



Shipments of Waste Enforcement Actions Project (LIFE SWEAP)

EU WASTE LEGISLATION AND COMBATING WASTE CRIME

Online, 27 March 2023

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Senior Networking & Communications Officer



The IMPEL LIFE SWEAP project (LIFE17 GIE/BE/000480) has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union



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European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)



IMPEL: a network of practitioners

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





- Set up in 1992 as Network of European regulators for implementation and enforcement of environmental law
- >55 Environmental authorities in 36 countries







TFS Enforcement Actions (from 2003)

Harmonizing approaches and level playing field

Supporting participants to meet legislative requirements

Guidance materials and tool

Officers exchanges

Standardised reporting mechanisms and collecting of key data

Practical feedback into regulatory cycle (strengthened enforcement provisions)

Joint operations

Network of frontline officers , police and customs officers

Collaboration with non-EU partners and other actors in the enforcement chain



EU Life-funded
project 2018 to
2023

Follows on from projects 2003
to 2018

IMPEL is co-ordinator

Associated Beneficiaries:

- Scotland (SEPA), England (EA), Ireland (NTFSO), Northern Ireland (NIEA), Slovenia (IRSOP) and Malta (ERA)

34 participating countries
(IMPEL members)

Project Executive:
The Netherlands
(ILT)

High Level Advisory Board:
Basel Convention Secretariat, World Customs Organization,
Europol, OLAF
and Netherlands' Inspectorate for Human Environment and Transport (ILT)



Ongoing challenge

La Guardia Civil detiene a 43 personas implicada en la organización por tra hasta 5.000 toneladas de residuos

Europa Press

Santa Cruz de Tenerife | 03-01-23 | 10:34



Material interceptado por la Guardia Civil en Gran Canaria / E. D.



Tunisia ex-minister jailed over hazardous waste scandal



Supporters of Tunisian non-government organisations demonstrate to demand the return to Italy of household waste exported illegally to the Mediterranean port city of Sousse, on March 28, 2021 - Bechir TAIEB

Agence France-Presse

January 4, 2023 — Tunis (AFP)



A Tunisian former environment minister has been sentenced to three years in prison for his role in the illegal import of 280 containers of waste from Italy, reported Wednesday.

Press release

Convicted waste fraudster has more than 9 years added to jail time for failing to repay £1.3 million in ill-gotten gains

A convicted waste criminal has had an additional 9 years and 4 months added to his current 7 and a half year fraud sentence. The defendant will now serve a total of 16 years.

DIVE BRIEF

Thailand to ban plastic scrap imports in 2025, following multiple other Asian countries

Published Oct. 5, 2022



 **Megan Quinn**
Reporter



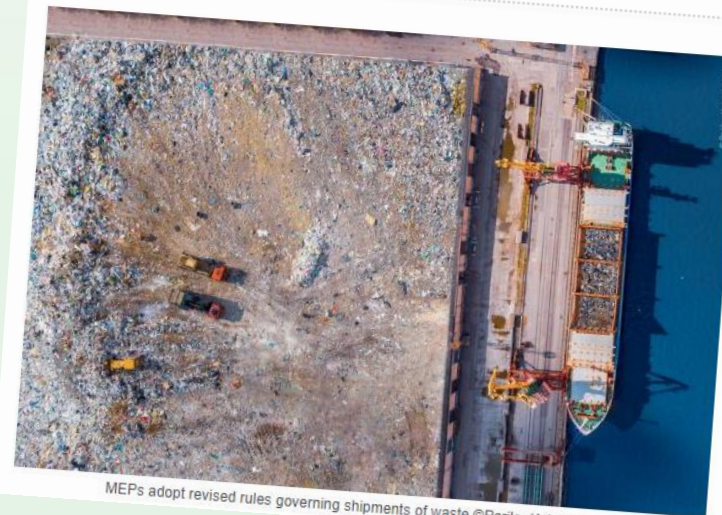
Thirawatana Phaisalratana via Getty Images

Continues changing policy and legislative landscape

Waste shipments: stricter rules to protect the environment and human health

Press Releases **ENW** 01-12-2022 - 10:05

- Facilitating shipping of waste to be reused and recycled in the EU
- Waste shipped outside the EU must be managed in an environmentally sound manner
- Better enforcement and combatting illegal shipments of waste
- EU exports of waste to non-EU countries reached 32.7 million tonnes in 2020



MEPs adopt revised rules governing shipments of waste ©Parilov/AdobeStock



SWEAP

Work packages



Capacity building and training

150 customs officers
Inspection exchanges



45,000 co-ordinated inspections throughout the waste management chain



Innovative enforcement tools

- Reporting app
- Inspection app
- GPS tracking
- Shipment mapping
- Online training



Intelligence gathering and sharing

- Intelligence products
- Nominal data exchange
- Working with Europol



Communication

- International collaboration
- communication and awareness-raising
- Industry guidance



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LIFE SWEAP



Capacity building



Shipment of Waste Enforcement Actions Project

LIFE SWEAP is co-funded by the LIFE programme of the European Union and co-ordinated by the IMPEL Network. The overall purpose of the project is to support the circular economy by disrupting the illegal waste trade at the EU level by:



CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING

Increasing skill set amongst inspectors and law enforcement agencies



150 customs officers



On-line toolbox



30 Inspector exchange programmes



Best practice meetings



Inspection app



CO-ORDINATED INSPECTIONS

Intensifying collaboration nationally and internationally



Performance of EU co-ordinated inspections throughout the waste management chain



45,000 inspections



INNOVATIVE TOOLS

Developing innovative tools and techniques



Geographical mapping tool



GPS tracking



Reporting app



INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING

Creating EU-wide data sets



Global and regional networking



Communication as common tool



INTELLIGENCE

Providing intelligence products



Data collection and analysis



Intelligence reports

WWW.SWEAP



Customs training

Locations: Estonia, Cyprus,
Albania, Spain, UK and Romania:

