

IN FOCUS

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 2nd ECRAN Newsletter prepared by ECRAN Secretariat. The objective of this issue is to provide ECRAN stakeholders with start - up activities, events and topics covered by ECRAN and ECRAN related initiatives in the period April 2014–September 2014.

2nd ECRAN Newsletter brings to you the information about activities related to:

- ECRAN Environment component;
- ECRAN Climate Change component;
- ECRAN Horizontal component;
- ECRAN cooperation with other related initiatives;

The ECRAN Team

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Environment Component – development of work plans and programmes, training of trainees, Annual Meetings, regional capacity building;
- Climate Change Component – regional capacity building;
- Horizontal Component – NGO Kick-off meeting, capacity building, NGO preparatory meetings;
- Cooperation with related networks and initiatives;

ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

ECRAN 1st Regional Training on EU Accession Negotiations on Chapter 27 (10-11 April 2014, Brussels, Belgium)

First Regional Training on EU Accession Negotiations on Chapter 27 was organised in Brussels, Belgium in the period 10 – 11 April 2014 with active involvement of the EC representatives in the preparation as well as delivery of the training.

The training was designed to cover both, general aspects of EU accession negotiations and practical aspects of EU negotiation on Chapter 27. The training covered topics such as theory and practice of negotiations, EU negotiation process and system, format of EU negotiations, roles, norms and procedures for negotiations, institutional framework and actors and strategies and tactics in EU negotiations. In addition, the training provided case study on Chapter 27 negotiations from the new EU Member State.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/14>

ECRAN Regional Capacity Building on Compliance with Chemical Legislation, with Emphasis on REACH- CLP linked to IED (13-15 May 2014, Bijela, Montenegro)

The first Regional Capacity Building on compliance with chemical legislation was held from 13–15 May 2014 in Podgorica, Montenegro with the site visit to Progas Company (Messer Group), IPPC/SEVESO lower tier installation that produces Acetylene based on the calcium carbide process, located in Bijela. This training presented the first module of the training programme.

The training programme includes up to four regional trainings, designed to last for three-days, including a site visit to a selected IED facility. The training programme of this Working Group is closely coordinated with the one designed for Activity 1.2 (ECENA WG) in order to avoid duplication and overlaps

The four modules are:

- Module 1 (13 – 15 May, 2014) General introduction chemicals and procedures REACH/CLP, IED (1);
- Module 2 (December 2014) Procedures REACH/CLP/IED (2);
- Module 3 (May 2015) Technical aspects REACH /CLP, IED;
- Module 4 (December 2015). REACH/CLP downstream consequences, interlinkages with IED and other legislation; accession issues.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/15>

ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

ECRAN Regional Training for IPA 2 Requirements (10-11 June 2014, Brussels, Belgium)

1st ECRAN Regional training on IPA II requirements took place in Brussels, June 10 - 11 2014.

Main issues addressed included:

- IPA II: new legal framework and its implementation;
- Programming IPA 2 - Role of the sector leading institution;
- Programming IPA 2 – Environmental sectors for consideration: nature, waste, water, wastewater, LIFE Regulation.

This training aimed to provide to the representatives from the enlargement countries the possibility to receive detailed information on the content and procedures of the new IPA Regulation and Rules of Implementation, to exchange experiences among countries related to programming and development of national planning documents and to discuss aspects of cross-border nature that could require financial assistance.

IPA II regulation is available here.

For more information on the topics discussed and results of the workshop, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/19>

ECRAN Water Screening Workshop at Pilot – Drina River Basin (23 June 2014, Podgorica, Montenegro)

The first Water WG Screening workshop at pilot river basin was held on 23 June 2014 in Podgorica. 15 participants attended meeting from the three countries that share Drina River Basin (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia). The screening workshop scope established common understanding on Programme of Measures (PoMs), selected specific topic to better fit the needs of the beneficiary countries at shared Drina River Basin and to initiate situation analysis to identify the key issues for defining of acceptable and efficient PoMs.

