



Doing the right things



Improving planning of environmental inspection activities in Europe

Planning and organising inspection activities is the main objective of the European Recommendation on minimum criteria for environmental inspections (RMCEI).

Planning is about defining and explaining as accurate as possible beforehand. It defines the work we are going to do, so that we can perform in an effective, efficient, transparent and accountable way. The IMPEL project Doing the right things, supports inspecting authorities in carrying out that difficult task. It helps to pose the right questions and suggests ways for finding the right answers.

Doing the right things

In 2006 the Netherlands led the IMPEL Comparison Programme “Doing the right things I”. One of the main goals of this project was to explore how inspection authorities set priorities with regard to their tasks and activities, being one of the key steps in setting up inspection plans.

An important project recommendation was to develop a practical guide which describes planning of environmental inspections in such way that it would be sufficiently flexible to accommodate and support the different needs of the inspection authorities in the IMPEL member countries. At the same time the practical guide would enable them to comply with the requirements of the RMCEI.

In 2007 this recommendation was followed up in the succeeding project “Doing the right things II”. The project team developed a new methodology called “The Environmental Inspection Cycle” (EIC). The IEC is described in the step by step guidance book for planning of environmental inspections. An important element of the EIC is the planning cycle. The first step is to describe the context the inspecting authority is dealing with (e.g. statutory tasks, (national) goals, the environmental situation, the regulated community). Having a clear picture of what the inspecting authority stands for, is by setting priorities using a risk assessment tool like IRAM, which was developed under the easyTool project.

Target Group

Inspection authorities
Managers (coordinators)
Inspectors
Technical support
organisations

EU Legislation

- RMCEI
- IED

Sector / theme

Theme: Enforcement
and inspection
Sector: all

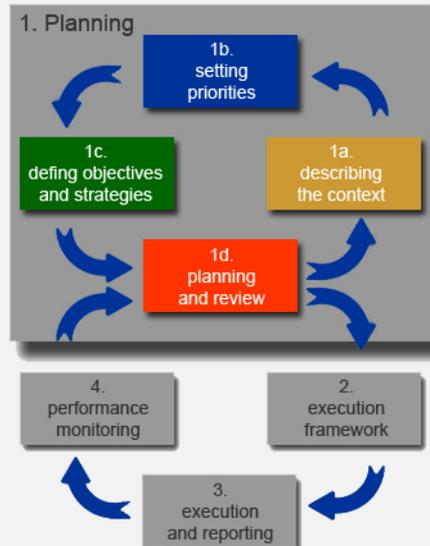
Publication date

2008



European Union Network for
the Implementation and Enforcement
of Environmental Law

The priorities indicate which activities should get (the highest) attention. The follow-up step is to define (measurable) inspection objectives and targets for the activities to be inspected and to choose the best inspection strategy to accomplish these targets. All these steps contribute to the inspection plan and the inspection schedule. The lower part of the EIC describes the execution part and performance monitoring. In this last step the objectives and targets on outcome will be monitored.



In 2008, Doing the right things III started.

In this final year of the Doing the right things series the project team trained practitioners from almost all IMPEL member countries in the methodology behind the IEC.

Doing the rights things form a comprehensive set of tools and methods for inspecting authorities to further improve planning of environmental inspections, highly contributing towards better implementation of European legislation throughout European Member States.

DTRT and IED/IRAM used at ARPAS

The Sardinian Environmental Protection Agency (department of ARPAS) is facing the challenge of organising environmental inspection at IPPC installations. ARPAS took up this challenge by defining strategies and plans in order to comply with the provisions of the recent Industrial Emission Directive. The methodology that was used was developed in the DTRT and IED/IRAM projects.

The result was a Tri-annual Environmental IPPC inspection Plan”, developed at a provincial level that included: institutional tasks; inspection strategy; inspection priorities; inspection targets; and a yearly inspection programme. The latter allowed a coherent allocation of inspectors among foreseen activities, including on-site inspections and evaluation of self-monitoring report. To set the right priorities ARPAS used an adapted version of the Excel version of the risk assessment tool IRAM. The results of IRAM also allowed ARPAS to set the right inspection frequencies.

ARPAS is confident that using the DTRT planning methodology and IRAM IT tool contributes to a more efficient and effective use of resources ant to increase transparency in decisions towards partners, industry, public and other stakeholders when executing her task.

Links

[Guidance](#)

Member States project team