159 officers from Poland, Finland,
Estonia, Czech Republic, Bulgaria,
Cyprus, Croatia, Serbia, Albania,
Austria, Bosnia Herzegovina,
Montenegro, North Macedonia,
Turkey, Spain, Portugal, France,
Malta, Slovakia, Sweden, Greece,
UK, Iceland, Norway, Netherlands,
Belgium, Ireland, Romania and
Germany



Customs Trainings

Global operations

- WCO's Operation Demeter series
- Mobilising co-operation between competent authorities and customs



“By using risk indicators and focusing on pre-identified routings and hotspots during [Operation DEMETER VIII](#), Customs officers conducted controls on suspicious shipments and seized illegal waste as well as Ozone Depleting Substances and other harmful gases. The preliminary results show that 139 seizures were made during the Operation, including the following:

- 3,647 tonnes of waste and an additional 8,662 pieces of waste (unweighted)*
- 25 tonnes of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol”*



Officer exchanges

Over 70 officers so far have learned how:

- to involve neighbouring countries and other national regulators in inspections
- different types of waste should be assessed
- enforcement can be structured
- to prioritise waste streams
- to inspect waste sites
- health and safety procedures: how to open containers safely and analyse for fumigants



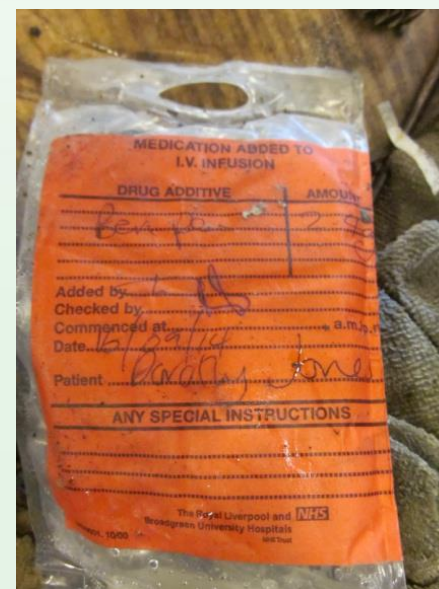
Inspections



Types of cases



Shipped as waste paper

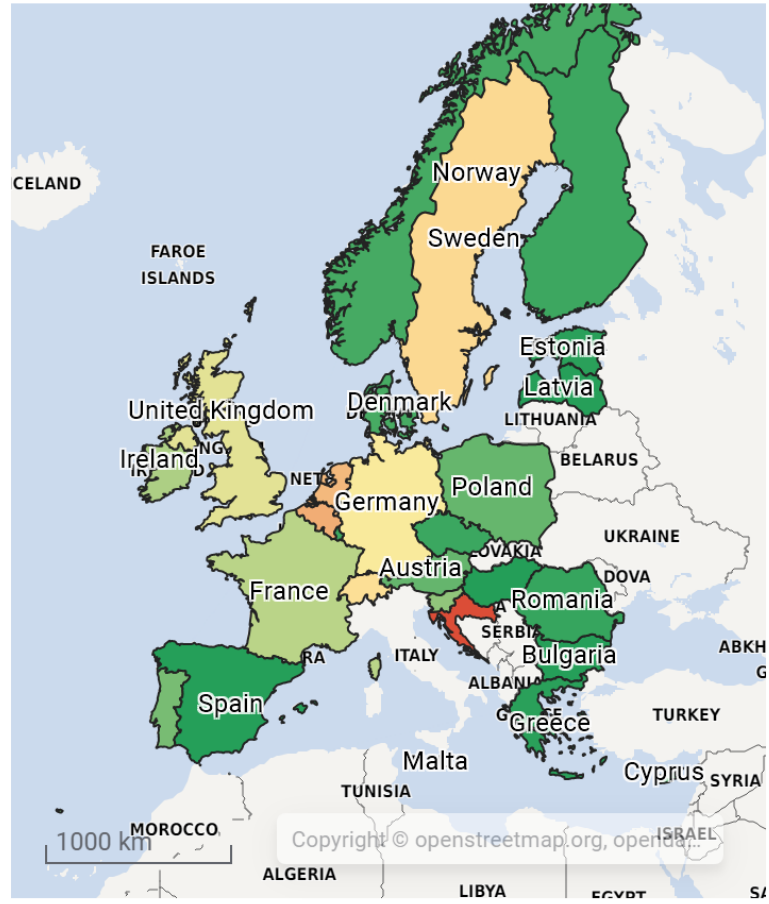




SWEAP



Reporting Country



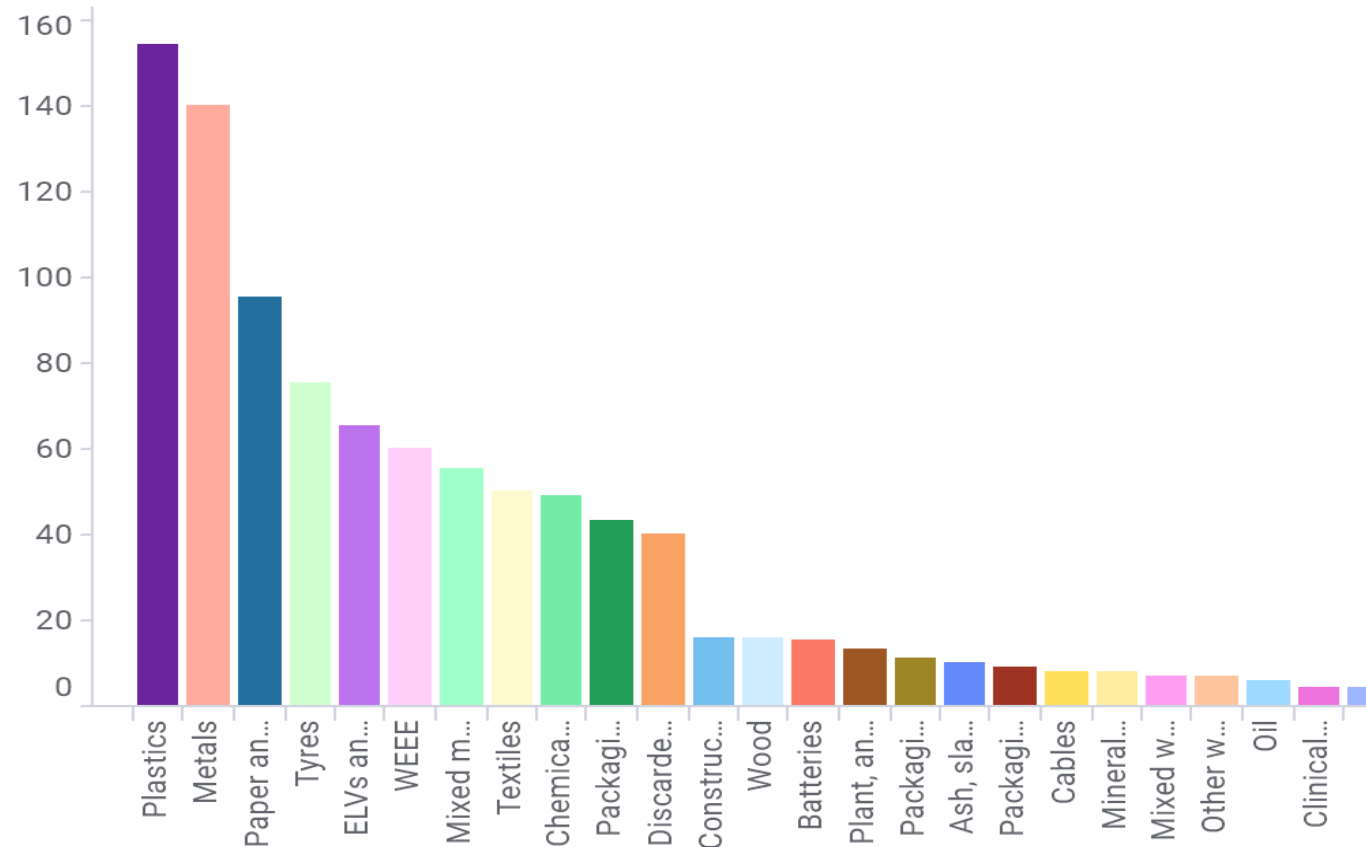
Reporting countries

79,738 inspections so far



Waste types (2020-2022)

Highest Violations

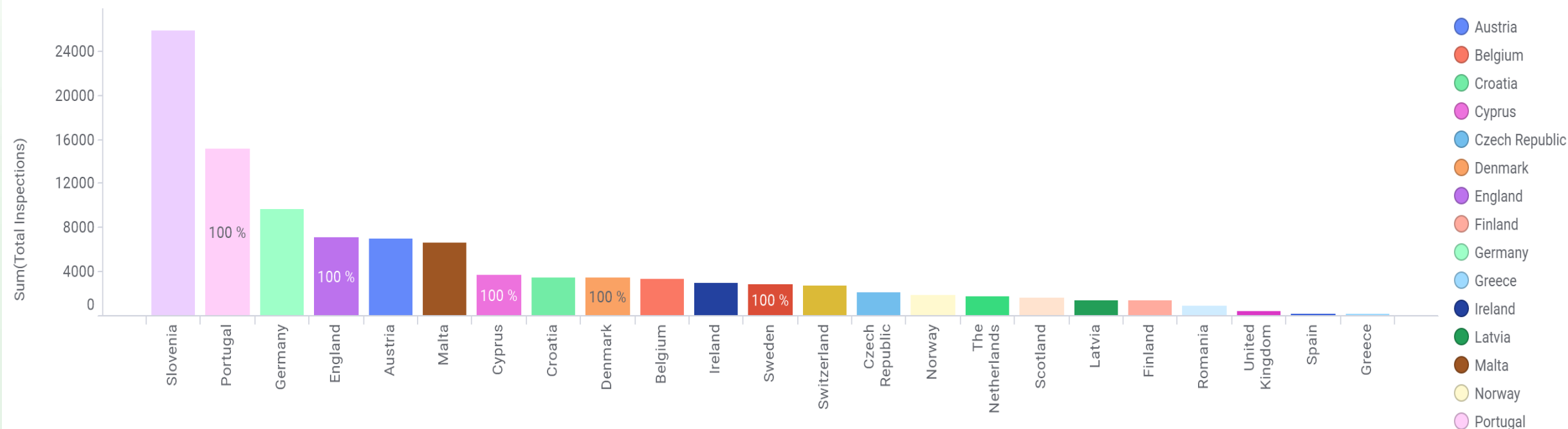




Inspections per country (2020-22)