The workshop provided common understanding of basic terms and definitions, different policies and regulatory frameworks as well as differences in delegation of responsibilities, for development, adoption, implementation and control of implementation of PoMs. The principles and requirements of WFD, Integrated Water Resources (IWRM) and Integrated Water Resources Governance, as well as main obstacles in development of PoMs and various techniques and tools for screening and evaluation of acceptable and efficient programme of measures for Drina.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/20>

ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

ECRAN Sub-Regional Workshop on Appropriate Assessment (AA) Part I: Theory of AA and the Screening Stage (16-18 September 2014, Kavadarci, FYR of Macedonia)

Sub-regional Workshop on AA was held in Kavadarci, FYR of Macedonia, from 16-18 September 2014 with a site visit to Tikveš nature reserve. The objective of the whole series of sub-regional workshops is to provide ECRAN Beneficiaries with the complete picture of the AA from its very beginning (screening) up to the final decision on the acceptability of the project and to present them also the derogation procedure according to Art. 6(4) of the Habitats Directive applicable to projects needed in public interest overriding the interest on protection of Natura 2000 network. The whole process is divided into three workshops, each of them corresponding to relevant stage of the AA according to the Habitats Directive (screening; main assessment; Art. 6(4) derogation procedure). The first pilot AA is intended for participants from Albania, Kosovo and FYR of Macedonia.

The results of the workshop are:

- Improved understanding of the objectives of Natura 2000 network and the role of AA as one of its protective tools in its maintenance;
- Familiarization with particular requirements of AA in light of CJEU rulings;
- Understanding the differences from and similarities with EIA;
- Familiarization with the pilot site and pilot project;
- Learning about the 1st stage of AA (screening) and undertaking the screening for the pilot site;
- Sharing experience with a new EU MS relevant for the region with AA implementation.



For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/26>

ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

ECRAN 2nd Screening Workshop at Pilot – Drina River Basin (22-23 September 2014, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Second Screening Workshop at Pilot – Drina River Basin took place in Sarajevo from 22-23 September 2014.

The first screening workshop had the objective to establish common understanding on basic terms and definitions, different policies and regulatory frameworks as well as differences in delegation of responsibilities, for development, adoption, implementation and control of implementation of Programme of Measures PoM). The results from the 1st assessment have been presented at the workshop.

The second screening workshop emphasized a crucial role of the regular monitoring for reliable and rational water resources governance and hence to encourage the group to initiate and support the additional investments in its improvement. An extension of the status-pressure-impact link to the simulation of the expected effects of PoM implementation were presented in order to encourage the beneficiary countries to explore the cumulative effects of properly designed PoM as a step towards rationalisation of the costs. The cost-effectiveness of measures prices and costs associated with water services was elaborated. Through results of the assessment on screening templates and practical work during 2nd screening workshop, the first outline of PoMs concept for Drina River Basin will be prepared.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/27>



ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

ECRAN Environmental Assessment – 1st Training of Trainers (23-26 September 2014, Podgorica, Montenegro)

The first Training of Trainers of Environmental Assessment Working Group was held in Podgorica, from 23-26 September 2014 with main focus on developing the first drafts of the country specific SEA/EIA training material as well as on training techniques and skills and planning of the local SEA/EIA training events. It is the first out of three planned trainings.

The training manual provides an introduction to SEA/EIA as well as key principles and main SEA/EIA analytical steps following international principles of good practice. The training manual has following sections:

- Introduction to SEA and EIA;
- SEA and EIA process;
- Main SEA/EIA analytical steps;
- Stakeholders' consultations;
- SEA/EIA and decision-making.

The training manual had been developed in English prior to the training, providing information, which should enable the participants to draft the presentations for the in-country trainings. The drafts of the country-specific presentations were prepared during the ToT, and will be further developed for the planned national trainings. The international principles of good SEA/EIA practice; main procedural and analytical steps of SEA/EIA were well covered as evaluated by participants.

Further assistance will be provided in the period March – October 2015 through a series of national trainings that will be delivered by the public officials from the beneficiary countries with the support of ECRAN and TAIEX (e.g. developing the agenda, delivering presentations on certain topics, logistics arrangements, etc.).

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/28>

ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

ECRAN Introductory Workshop on Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (25-26 September 2014, Tirana, Albania)

Introductory Workshop on Water Framework Directive was held from 25-26 September 2014 in Tirana.

General topics for the 1st introductory workshop were selected, with main aims to build the capacities of the beneficiary countries in for MSFD implementation and Integrated Coastal Zone and to exchange experience on the synergy, overlaps and differences between WFD and MSDF.

