



“European Union Action to Fight Environmental Crime” (EFFACE)

Overview and preliminary results

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FP7 projects in general

- ④ large and general rather than very specific, aimed at integrating insights from a variety of perspectives
- ④ interdisciplinary
- ④ with strong focus on policy impact at EU (and member state) level, dissemination and stakeholder involvement

Basic facts on EFFACE

- 🌐 December 2012 - March 2016
- 🌐 11 European partners (universities & think tanks)
- 🌐 Involving lawyers, economists, political scientists, criminologists....
- 🌐 Funded in the EU's FP7, budget of around 2.8 Mio EUR
- 🌐 Altogether about 200 person months, of which 170 on research

Basic facts on EFFACE

- 🌐 Overall aim: Develop policy recommendations aimed at EU (and its Member States) on how to better combat environmental crime > focus on efforts to combat environmental crime, rather than on details how envir. crime works
- 🌐 No limitation to specific types of environmental crime or specific disciplines, but research focus on EU

Components

- ⌚ WP1: Analytical framework
 - ⌚ WP2: Instruments, actors and institutions
 - ⌚ WP3: Costs and impacts of environmental crime
 - ⌚ WP4: Case studies
 - ⌚ WP5: Interactive policy analysis (stakeholder involvement)
 - ⌚ WP6: SWOT analysis of EU efforts to combat envir. crime
 - ⌚ WP7: Options and policy recommendations
- ⌚ **Methods:** Analysis of legal instruments, case studies, research interviews, data analysis, but no strong focus on generating „new“ empirical data

WP2: Instruments, actors and institutions

- ④ Description and analysis of instruments, actors and institutions related to environmental crime on national, EU and international level
- ④ 7 country case studies on France, Germany, Italy Poland, Spain, Sweden, UK
- ④ Selected studies concerning EU and international level, including a report on networks and NGOs
- ④ Strong legal focus (instruments), but also empirical analysis (actors and institutions, practical enforcement) including research interviews
- ④ Due in January 2015

WP3: Costs and impacts of environmental crime

- 🌐 Review of existing data sources
- 🌐 Quantitative overview of the extent of damages caused by environmental crime
- 🌐 Economic analysis of (monetised) costs of environmental crime
- 🌐 Summary of available methodologies and tools for economic assessments
- 🌐 Due in June 2015

WP4: Case studies

- ④ 1. Illegal fisheries within the EU
- ④ 2. Illegal waste shipment in East Asia
- ④ 3. Local illegal pollution incidents within the EU
- ④ 4. Effects of organized crime on air and soil pollution levels in Italy
- ④ 5. Illegal logging and trade in illegal timber
- ④ 6. Illegal wildlife trade in Norway and the UK suggestions for improvement within the EU.
- ④ 7. Industrial spill accidents in Romania and Hungary
- ④ 8. Corruption and environmental crime in Armenia
- ④ 9. Smaller case studies on environmental impact of illegal drug production and the war on drugs & use of mercury in gold mining (Latin America)
- ④ Due in March 2015

WP5: Stakeholder involvement

- 🌐 Advisory Board
- 🌐 9 semi-public workshops to present results and get feedback from stakeholders
- 🌐 Midterm/final conference
- 🌐 Online „Environmental Crime Research and Action Guide”

WP 2: Preliminary results

- 🌐 No final results at this stage, but some provisional findings from WP 2 (esp. aggregation of country reports)
- 🌐 General problem: Data on enforcement of environmental criminal law are largely lacking/not collected in a coherent way

Provisional results at national regulatory level

- ⌚ Divergence in regulatory framework for environmental crimes (criminal code, environmental code, sectoral laws)
- ⌚ Large convergence concerning substantive criminal law in general
- ⌚ Divergence related to penalties (maximum penalties and complementary sanctions)
- ⌚ Divergence concerning institutions (competences to monitor and investigate)
- ⌚ No clear link between legislation on environmental crime and organised crime

Provisional results at national enforcement level

- 🌐 Tendency: low probability of detection, prosecution and sanctioning, and low level of penalties (but increased use of administrative fines)
- 🌐 Lack of resources and funding for monitoring and investigating environmental crime (low political priority)
- 🌐 Need of specialisation at all levels of the enforcement chain (administrative authorities, police, prosecutors, judges)

Preliminary results: conclusions

- 🌐 On national level lack of correlation between regulatory level and enforcement level: resources given to the latter do not correspond to the expansion of the former
- 🌐 Importance of networking and information exchange as one means to improve enforcement activities
- 🌐 Importance of better data collection

The way forward

- ⊕ Results of WP 2, 3 and 4 will feed in WP 6 (SWOT analysis) and WP 7 (options and policy recommendations)
- ⊕ Further analysis in WP 6 and 7 will focus on:
 - Further harmonisation of substantive environmental criminal law at EU level (excluding sanctions)
 - System of sanctions (administrative vs. criminal vs. civil proceedings)
 - Functioning of enforcement institutions and cooperation between them
 - Data and information management
 - Role of NGOs, communities, victims, trust-based instruments
 - External dimension of environmental crime - what can EU do?
 - Use of environmental liability
 - Organised environmental crime

How to stay tuned

- 🌐 Take a look at our website (www.efface.eu)
- 🌐 Read our policy briefs
- 🌐 Register for our newsletter (3 - 4 times/year) at the website
- 🌐 Follow us on twitter: Environmental Crime @EnvCrime

How to contribute

- 🌐 Participate in one of our public events (final conference)
- 🌐 Invite us to your events
- 🌐 Become a member of our international contact group (by invitation)
- 🌐 Contribute to the online „Research and Action Guide“

... Any other idea? Let us know about it!