Detection rates 10.3% to 68.3%

Number of Inspections per Reporting Country

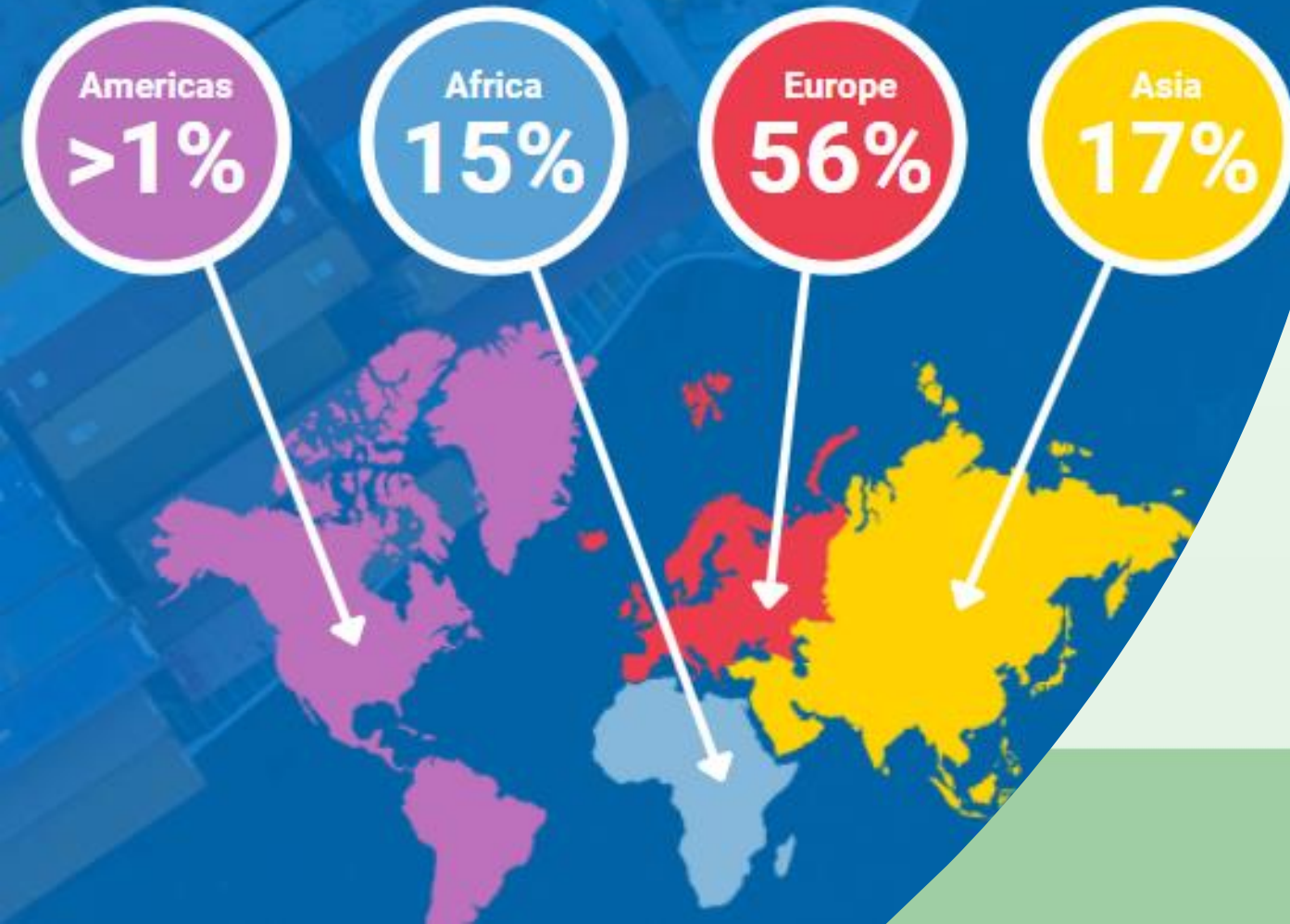


DESTINATION of illegal shipments



Main waste types

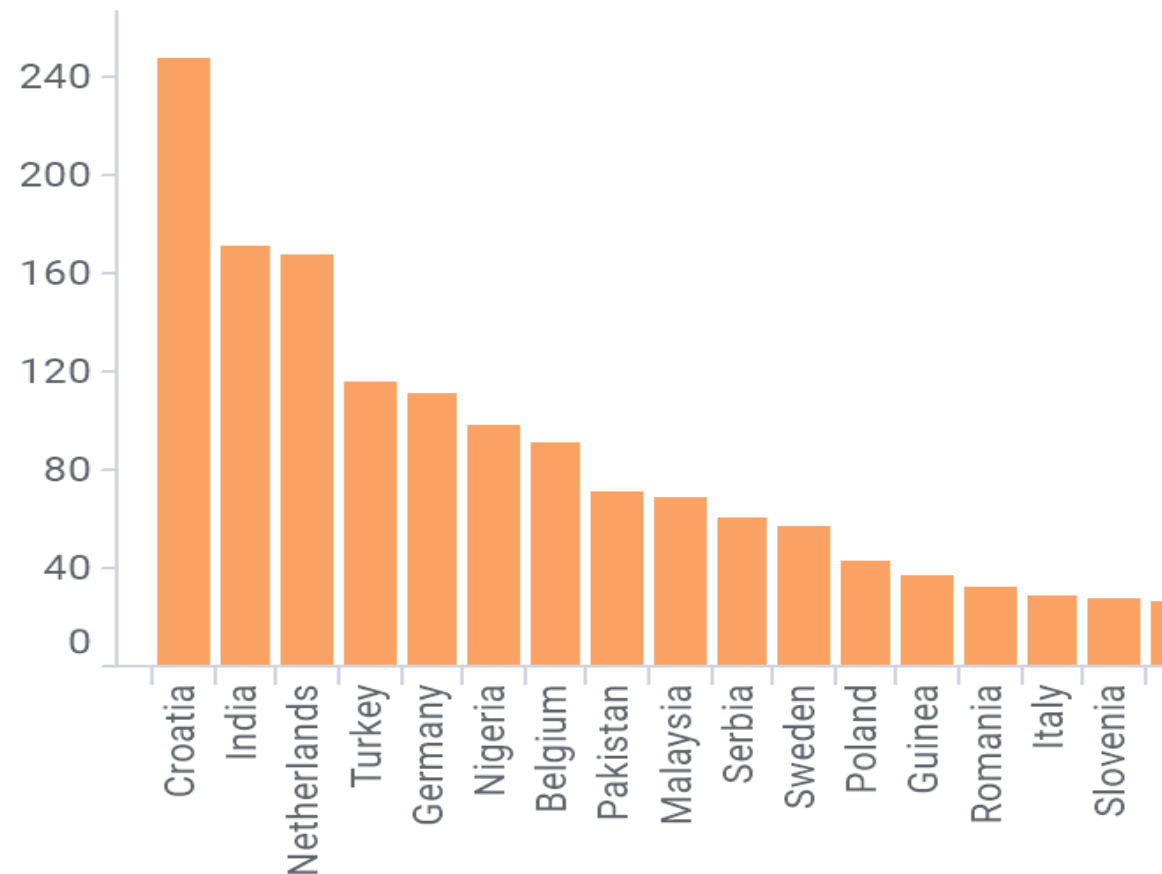
- Plastics
- ELVs
- Paper
- e-waste
- Metals