An introductory workshop aimed:

- To present and discuss MSFD objectives, steps toward its implementation, state of the art in selected MS;
- To facilitate selection of topics of a common interest for joint regional training and for one country select a specific topic for tailor made training on the key points of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Strategy Framework Directive implementation;
- To inform on ongoing projects under MSFD for the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea.



For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/30>

ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

ECRAN Annual Meeting and Regional Training on Air Quality Assessment and Management (29 September – 01 October 2014, Podgorica, Montenegro)

The 1st training was held from 29 September 2014 to 1 October 2014 in Podgorica. Five EU MS speakers were invited to present their experience on air quality assessment and management under the Air Quality Directive and the 4th Daughter Directive.

The 1st training is covered the following topics:

- Assessment of ambient air quality: legal requirements of ambient air quality assessment, criteria for different assessment regimes and considerations for the number, location and representativeness of monitoring sites;
- Slovenian experience in ambient air quality monitoring in Slovenia and identification of sources responsible for elevated pollutant levels;
- Air quality reporting and information to the public: Overview on air quality reporting and information to the public in Europe;
- Sources of elevated pollutant levels and their identification: exceedance of air quality standards, methods for identifying different sources and their contribution to pollutant levels; identification of natural sources;
- e-reporting: Overview on status and requirements for e-reporting (Commission Implementing Decision 2011/850/EU);

- Best practice of ambient air quality management in Europe, legal requirements, guidelines for air quality plans, measures;
- Air quality monitoring and emission inventory for Prague and the Czech Republic;
- Approach and experience with air quality monitoring and modelling in Germany;
- Experience in inspection procedures of combustion plants, compliance with emission limit values in Croatia;
- Air quality planning in Slovenia: Overview on AQ planning and measures in Slovenia;
- Air quality planning in the city of Prague: Experience in Prague with AQ plans and implementing measures;
- Air quality planning in the City of Berlin, lessons learned..

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/29>

ENVIRONMENT COMPONENT

ECRAN Sub-Regional Workshop on Appropriate Assessment (AA) Part I: Theory of AA and Screening Stage Pilot 2 Serbia (24-26 September 2014, Novi Sad, Serbia)

Sub-regional Workshop on AA was held in Novi Sad, from 24-26 September 2014 with a site visit to reserves Okanj and Rusanda, Vojvodina province with the representatives from Serbia and Montenegro. Selected pilot sites in FYR of Macedonia and Turkey lack of suitable projects, however in Serbia, pilot AA consists of real project with two alternatives – one with an impact on (future) Natura 2000 site, the other one harmless; therefore, it is likely that this pilot will also be used for the joint training on interrelationships between AA and EIA/SEA later during the ECRAN project implementation.

The results of the workshop are:

- Improved understanding of the objectives of Natura 2000 network and the role of AA as one of its protective tools in its maintenance;
- Familiarization with particular requirements of AA in light of CJEU rulings;
- Understanding the differences from and similarities with EIA;
- Familiarization with the pilot site and pilot project;
- Learning about the 1st stage of AA (screening) and undertaking the screening for the pilot site;
- Sharing experience with a new EU MS relevant for the region with AA implementation.



For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/31>

CLIMATE COMPONENT

ECRAN Regional Training on Inclusion of Aviation into the EU Emission Trading Scheme (10-11 April 2014, Istanbul Turkey)

Regional Training on Inclusion of Aviation into the EU Emission trading Scheme was organised in Istanbul, Turkey on 10-11 April 2014, targeting the group that included Government experts that are already or could be involved in the application of the MRVA requirements of the EU ETS system. Participation of the aircraft operators registered in the ECRAN beneficiary countries was encouraged, in order to allow them to be updated on the newest developments and to receive practical training on the EU ETS and its MRVA requirements.

The objective of the training was to achieve an improved technical understanding of the ETS implementing provisions in relation to monitoring, reporting, verification and accreditation in the beneficiary countries among the target group of aircraft operators, as well as competent authorities and potential verifiers. Issues addressed in the training were the following:

- The EU ETS Directive with a special emphasis on the inclusion of aviation into the EU-ETS;
- The Compliance cycle: Tasks of aircraft operators; role of competent authorities; European Commission; verifiers; and the national accreditation bodies;
- Monitoring and reporting of tone-kilometre data;

- Monitoring plan for the emissions and the use of the MP templates;
- Monitoring plan for the tone-kilometre data – templates;
- Verification for EU ETS aviation - explanation of the verification template;
- Verification of small emitters and the use of the EUROCONTROL's small emitter's tool;
- Data collection by EUROCONTROL and provision of this data to support compliance with EU ETS;
- Best practice examples from the EU Member States.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/13>

