

**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**ECENA 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting**

**Date: 31 January 2014**

**Venue: Skopje, FYR of Macedonia**

**Participants:**

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## Agenda and main conclusions

<b>Welcome and Introduction:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Address by EC</li> <li>▪ Address by representative of the host country</li> <li>▪ Address by ECRAN</li> <li>▪ Introduction to the meeting objectives and agenda</li> </ul>	<b>Madalina Ivanica,</b> <b>Darko Blinkov,</b> <b>Zoran Dimovski,</b> <b>Ike van der Putte</b>
<b>Introduction to the activities expected within the ECENA Working Group</b>	<b>Ike van der Putte</b>
<b>Discussion and agreement on the approach, contents and time schedule of task 1 (regional training IED, cross cutting issues and common inspection)</b>	<b>Ike van der Putte</b>
<b>Discussion on task 2 (external country assessments) and 3 (IRAM/Easy tools)</b>	<b>Ike van der Putte</b>
<b>Discussion and agreement on task 4 (Compliance REACH/CLP) and 5 (TFS)</b>	<b>Ike van der Putte</b>
<b>Presentation and discussion on the approach to task 6 (inspection in other policy areas) and 7 (networks)</b>	<b>Ike van der Putte</b>
<b>Practical arrangements/cooperation with TAIEX</b>	<b>Ruza Radovic</b>
<b>Wrap-up and conclusions</b>	<b>Ike van der Putte</b>



## Welcome and Introduction

Ms. Ivanica opened the meeting, welcoming the participants. She explained that the ECRAN project started on 1 October 2014 as continuation of RENA project, with the new name to emphasise the importance of climate component under new programme.

The welcome session was followed by a tour de table of participants.

Ms. Pokrovac Patekar explained that Croatia becoming an EU MS has a bit different status in ECRAN, participating in the activities deemed as areas where additional assistance is required.

Ms. Ivanica replied that Croatia is considered to be an equal beneficiary of ECRAN as other ECRAN countries, but being a Member State is in the position to chose, join and use any of the activities deemed necessary and of interest.

The draft work plan has been prepared during RENA and should not represent a big surprise. Any comments, suggestions and modifications are welcome and the project team is available for adjustments as necessary.

Mr. Dimovski indicated that region has high expectations from the project, building on the results achieved in the previous phases of ECENA (RENA, ECENA, BERCEN, etc).

Mr. van der Putte presented the agenda, objectives of the meeting and expected results.

## Introduction to the activities planned within the ECENA Working Group

The activities for the period 2010-2013 (RENA) were based on a Multi Annual Work Plan with:

- Training and exchange,
- Institutional and methodological development,
- Cross border enforcement.

The activities planned under ECRAN will be built on the results achieved within RENA. Since the work of inspectors and permit writers has to be more coordinated/connected to other activities within the environmental protection area, it has been concluded that ECENA under ECRAN should be of a cross cutting nature. This is particularly important as the work of ECENA is dealing with both implementation and enforcement of the EU acquis. Cooperation with policy makers and law drafters has to be strengthened in order to enable developing better implementable legislation. Cross cutting issues with which inspectors are facing recently, implies that inspectors are not anymore inspectors for industrial pollution but also for the areas dealing with industry, nature and water.

The ECRAN ECENA approach is a bit different to the approach we had under RENA since it places focus on the regional training courses, including the possibility of organisation of follow up national trainings through TAIEX.

Mr. van der Putte explained that the objective of the meeting is to present the overall work plan for the period 2013 – 2016 and detailed work plan for 2014 with specified dates and locations for planned events. Work plan has been developed in a cross cutting manner allowing for participation of other working group's representatives.

Ms. Kqiku asked for clarification on the nomination of participants for ECENA activities. Ms. Ivanica replied that when asking nominations from the countries, EC asked for specific nominations for ECENA due to its particularities. Ms. Radovic explained that new or additional nominations could be submitted any time if this will facilitate the work of the beneficiary ministries and reduce their administrative workload related to ECRAN.

