

**Workshop IMPELs Green Expert Team**

**November 27th and 28th - Netherlands**

Dear all,

I think it is important to meet! Therefore we organize a workshop on Thursday and Friday November 27th and 28th in the Netherlands. To our opinion during this year there were very interesting meetings and activities focused on nature conservation. We think it is good to share the results and make appointments for follow up. Our challenge is by working on projects and executing joint inspections to build up an IMPEL network of experts on nature conservation and to find solutions for implementation gaps on nature conservation directives.

It is a big challenge and we realize the limit of time available, so therefore we choose a step-by-step approach. For the workshop in November we would like discuss the following topics. (First we will comment on the topics, later on you find a proposal for the programme from the workshop).

1. Strengthening the chain of enforcement, prosecution and verdicts.

During a round table meeting in Brussels we pointed out missing links and recommendations. Important was the recommendation to improve the effectiveness in whole process of inspection and enforcement and to improve the effect of prosecutions and the impact of sanctions.

During the presentations in Brussels it became clear that inspections, enforcement of IKB cases and bringing cases to court is time consuming. For instance the burden of proof of evidence is heavy.

During the discussion the participants concluded, even when it is possible to sanction with high penalties (money and detention), in practise the conviction for IKB crimes in average are low. Off course with all respect for the independent task of prosecutors and judges there seems to be a discrepancy between the benefits of the (IKB – poaching) crimes and the imposed sanctions.

Preliminary conclusions from the Green IRI in Romania also confirm this missing link and recommendation. It is important to be as effective as possible in the chain of enforcement, prosecution and verdict to prevent for instance recidive.

1. Collaboration between organisations-learn from best practises

We were impressed by the international collaboration and enforcement action that took place on Cyprus and that was reported in an article that you can find on the IMPEL basecamp. Collaboration between NGO’s and police organisation was very effective in terms of the Poachers that were caught and prosecuted, the seizures of limesticks and electronis decoys, poles fort mistnets. See: <http://www.ansa.it/ansamed/en/news/sections/environment/2014/09/04/cyprus-bird-protection-societies-call-for-zero-tolerance_b2444e02-acd3-4d91-bed0-2c63bdbc41ae.html>

I also had the privilege to chair a workshop on enforcement during a conference according to Illegal killing of birds in Greece. I was impressed about the approach not to ‘fight’ but to find a way to discuss different interests and point of views according to nature conservation issues. This is a (first) step to work together on sustainable solutions and sharing responsibilities.

Off course I also want to mention the camps during migration of raptors during spring and autumn that are organised at Malta. Collaboration between NGO’s and authorities is also a very important element to prevent illegal activities.

These activities contribute very much to awareness raising and we think it is important to exchange information, approaches, strategies and ideas about further activities within Member States.

1. Implementation gaps

Implementation of Habitat Directive, Birds Directive and EU Timber Regulation is very important.

According to article 6.3 and 6.4 from the Habitat Directive it is very important to exchange information and best practises.

**Programme day 1:**

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|  | **Topic** | **Proposed speaker** |
| 09:00-09:30 | Welcome | John/Martin |
| **A Implementation(gap) Directives** | |  |
| 09:30-09:50 | Most important challenges according to nature conservation directives | -Commission |
| 09:50-10:10 | Results IRI Romania | -IMPEL member |
| 10:10-10:30 | Results project Gisela/Martin | -IMPEL member |
| 10:30-11:15  (with coffee) | Break out in three smaller groups; define three ideas for follow-up project/activities |  |
| **B Strengthening chain of enforcement, prosecution, verdicts** | |  |
| 11:15-11:35 | Case/Point of view inspector | -IMPEL member/EU TWIX |
| 11:35-11:55 | Case/Point of view prosecutor | -Network from prosecutors |
| 11:55-12:15 | Case/Point of view judge | -Network from judges |
| 12:15-13:00 | Break out in three smaller groups; define three ideas for follow-up project/activities |  |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch |  |
| **C Collaboration between organisations-learn form best practises** | |  |
| 14:00-14:30 | Case Cyprus | -IMPEL member/NGO |
| 14:30-15:00 | Conference Greece | NGO |
| 15:00-15:30 | Springcamps Malta | NGO |
| 15:30-16:15  (with coffee) | Break out in three smaller groups; define three ideas for follow-up project/activities |  |
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| 16:15-17:00 | Presentation results break-out groups + ranking projects + appointments for day II+ making groups for day 2 | John/Martin |

**Programme day 2**

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|  | Topic |
| 09:00-11:00 | Work in smaller groups on TORs-point out project leaders and project team members |
| 11:00-12:00 | Presentation of TORs |
| 12:00-12:30 | End of workshop |
|  | |
| **12:30-13:30 lunch** | |

**So, this is a first draft , coming weeks I hope for your respond so we can make the programme better.**

**Let’s discuss on the basecamp!**

Kind regards,

John Visbeen and Martin Baranyai