CLIMATE COMPONENT

ECRAN Regional Training programme of the Selected Climate Acquis – Workshop on ODS and F-Gases (27-28 May 2014, Tirana, Albania)

Regional Workshop on ODS and F-gases was organised in Tirana, Albania, on 27-28 May 2014 targeted the following topics and results/outputs:

- Challenges of F-gases and ODS (extreme climate events, climate and energy);
- The scientific problem of F-gases and ODS;
- Emissions trends for F-gases and ODS;
- International Policy processes regarding ODS and F-gases (Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol);
- Introduction to EU Legislation on F-gases;
- F-gases Regulation, basic acts and 10 implementing acts (including its main aims and provisions; Principal obligations of Member States (MS); Planning and preparation; Certification, verification and training schemes; Labelling; Responsibilities for commercial, industrial, and public sector organizations; Reporting requirements and New Developments (2014)).

The objective of the training was to familiarise the beneficiaries with the F-gases and the ODS regulations, with all the important details explained, such as planning and preparation, certification, verifications and training schemes, labelling, responsibilities for commercial, industrial and public sector organizations, as well as reporting requirements in the transposition and implementation of F-gases regulations.



For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/18>

CLIMATE COMPONENT

ECRAN Regional High Level Conference and Seminar on Climate Change Adaptation (02-03 July 2014, Skopje, FYR of Macedonia)

The First Regional ECRAN Climate Change Adaptation Conference and Seminar was held in Skopje on 02-03 July 2014.

Attention was paid to best practice on adaptation and to the support of the identification and prioritisation of adaptation options and to the required policy changes, structures and processes for adaptation. This work was built on the results of previous activities undertaken; most in particular those of the UNISDR and EEA projects, as a starting point. Close coordination and cooperation will be sought with other adaptation initiatives such as the one from the World Bank.

The Seminar brought together key players of the ECRAN beneficiaries, in order to share the available experience and lessons learned - including on the role that the framework offered by the EU's 2013 Climate Adaptation Strategy may play. It also included presentation and discussion of the actions that climate adaptation incites in their countries, the regional approaches and cooperation, and the preparation for creating the governance systems that ensure participation of stakeholders and a balance between the top-down and bottom-up processes.

The Seminar enhanced the coordination and cooperation between the ongoing adaptation activities in the region, such as the Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt Initiatives, including the EU Cities Adapt project, the GIZ initiative on 'Climate Change Adaptation in the Western Balkans', the UNISDR and WMO's joint programme 'Building resilience to disasters in the Western Balkans and Turkey', the World Bank's work 'Turn Down the Heat III', and others.



For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/21>

CLIMATE COMPONENT

ECRAN Module 2: Regional Training on Uncertainty Assessment of GHG Inventories (08-09 July 2014, Podgorica, Montenegro)

Regional Training on Uncertainty Assessment of GHG Inventories was held in Podgorica on 08-09 July 2014. The workshop is the second Module of the multi-module series of workshops to be implemented in the framework of ECRAN's Working Group 2 on "National inventory systems and the EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation".

This regional training workshop is based on the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, the IPCC Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and elements of 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.

The objective of this workshop was to provide the essential elements for the establishment and contribute to a fully functioning monitoring mechanism of greenhouse gas emissions in the beneficiaries, in line with the EU Monitoring Mechanism Regulation and UNFCCC requirements.

The workshop was focused on:

- Improved understanding of uncertainty analysis, including the methods to estimate uncertainties;
- Improved skills on quantifying uncertainties in Energy sector using tier 1 method through a practical exercise

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/23>

CLIMATE COMPONENT

ECRAN EU ETS Regional Training on the MR and the A&V Regulations (10-11 September 2014, Zagreb, Croatia)

The Regional Training was held on 10 – 11 September 2014 in Zagreb, Croatia, aiming to:

- Support and speed up the preparation for and implementation of emissions trading in the candidate countries, with a particular focus on (MRVA) requirements.
- Strengthen the understanding of the institutional, legal and procedural arrangements identified for the implementation of a national or regional emissions trading system in the beneficiary countries modelled along the EU ETS and its MRVA requirements.
- Exchange best practices in the implementation of MRVA requirements for emissions trading systems within the region, and between the EU Member State representatives.
- Identification of the responsibilities and duties of the various actors in EU ETS compliance processes, related ministries and other organizations, and explanation of the coordination essentials to minimize problems during the first implementation of the regulation.

