



Co-funded by the
European Union

European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment - ENPE

Meeting of the Board of Directors

21 February 2023

14.00hrs – 15.00 hrs CET

MS Teams

Attended: Anne Brosnan (EA, Chair); David Smith (EPA, Ireland); Lars Magnusson (REMA, Sweden); Aisling Kelly (Microsoft, Ireland).

Guest: Shaun Robinson (EA, Secretariat).

Apologies: Rob de Rijck; Jean-Philippe Rivaud.

Minutes

1.0 Minutes and actions from last Board meeting

AB welcomed the attendees, noting apologies received from J-PR & RdR. The meeting was confirmed as quorate.

AB updated on Operation Accountable (OA) reflecting on the last Board meeting (03/01/23) which focussed on this and other related activities. All actions were complete or ongoing.

The EU (DG NEAR) are considering funding ENPE activities for OA, following a meeting with ENPE on 08/02/23. A revised project proposal for OA, including budget, had been drafted.

2.0 Operation Accountable - update

The OA budget proposal for DG NEAR was shared and presented by SR. In summary:

- the OA activities would be capacity building and support in the prosecution of the 10 priority cases previously identified by the UKR Prosecutor General's Office (PGO);
- ENPE member organisations would be contacted for volunteer prosecutors to assist;
- additional costs were suggested, for subcontracting and travel & subsistence;
- approximately €434K has been included over 20 months (May 2023 – Dec 2024);
- most of the cost would be to reimburse ENPE member authorities for staff time on OA.

AK suggested increasing the subcontracting costs to cover translation costs and security.

NEW ACTION – SR to update the budget accordingly

AB noted the increasing momentum generally to support UKR in relation to war crimes. RdR has been invited, as part of a Netherlands delegation, to a justice conference in Lviv where environmental crimes arising from the invasion will be discussed in a dedicated session.

SR and RdR will be meeting Eurojust (EJ) on 28/02/23 to discuss them supporting OA.

AB asked if the Board agrees to support this project? If so, does the budget look realistic?

All Board members present and SR confirmed that they supported the project.

AK offered to attend Lviv conference in a personal capacity, if that was possible and permitted.



Co-funded by the
European Union

LM asked what did EJ want to talk about on 28/02/23? AB said it was at our instigation, to establish what other related work is going on with EJ. We are aware of 6 or 7 ongoing JITS and will be seeking to co-ordinate the work of ENPE & EJ, if possible.

AK is aware that EJ have been working with/co-operating with PGO. Support is being delivered around digital/ cyber-crime, but not clear precisely what support it is as yet.

All agreed that ENPE should proceed with the draft budget proposal for OA.

AB outlined the type of work which may be involved. We know of 10 priority cases that the PGO have asked for assistance with.

AV sked whether specialists had been accounted for in the budget? AB said there could be some budget available, under subcontracting, but no requests for this as yet, so not yet included (the PGO have their own investigators and in-house specialists).

NEW ACTION – SR to send the revised proposal and budget requirement to DG NEAR

AB reiterated the importance of security. 'OA' must be used going forward.

AK would seek time to be able to volunteer e.g. Re: digital investigation element.

3.0 ENPE aisbl: update

- **ENPE aisbl Directors (update)**

AB reported that we have some difficulties as our UBO registration had not been filed. RDR & LM have received fixed penalty notices. We are working to rectify this oversight.

SR updated - ENPE's accountants (Brecht Meierson, Troef) are attempting to regularise the situation and have notified the Belgian Ministry of Finance of Director updates and to appeal the fines.

- **New ENPE Working Groups – update**

SR reported on the Wildlife Crime Working Group (WLC WG) kick-off meeting on 17/02/23 which had gone well. LM was happy with the first meeting. The waste & illegal pesticides group are due to meet on Monday with the Pollution WG due to meet in 2-3 weeks time.

4.0 ENPE events (co-hosting) 2023

AB updated on the La Rochelle conference 27-29 April 2023 which ENPE are co-hosting titled "The Sea – The World's largest crime scene" additional speakers have been invited e.g. FRONTEX. We are concerned to ensure a wide range of international speakers.

AB said there may be a liaison meeting with US DoJ on Day 1 (27 April 2023). ENPE Board attendance included AB, RdR, & J-PR. DS, LM, AV & AK all may attend if free.

AB noted everyone is busy with commitments and appreciated Board participation if possible.



Co-funded by the
European Union

AB said the 4 Networks conference would be in Rome 28-29 September 2023. ENPE are not main organisers so less involved for that.

6.0 Other seminars, workshops attended

Attended

- ERA Waste training (EU Law) – 15-17 January 2023;
- ERA Water Pollution training (EU law) – 23-24 & 30-31/01/23 French (virtual) – Cyril Lacombe; 16-17/02/23 ERA Waste training, Sofia, Bulgaria – Piotr Nowak; 20-21/02/23 Spanish (in person) – Ignacio Monreal.

AB noted AV's assistance in getting a Spanish speaker for the 20-21 February and thanked him for that. It was much appreciated.

Forward look

- 29-31 March, LIFE SWiPE seminar, Sinaia, Romania Remus Jurj
- 11-13 April 2023, LIFE SWiPE workshop (Paul Stimson)
- 19-21 April 2023, LIFE SWiPE workshop, Vişeu de Sus, Remus Jurj
- 23-24 April 2023, ERA WU environmental crime seminar German (virtual) – Stella Konig;
- 26-28 June 2023, ERA EU environmental crime seminar Bucharest

AB noted and appreciated the support from ENPE members in presenting at these events.

7.0 AOB & Close

AB thanked the Board for their support and input in relation OA. AB asked for any issues that were troubling anyone – nothing to report

NEW ACTION – AB to discuss possibility of AK attending Lviv conference, dependent on her getting permission

AK asked about OA and the additional funding with volunteers sought – would this be done virtually (via email)? or would there be a members (general) meeting?

AB suggested that this would depend on the decision from EU (funding). Permissions will be needed from member authorities who will want something in writing. Although an ENPE project, insurance, sickness cover etc. will be provided by home organisation.

AB thanked everyone for their time and closed the meeting at 14.55 hrs