Destinations (violations) 2020-2022

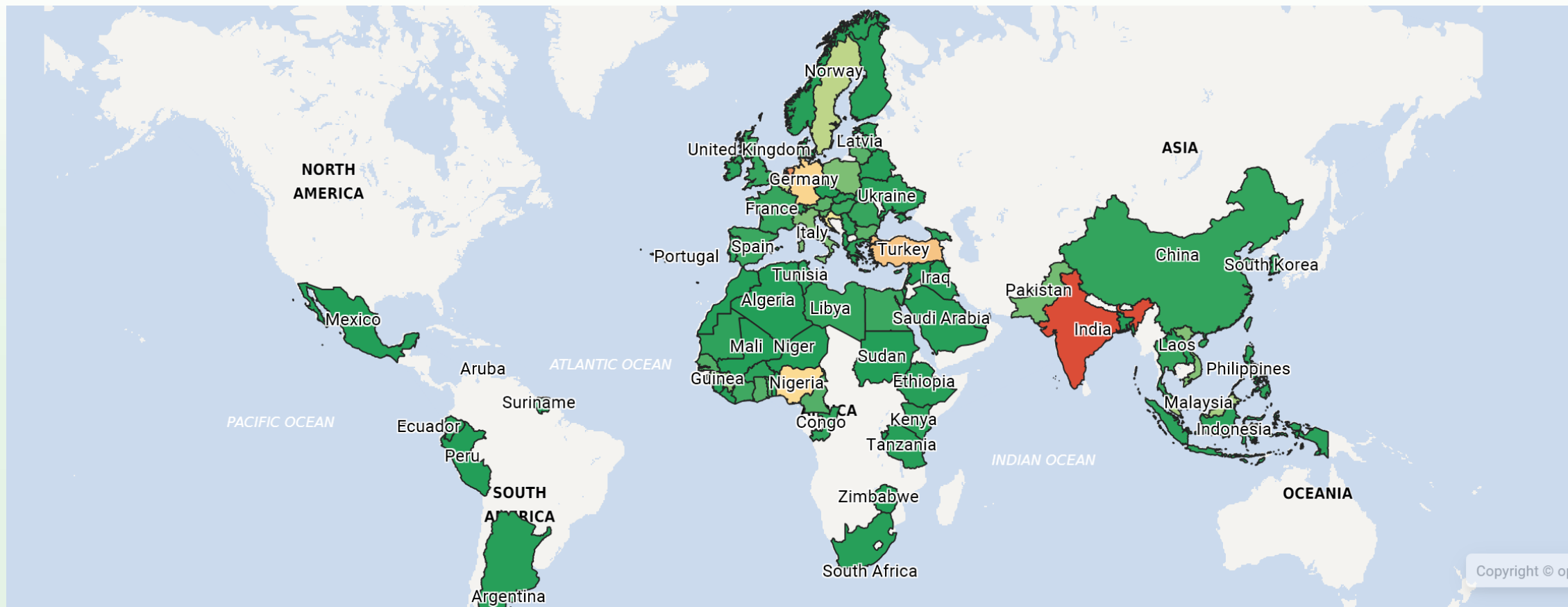


Highest Violations





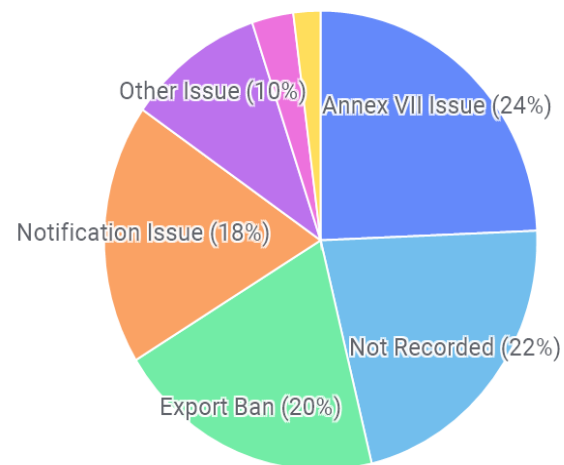
Destinations of illegal shipments (2021-2022)





Types of violations (2021-2022)

Violations as a proportion of violation type





Tools



Training portal

Portal for Environmental Enforcers

The online toolkits are free to members of relevant Competent Authorities. Please [log in or register](#) and once we verify your information, we will forward you a password to access the content.



The PREVENT portal provides an online depository of training and capacity building materials. This portal is a collaborative work by projects coordinated by IMPEL and executed with various consortium partners.



The PREVENT portal is a joint activity by [the WasteForce project](#) (funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund – Police (SFP/2017/AG/ENV/821345)), [the LIFE-SWEAP project](#) (funded by the LIFE Programme of the European Union) and the SPIDERWEB Project (jointly financed by the European Union and the Federal Republic of Germany).

ABOUT

PARTNERS

DISCLAIMER

PRIVACY POLICY

COOKIE POLICY



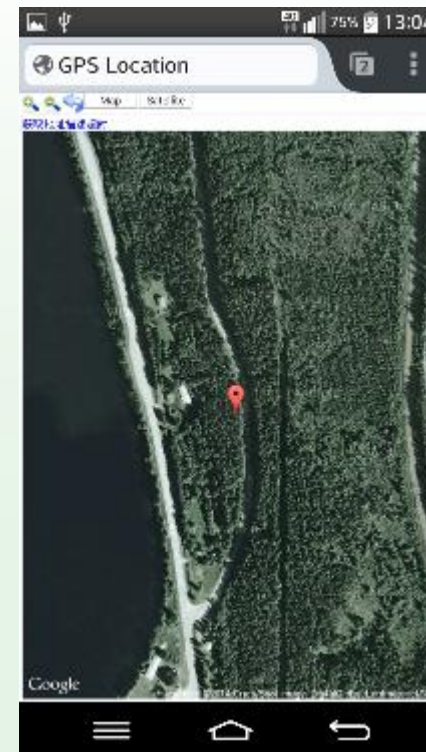
Visualisation tool

- Access to officers, customs, police
- Waste flows and illegality
- Fed directly from App (updated daily)
- Enables annual reporting to Commission