As confirmed in the evaluation the participants acquired improved understanding of the details of the MR and A&V regulations of the European Commission, as well as of the required resources for the implementation of the two regulations as part of an ETS system.



For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/24>

CLIMATE COMPONENT

ECRAN Training Mission to Netherlands on ETS System (23-25 September 2014, The Hague and Rotterdam Harbour, Netherlands)

The first training mission out of two proposed, was held in The Hague from September 23rd until September 25th 2014 at the Netherlands Emissions Authority and at the Hydrogen Plant of Air Products in the Rotterdam Port Area.

The workshop aimed to:

- Strengthen the understanding of the institutional and procedural arrangements identified when setting up an ETS Competent Authority, illustrating the lessons learned and organisational choices made.
- Exchange information on tools and systems used for the various tasks to be conducted by the ETS Competent Authority, and obtaining practical insights on use of these tools.
- Support beneficiary countries in providing options for developing their action plans for the implementation of the ETS, including identification of choices to be made and priorities to be set.
- Stimulate exchange of information and best practices in the implementation of the ETS within the region, and between the EU Competent Authorities and their counterparts in the beneficiary countries.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/34>

HORIZONTAL COMPONENT

ECRAN Environment and Climate Forum, Kick-Off Meeting (07-08 May 2014, Budva/Becici, Montenegro)

Environment and Climate Forum Kick-Off Meeting was held in Budva/Becici from 07-08 May 2014

Environment and Climate Forum (ECF) has been incorporated in ECRAN as a part of horizontal component. Its overall aim is to build and strengthen civil society involvement in the environment and climate area in ECRAN beneficiary countries through institutional strengthening and information exchange on the EU environmental policy and developments in the enlargement policies. Main activities in the reporting period were focused on consolidation of the NGO network and on the planning and implementation of the activities at the regional and national level.

Kick off meeting officially initiated the activities of this ECRAN component. Division of tasks and responsibilities among NGOs and ECRAN team were discussed and ECF Work Plan was adopted by NGOs. Two main activities successfully accomplished in the reporting period are:

- NGOs Specific Regional Training Plan (NGOs SRTP);
- 1st Round of In-country Preparatory meetings. The NGOs SRTP is based on Training Needs Assessment and is under implementation.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/17>

ECENA 1st Regional Training – Capacity Building on Compliance with Environmental Legislation (20-22 May 2014, Zagreb, Lipovica, Croatia)

The 1st Regional Training on Capacity Building on Compliance with Environmental Legislation took place in Zagreb, Croatia from 20-22 May 2014, with main objective to design and implement the practical capacity building for inspectors and permit writers in relation to the implementing obligations of the community environmental and climate legislation. The training presents the first in the series of eight trainings to be held in each beneficiary country.

The main subjects in the 3-days programme were:

- Inspection Management Implementation IPPC/IED;
- On- site inspection and planning;
- Cross-cutting issues (interaction IED with other legislation, water, waste, air and nature respectively);
- SEVESO;
- Site visit with attention for BAT and BREF (IPPC industry -Aluminum casting, Lipovica D.O.O. Popovaca, Croatia).

The following results derived from the activity:

- Improved functioning of the environmental authorities and related authorities envisaged to be responsible for implementation of the REACH/CLP regulations and IED ;
- Streamlined working methods and implementation of best practice in the region moving towards EU standards.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/16>

HORIZONTAL COMPONENT

ECENA Capacity Building on Compliance with Legislation on Trans frontier Shipment of Waste (02-03 July 2014, Vukovar, Croatia)

The training has been delivered from 02 – 03 July 2014 in Vukovar, Croatia) with Bajakovo border crossing (Croatia/Serbia) site visit in coordinated with IMPEL Cluster 2 TFS with general objective to increase the effectiveness of inspection bodies and promote compliance with environmental requirements.

Additional effort was put in order to increase capacity in South-east Europe in the field of implementation of elements of the WSR, as well as to increase insight in related compliance and enforcement mechanisms and knowledge about performing inspections.