ECENA activities to be implemented are the following:

- 1.2.1 Capacity building on compliance with environmental legislation - 8 regional trainings, 3 days workshops with visit to pilot site proposed by the host country;



- 1.2.2 External country assessments - activity that will be carried out on request. Attention placed on the functioning of the environmental inspection cycle. Task that will be closely coordinated with other relevant ECRAN activities;
- 1.2.3 Methodological development - application of IRAM/easy Tools – 2 regional trainings planned, taking into account that some of the countries have received similar trainings on which results we should build;
- 1.2.4 Compliance with REACH/CLP Regulations – 2 regional trainings planned, followed by national trainings if and when required;
- 1.2.5 Trans frontier Shipment of Waste (TFS) – 2 regional trainings followed by the study tour to the EU MS;
- 1.2.6 Inspection and enforcement in other policy areas – 4 regional trainings planned on the selected topics, starting with nature being pre-identified area of interest;
- 1.2.7 Inspector's participation in networking activities – Same approach as under RENA introducing the need for involvement of prosecutors and judges.

Ms. Ivanica added that ECENA should establish contact with European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE), but also with the EU Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE). The networks are rather new and it seems that there could be one activity or slightly more per year relevant for the ECRAN countries, hence the funds for this part would not be significant. However, it will be challenging to get official nominations of people who should participate in these networks, hence the support from the ECENA coordinators in identifying the relevant persons would be appreciated.

Mr. Blinkov explained the ECENA has good communication with prosecutors and judges involving them regularly in the relevant trainings organised by ECENA, Themis and other relevant networks.

Ms. Pokrovac Patekar explained that countries in the region do not have specialised prosecutors and judges for environment, hence it would be difficult to identify relevant contact persons for the two networks mentioned above. Ms. Ivanica agreed and added that this was her problem too when asked about the list of people to be invited to participate. Mr. Rudez added that this kind of specialisation within the judges and prosecutors is required in order to improve the results and achieve objectives set by the countries in the environmental area. Ms. Ivanica will include this issue in the list of issues to be discussed during the sub-committee meetings scheduled to be held with the countries.

#### **Discussion and agreement on the approach, contents and time schedule of task 1 (regional training IED, cross cutting issues and common inspection)**

Specific objective of task 1 is to design and implement the practical capacity building component for inspectors and permit writers in relation to the implementing obligations of the community environmental and climate legislation (particularly the new ones).

The trainings will be designed as a cross cutting activity, in such a manner that the training programme will allow participation of policy makers and legal drafters from other relevant WGs members such as Waste, Air, Water, etc.

The TNA Questionnaire that has been already distributed to coordinators will be followed by the training methodology and training programme. TNA covers IED and Seveso subjects and related regulations, permit issuing and inspection management and includes IED linkages to ambient environment and other legislation. Regional trainings can be followed by national trainings as required and requested.

The following schedule has been agreed:

No.	Date	Key outputs
1	mid-January 2014	Training Needs Questionnaire and Training Needs Assessment. Proposals for pilot industries for common inspection. TNA report
2	January - February 2014	Training Methodology, Training Programme and Training Materials



No.	Date	Key outputs
3	Training Workshop 1, May 20-22, 2014	Training IED, selected directives, common inspection with cross-cutting IED/ambient water quality legislation (1) Training Report.(Croatia- industry to be determined)
4	Training Workshop 2, September 10-12, 2014	Training IED, selected directives, common inspection with cross-cutting IED/ambient water quality legislation (2). Training Report (Skopje, FYR of Macedonia, brewery)
5	Training Workshop 3, November 18-20, 2014	Training IED, selected directives, common inspection with cross-cutting IED/ambient water quality legislation (3). Training Report (Istanbul, Turkey, textile industry)
6	Training Workshop 4, February- March 2015	Training IED, selected directives, common inspection with cross-cutting IED/ambient air quality legislation (1). Training Report (Albania)
7	Training Workshop 5, May-June 2015	Training IED, selected directives, common inspection with cross-cutting IED/ambient air quality legislation (2)
8	Training Workshop 6, October 2015	Training IED, selected directives, common inspection with cross-cutting IED/ambient air quality legislation (3). Training Report
9	Training Workshop 7, February-March 2016	Training IED, selected directives, common inspection with cross-cutting IED/waste legislation (1). Training Report
10	Training Workshop 8, April-May 2016	Training IED, selected directives, common inspection with cross-cutting IED/nature legislation (1). Training Report