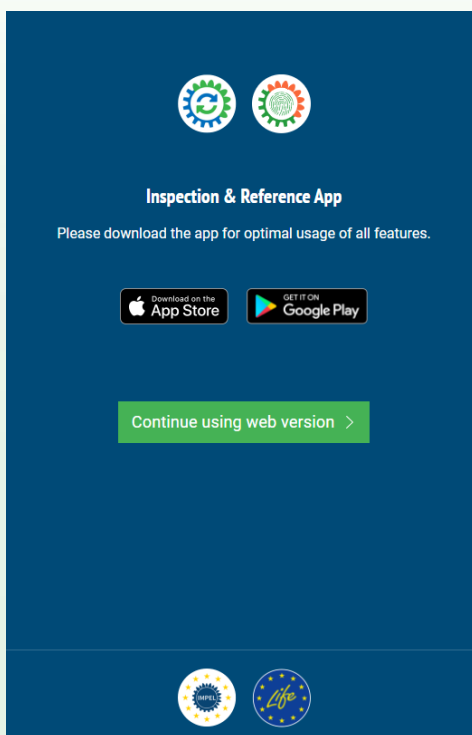
GPS tracking



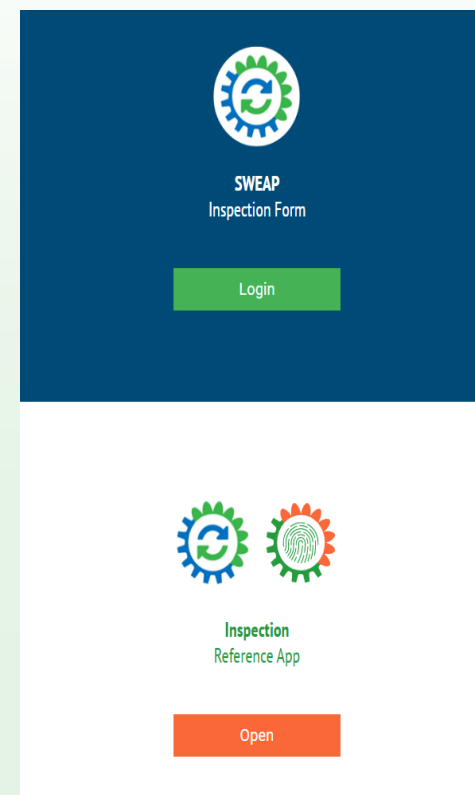
- Development in trackers over last two years
- Being used live operations
- Malta, Czech Republic, England, Ireland, Latvia, Ireland, Northern Ireland



LIFE SWEAP App



<https://tfsinspections.app/>





Applications

1. Reference app: tool for 'on-the-road' for inspectors, regulators and
2. Data inspection reporting app
 - Law enforcement officers
 - Europol is superuser
 - Secure hosting within EU (Discussions with Ireland)
 - 177 officers
 - 38 authorities
 - Several using as sole recording mechanism



Inspection Reference App

Menu:

Problematic waste streams

Check the controls

References

Databases

About

SWEAP Inspection Form

Open Inspection Form

Problematic waste streams

Problematic waste streams	
Asbestos waste	>
Waste oils	>
PCB, PCT or PBB containing waste	>
CFC and halon containing waste	>
Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (part I: GC 010 non-hazardous)	>
Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (part II: GC 020 non-hazardous)	>
Cartridges: Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (part II)	>
Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (part III: A1180 hazardous)	>
Slags, ashes and residues of metal refinery (non-hazardous/hazardous)	>
Coal-fired power plants fly ash (non-hazardous/hazardous)	>
End-of-life vehicles or parts thereof (non-hazardous/hazardous)	>

Example:

Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (...)



English: Electronic scrap (e.g. printed circuit boards, electronic components, wire, etc.) and reclaimed electronic components suitable for base and precious metal recovery.

Dutch: Elektronische restanten (bijvoorbeeld printplaten, elektronische onderdelen, draad, enz.) en voor teruggewinning van basis- en edelmetaal geschikte teruggewonnen elektronische onderdelen.

German: Abfälle aus elektronischen Geräten und Bauteilen (z.B. einschließlich Leiterplatten, elektronische Bauteile und Leitungsdraht) und wiederverwertete elektronische Bauteile, die sich zur Rückgewinnung von unedlen und Edelmetallen eignen.

Check the controls feature

☰ Check the controls

Waste code

Description

Country of dispatch

Country of destination

Country of transit

Example:

☰ Check the controls

Waste code

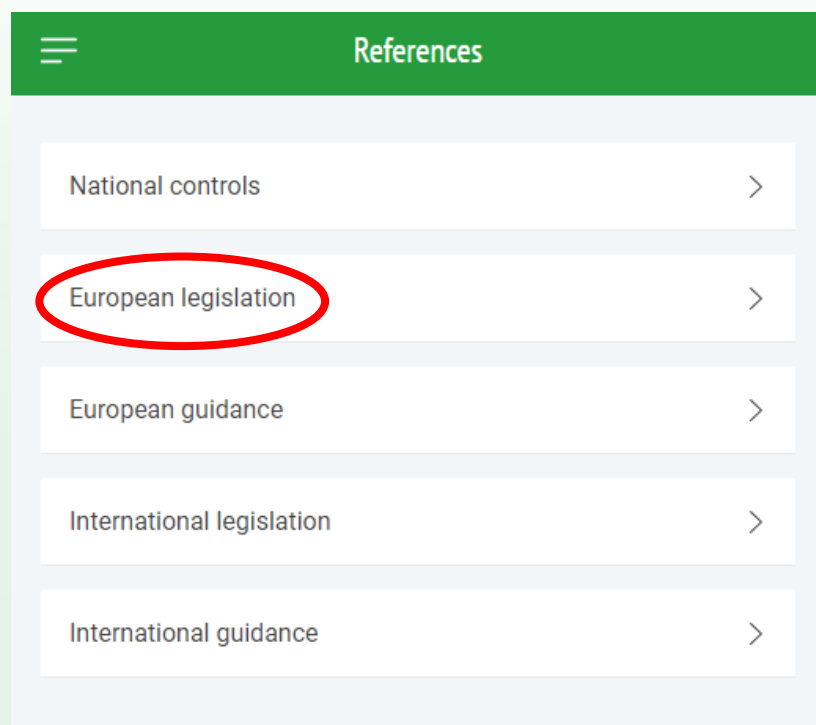
Description

Country of dispatch

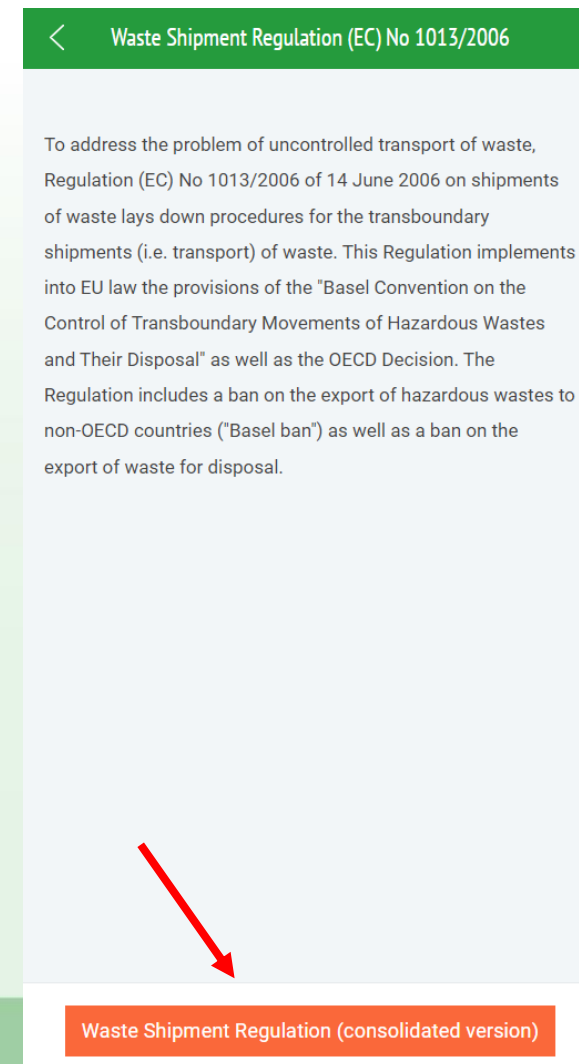
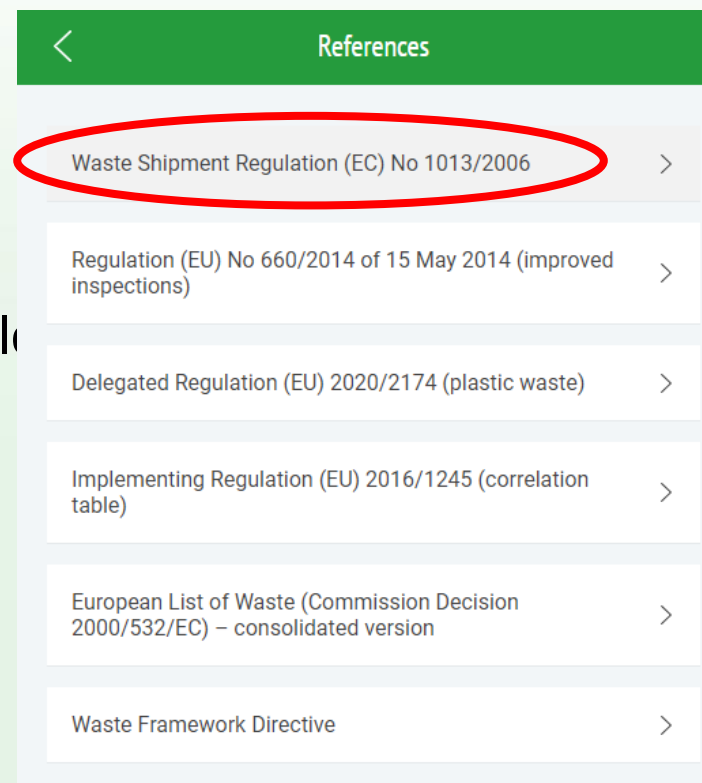
Prior notification and consent is required
Generalised with general database