The following results were achieved during the workshop:

- Improved knowledge base on WSR and required legal and institutional requirements with compliance, and enforcement aspects at key staff of the Environment Ministries and institutions on the subject;
- Strengthened regional network of SEE professionals and experts on TFS with its compliance and enforcement aspects.



For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/22>

HORIZONTAL COMPONENT

ECENA Multicounty Workshop on Capacity Building on Compliance with Environmental Legislation, Module 2 (10-12 September 2014, Skopje, FYR of Macedonia)

Module 2 Workshop was held from 10-12 September 2014 in Skopje, and it presents the second module in the series of the multicounty workshops to be held in each of the eight beneficiary countries, after first had been held in Croatia in May 2014. General objective was to design and implement the practical capacity building for inspectors and permit writers in relation to the implementing obligations of the community environmental and climate legislation. Site visit with attention for BAT and BREF took place at an IPPC installation in PIVARA Brewery Skopje.

The following results derived from the activity:

- Improved functioning of the environmental authorities and related authorities envisaged to be responsible for implementation of the REACH/CLP regulations and IED ;
- Streamlined working methods and implementation of best practice in the region moving towards EU standards.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ecranetwork.org/Events/25>



HORIZONTAL COMPONENT

ECF NGO Preparatory Meetings

Preparatory meetings are the opportunity to promote wider consultation at the national level and maintain a high level of attention on the environmental approximation issues throughout the project duration. The purpose of the preparatory meetings is to allow for a wide consultation/information sharing with as many relevant NGOs as possible and in each of the beneficiary countries. Yet, the intention is to involve not only the representatives of the civil society, but also the representatives of relevant national authorities and other stakeholders..

Taking into account the timeframe for implementation of the project and required timing for organisation and implementation of preparatory meetings, there are two rounds of preparatory meetings planned. The first round of the meetings was scheduled and conducted for the September 2014. In total 7 preparatory meetings were organized with the following schedule:

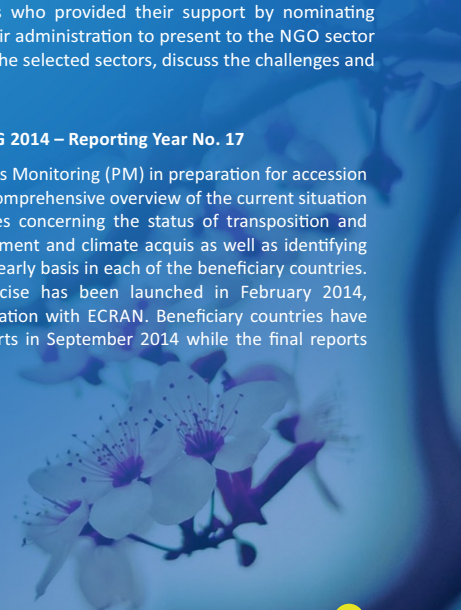
1. Banja Luka, RepublikaSrpska – 10 September 2014;
2. Podgorica, Montenegro – 15 September 2014;
3. Pristina, Kosovo - 15 September 2014;
4. Tirana, Albania – 17 September 2014;
5. Mavrovo, fYR of Macedonia – 20 September 2014;
6. Belgrade, Serbia – 26 September 2014;
7. Ankara, Turkey – 26 September 2014

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJOpinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Preparatory meetings listed above were organized in close collaboration with ECRAN Focal Points who provided their support by nominating relevant persons from their administration to present to the NGO sector current state of affairs in the selected sectors, discuss the challenges and plans for improvement.

PROGRESS MONITORING 2014 – Reporting Year No. 17

The purpose of the Progress Monitoring (PM) in preparation for accession is to provide an updated, comprehensive overview of the current situation in the beneficiary countries concerning the status of transposition and implementation of environment and climate acquis as well as identifying the progress achieved on yearly basis in each of the beneficiary countries. Progress Monitoring exercise has been launched in February 2014, organised by EC in cooperation with ECRAN. Beneficiary countries have submitted their draft reports in September 2014 while the final reports are due in October 2014.



ECRAN RELATED NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES

12th IMPEL General Assembly (07-08 May 2014, Brussels, Belgium)

IMPEL General Assembly Meeting was organised by Committee of the Regions and IMPEL Secretariat in Brussels on 07-08 May 2014, and was focused on discussions around IMPEL's strategic direction and priorities for the coming years. The main subjects of the meeting were to:

- Introduce new IMPEL National Coordinators;
- Discuss future development of IMPEL Strategy;
- Analyse work of Communication Group;
- Discuss candidacy for new chair and vice chair;
- Analyse report of financial state in 2013;
- Discuss current financial situation in 2014;
- Analyse progress reports and completed projects.