#### Discussion on task 2 (external country assessment) and 3 (IRAM/Easy tools)

Assessments are based on earlier series (carried out via IMPEL plus the ones carried out via EUROPEAID programmes for accession countries). Aim of the country external assessment is to cover the key aspects of Chapter 27 Environment, in particular, the reports will analyse the readiness of each subject country to effectively manage the environmental impacts of polluting installations through the complete Regulatory Cycle. Since the policy planning and legislative aspects of the Regulatory Cycle are already examined and assessed through other processes, such as Progress Monitoring, the ECRAN reports will place emphasis on the bottom half of the Cycle, from permitting through enforcement to assessment and feedback. ECRAN assessments will follow the structure of the assessment reports prepared under RENA. This task should also be seen as preparation for IMPEL IRI. The activity is delivered on demand, following the request of the country and approval issued by the EC. EC can also submit the request for external assessment report if deemed necessary. The scope of the exercise and the list of acquis to be assessed should be determined in cooperation with the beneficiary and the European Commission.

IRAM/easy tools is web based risk assessment tool for inspections such as: IPPC (IED), Seveso, waste, waste water, genetic engineering, agriculture, etc. In order to disseminate the useful IMPEL IRAM easy tools methodology, up to 2 regional trainings will be organised for all ECRAN beneficiary countries at a general level.

The following schedule has been agreed:

No.	Date	Key outputs
1	08 - 09 October 2014	Regional Training Workshop 1, methodology, materials and report, Istanbul, Turkey
2	September 2015	Regional Training Workshop 2, methodology, materials and report
3	TBD	National training courses methodology, materials and reports (if requested)

#### Discussion and agreement on task 4 (Compliance REACH/CLP) and 5 (TFS)



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Enforcement of REACH and CLP is a national responsibility, therefore each EU Member State, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein must ensure that there is an official system of controls and lay down legislation specifying penalties for non-compliance with the provisions of REACH.

The enforcement of the requirements of the REACH and CLP Regulations involves different enforcement authorities and other bodies. The environmental inspectorate can play a coordinating role.

There is a need for a national strategy defining the needs for co-operation and coordination between these enforcement authorities to ensure effective and efficient enforcement of REACH and CLP.

A key element in any strategy is to define the roles and responsibilities of the various groups involved. This would allow for an efficient enforcement process, avoiding gaps and dealing with any overlaps in the enforcement competencies and responsibilities. The task involves design and delivery of two regional workshops, both being planned for 2015.

Regarding TFS, the regional trainings delivered on the same subject under RENA has used the regional road and harbour as selected sites. During identification of follow up activities, it has been suggested by one of the beneficiary (Croatia) to organise an inspection for cross border rail or road transport (using one of the borders of Croatia with neighbouring countries). Another proposal is to focus on inspection of shipment of waste in ports (maritime area).

In addition to the activities organised within the beneficiary countries, a 1-day workshop and study visit will be organised in one of the EU MS for a limited number of participants. The organisation of study visit will be closely coordinated with IMPEL Cluster 2 TFS. Possible location for the study visit can be Rotterdam or Antwerp.

Methodology that will be applied will be based on RENA with new elements developed under IMPEL. Based on the experience gained under the same exercise implemented under RENA, the attention will be paid to elements such as:

- The notification procedures;
- Possibilities for upstream enforcement;
- The step-by-step-guidance for waste shipment inspections (IMPEL Manual);
- Managing illegal shipment of wastes (IMPEL Manual);
- Inspection plan and protocol;
- Required skills of inspectors;
- Sampling plan.

The following schedule has been agreed:

No.	Date	Key outputs
1	02-03 July 2014	Regional Training Workshop 1- road (highway) transport inspection (Vukovar, Bajakovo crossing point, Croatia), methodology, materials and report
2	May 2015	Regional Training Workshop 2, methodology, materials and report
3	March 2016	Report on study visit (1) to the selected EU MS Institution

#### Discussion and agreement on task 6 (inspection in other policy areas) and task 7 (other related networks)

The project team will aim to create links with other sector specific Working Groups defined under Component 2 Environment in order to enhance the capacities of inspections in sector specific areas. A clear connection can be made to the Nature WG, building on the activities delivered under ECENA in this area in the previous period.