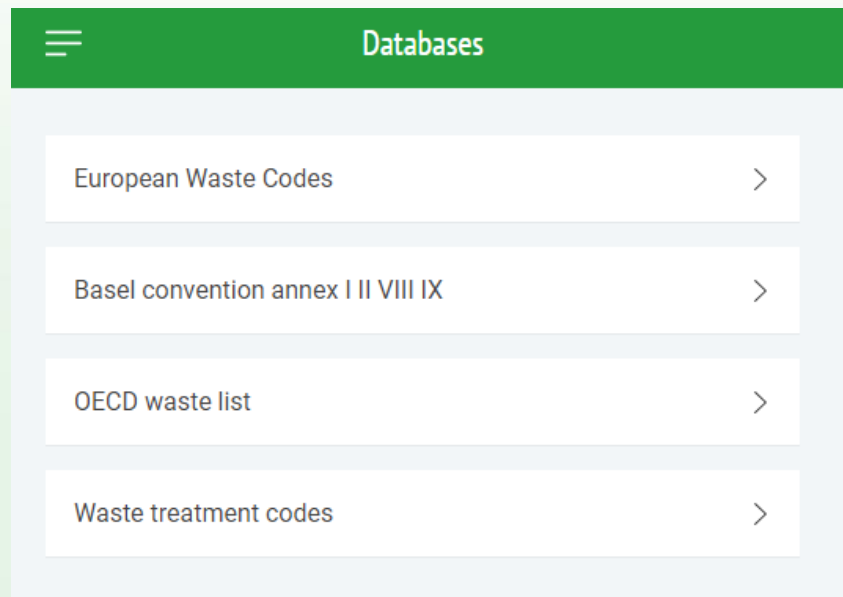
References



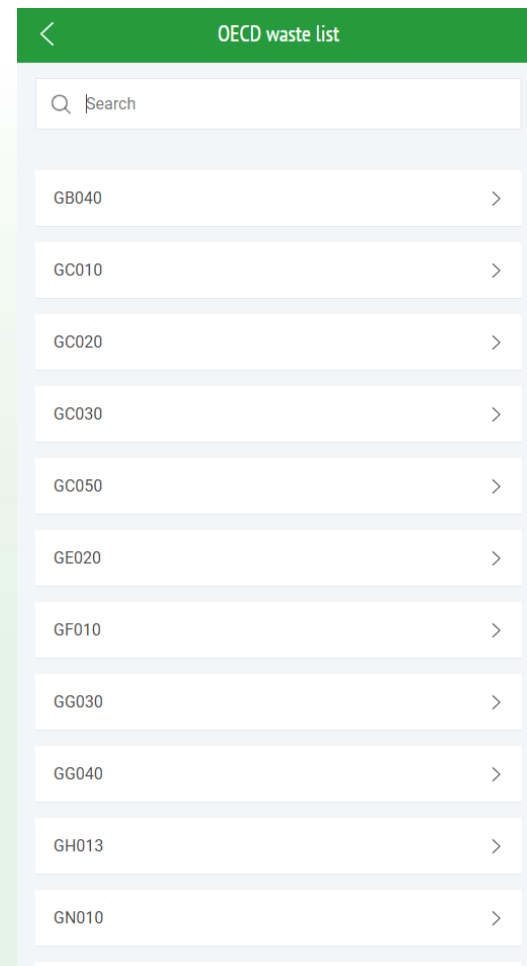
Example



Databases



Example:



Data reporting app



13:33 98%

× New inspection

1 — 2 — 3 — 4

Country
IMPEL

Organisation
SWEAP PM Team

Date
12 Jan 13:32

Reference number
IMPEL-PM-2023-01-12-001

GPS ⓘ

Type of inspection * ⓘ

Step 2 >

13:33 98%

× New inspection

✓ — 2 — 3 — 4

Inspection date ⓘ
12 Jan 13:32

Type of check *
— Select —

Inspector

Cooperation with other agencies
— Select —

Type of transport inspection
— Select —

Type of receptacle ⓘ

< Step 1 Step 3 >

13:38 97%

× New inspection

✓ — 2 — ✓ — 4

Who is responsible?
— Select —

Please provide details (if 'Other party' was selected at the previous question)

Estimated severity of violation
— Select —

What will happen to the waste?
— Select —

Further action
— Select —

Site of loading ⓘ

< Step 3 Finalise



Verification of overseas sites

101	8/9/2022	Department of Environment, Flanders, Belgium.	Malaysia	MESTECC	Bhd. No 15 Jalan Industri 10, Taman Perindustrian Pekan Nanas, 81500 Pekan Nanas, Johor Darul Ta'zim.	Plastic (HS Code 3915)				Recovery facility		
102	8/9/2022	Department of Environment, Flanders, Belgium.	Malaysia	MESTECC	SH Plastic Industries Sdn Bhd. No 2&4 Jalan Perdagangan 14, Taman Universiti Skudai, 81300 Johor Bahru, Johor Darul Ta'zim.	Plastic (HS Code 3915)				Recovery facility		
103	8/9/2022	Department of Environment, Flanders, Belgium.	Malaysia	MESTECC	P&R Technology Sdn Bhd. No 5 Jalan Kota Murni, Taman Perindustrian Kota Murni, 83000 Batu Pahat, Johor Darul Ta'zim.	Plastic (HS Code 3915)				Recovery facility		
					Lim Tiong Heng Plastik Trading Sdn Bhd.							



Global and Regional Networking

- Synergies between SWEAP and other projects
- Promote the results of SWEAP
- Increase the uptake of some of our deliverables
- World Customs Organisation – Asia-Pacific Plastic Waste Project & Operation Demeter VIII
- OECD training on inspections in East Eastern Europe
- OPFA Waste Project – ideal dataset » reporting App
- UNODC UnWaste Project – collaboration with SEA contries



Revision of the Waste Shipment Regulation

- Policy paper to Commission covering proposals on:
 - Enforcement and co-ordination of action
 - Shipments to non-OECD countries
 - Jurisdiction issues



Industry Survey Series

- ❑ First round held in 2019 »
 - > 100 responses
 - Meeting in May 2020
 - Factsheets
- ❑ Second survey in 2021 »
 - 45 responses
 - Low awareness of IMPEL Guidance
 - Use of reputable brokers
 - Contamination limits
 - Reduce administrative burden
 - More site checks
- ❑ Third survey in 2023
- ❑ Attendance at FEAD Waste Shipment Regulation Review debate September 2022



Factsheets

- Plastic waste (March 2020)
- Green listed waste (March 2020)
- Export of plastic waste to Malaysia (tbf)



<https://www.sweap.eu/resources/guidance/>



Opportunities

- Increase number of investigations and quality
- Improved inter-agency collaboration and coordination
- Early engagement in investigations for prosecutors (where national rules) allow
- Clarity on admissibility of evidence (e.g. data from trackers or earth observations data)

Break the cycle of low risk – high profit



Staying informed?

LIFE SWEAP on social media



www.sweap.eu



What questions do you have?

Contact: Nancy.isarin@SWEAP.EU

<https://www.sweap.eu/>

[@LIFESWEAP](#)