ECRAN team participated at the meeting to exchange information on best practices and new developments and explore options for further cooperation.

For more information, please visit:
<http://impeleu/diary/12th-general-assembly/>
<http://inece.org/2014/05/14/impele/>

ECRAN RELATED NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES

IMPEL TFS Conference on the enforcement of the Council Regulation N° 1013/2006 on Shipments of Waste (WSR) (10-13 June 2014, Oslo, Norway)

IMPEL TFS Conference was organised by Norwegian Environment Agency and IMPEL Secretariat in Oslo on 11-13 June 2014. The theme of this year's conference was "Tackling illegal shipments of waste, by working together promoting improved inter agency collaboration between Environmental Authorities and Customs. The main aims of the conference were to:

- Discuss practical solutions that enhance the joint efforts of environmental agencies and customs in their fight against illegal shipments of waste;
- Share best practices and lessons learned on the matters of inter agency collaboration and repatriation of illegally shipped waste;
- Update the IMPELTFS network on relevant developments, such as the restructuring of the IMPEL Network, progress of ongoing projects and work done by partner organisations;
- Learn about the Guidelines for Customs Controls on trans boundary waste shipments developed under the PARCS project and the work on the development of possible new HS codes for certain waste streams;
- Discuss the amendments to the WSR introducing minimum criteria for waste shipments inspections.

ECRAN team participated at the meeting to discuss enforcement activities, and exchange information on best practices and new developments.

For more information, please visit:

<http://impel.eu/cluster/cluster-tfs/key-outcome-of-the-impel-tfs-conference-collaboration-between-environmental-authorities-and-customs-crucial/>



ECRAN RELATED NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES

IMPEL Review Initiative (IRI) Meeting on Illegal Killing and trapping and trade of Birds (IKB) (02-05 September 2014, Bucharest, Romania)

From 1 to 5 September 2014, an IMPEL Review Initiative (IRI) in the field of eliminating illegal killing, trapping and trade of birds was carried out at Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation Commissariat within the National Environmental Guard (NEG).

The peer review of the NEG was carried out by experts from the Netherlands, Italy, Malta, UK (England & Scotland), FYR Macedonia and the Czech Republic. The aim of this so called 'Green IRI' was to identify areas of good practice, where things are going well in terms of implementation and enforcement, and 'opportunities for development', areas that could be improved going forward.

The purpose of every IRI Meeting is to prepare a review of environmental authorities in IMPEL member countries IMPEL Member countries. The IRI is intended to enable the environmental authority and the Review Team to explore how the authority carries out its tasks. It aims at identifying areas of good practice for dissemination together with opportunities to develop existing practice within the authority and authorities in other IMPEL Member Countries

ECRAN team participated at the meeting to discuss enforcement activities, and exchange information on best practices and new developments

For more information, please visit:

<http://impel.eu/cluster/cluster-1/first-green-impel-review-initiative-iri-held-in-romania/>

ECRAN RELATED NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES

IMPEL TFS National Contact Points (NCP) Best Practice Meeting (30 September – 01 October 2014, Rome, Italy)

The meeting was held in Rome from 30 September-01 October 2014, providing an opportunity for the IMPEL TFS National Contact Points to contribute to the implementation of:

- Article 50 (5) of Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2006 on shipments of waste which provides that 'Member States shall cooperate, bilaterally or multilaterally, with one another in order to facilitate the prevention and detection of illegal shipments';
- Recommendation 2001/331 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 April 2001 which proposes minimum criteria for environmental inspections in the Member States (RMCEI) and 'the establishment by Member States in cooperation with IMPEL of reporting and advice schemes relating to inspectorates and inspection procedures would help to promote best practice across the Community';
- Discussion on the preparation of the implementation of Regulation (EU) N° 660/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 on shipments of waste.

The overall aim is to improve enforcement activities of the Waste Shipment Regulation and stimulate consistent implementation of its provisions and the international enforcement collaboration.

ECRAN team participated at the meeting to discuss enforcement activities, and exchange information on best practices and new developments.

For more information, please visit:

<http://impel.eu/cluster/tfs-national-contact-points-meeting/>

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