
- Facilitating communication between different regulators through the compliance chain
- Developing innovative approaches and methods



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# Sharing know-how to improve the water environment

- Mapping of key organisations
- Good practices for diffuse pollution prevention
- Integrated approach to regulation of agriculture
- Regulation of urban drainage systems and re-use of treated wastewater
- Soil protection and dealing with legacy issues of contaminated land
- Risk-based monitoring and inspection tools
- Catchment-based approaches to flood risk management



# Mini Conference on the use of technology in environmental regulation, Glasgow October 2015

- Getting rid of the paper
- Promoting compliance by improving access to information
- Engaging the public in monitoring and reporting of incidents
- Exploiting new technologies for surveillance



of Environmental Law

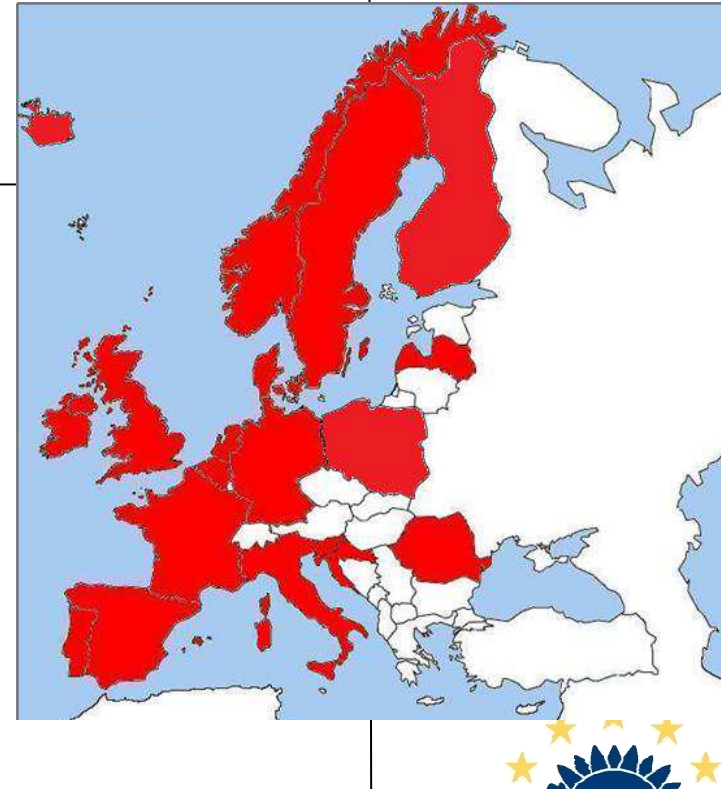




# Impel review initiative (IRI)

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- IRI
  - Peer review programme
  - Carried out by ‘frontline’ experts, policy makers, lawyers and managers from IMPEL member countries
  - >20 IRIs carried out so far...
  - Identifies good practice and opportunities for development

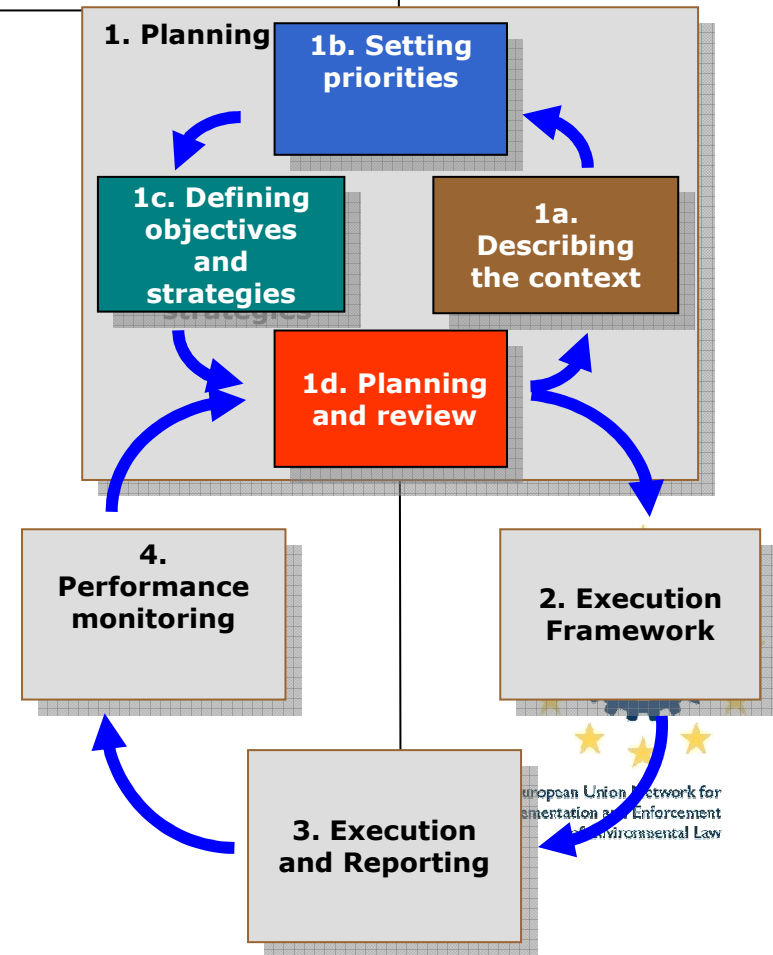


***“...Money cannot buy this level and type of expertise. Peer reviews like the IRI help to create a shared understanding, promote and share new ideas, validate your own systems and ways of working, to benchmark and develop consistency, fairness and a level playing field”.*** Simon Bingham, Scottish EPA, UK.

# Risk-based inspections

- ‘Doing the Right Things’
- A practical approach on planning of environmental inspections
- Handbooks and software tools being used in many countries
- Generated sister projects e.g. prioritising inspections and setting targets.

***...the “easy tools project” will have very practical effects on inspections in Bremen. Based on the product of this project (an IT-program for risk based inspection planning) we will use an adapted version to cover all our significant installations and plan our future inspections in accordance with those parameters.”*** Dr. Hartmut Teutsch, Land Bremen, Germany.



# A balanced approach: IMPEL Strategic Work Programme

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- Target implementation challenges
- Develop thematic programmes
- Engage with membership
- Extend the Network
- Strengthen cooperation with other Networks