In the area of nature protection, the target institutions and beneficiaries are the Ministries responsible for legislation in the environmental acquis with a special focus on the enforcement aspects in nature protection (e.g., Habitats (92/43/EEC, in particular related to Annex V of the Directive) and Wild birds



(2009/147/EC) Directives and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the EU timber Regulation (EU) No 995/2010.

Further cooperation with relevant networks will be encouraged, including close cooperation with GREENFORCE/IMPEL experts. Apart from nature, the project team will investigate the possibility for creation of links and joint capacity building activities with other sector specific Working Groups such as water, waste and/or air. The series of up to 4 regional trainings is envisaged under this task.

The following schedule has been agreed:

No.	Date	Key outputs
1	21-23 October 2014	Regional Training Workshop 1 (Kopacki Rit, Croatia), methodology, materials and report
2	February – April 2015	Regional Training Workshop 2, methodology, materials and report
3	September 2015	Regional Training Workshop 3, (Pelister, FYR of Macedonia) methodology, materials and report
4	January – February 2016	Regional Training Workshop 4, methodology, materials and report

Cooperation with the relevant networks will be continued under the same conditions defined under RENA. Cooperation with IMPEL has the highest priority due to its relevance. Within the RENA beneficiary countries only Croatia, FYR of Macedonia and Turkey were IMPEL members, as till recently only countries with a candidate status were eligible for IMPEL membership and could participate in IMPEL events.

During implementation of RENA, both EC and RENA secretariat have made efforts to facilitate also participation of potential candidate countries in IMPEL events, for which a change in IMPEL statute was needed.

During the IMPEL meeting held in June 2012, a decision has been taken by IMPEL (with a change of its statutes) to open its membership not only for EU candidate countries but also for potential candidates for EU membership. As a result of this decision, and under the condition of membership (note: yearly membership fee), IMPEL activities are now open to all RENA/ECRAN beneficiary countries.

However it has been noted that the majority of the countries did not use the newly opened possibility of IMPEL membership. Main reason for this is the annual membership fee amounting to 5000 EUR per year. Ms. Ivanica indicated that EC has noticed this and is now trying to find resources to pay the fee for all ECRAN countries for one or more years or to try to get a reduction of the fee by half.

Ms. Pokrovac Patekar added that Croatia had a problem with paying the fee and IMPEL reduced the fee by 50% for them for last year. IMPEL helped significantly the improvement of the inspection process in Croatia hence all the countries should invest efforts to find the funds to participate in IMPEL organised activities.

#### Practical arrangements/cooperation between TAIEX and ECRAN Secretariat

Ms. Radovic presented division of the responsibilities between ECRAN Secretariat and TAIEX as indicated below.

ECRAN Secretariat	TAIEX
Ministerial Meetings;	Provision of experts for capacity building activities;
WG Annual Meetings;	Logistical arrangements for capacity building activities;
EF Public Participation;	Evaluation of capacity building activities.
Coordination with other relevant networks;	





## ECRAN Secretariat

## TAIEX

Other non-capacity building activities;  
Drafting agendas , work plans, ToRs;  
Selection of TAIEX experts;  
Quality control and review;  
Invitations and lists of participants;  
Workshop Reports.

The emphasis was made to the timely nomination of participants (three weeks before the workshop). The beneficiaries have to be very careful with nominations of participants, as changes are not allowed. The benefit of TAIEX is that there is no limitation in the number of participants. The possibility for the countries to request national support through ECRAN exists too, besides the normal channels they use usually when requesting TAIEX support. This will enable receiving support when preparing application and better coordination of activities.

### Wrap-up and conclusions:

Mr. van der Putte will provide the required modifications of the work plan and send them to participants.



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### Wrap-up (Summary of action to be taken)

No	Activities	Responsible	Deadline
1	Revised work plan and templates	ECRAN Secretariat	24 February 2014
2	Draft MoM	ECRAN Secretariat	24 February 2014



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